



BALTIMORE COUNTY
MARYLAND

OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

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BALTIMORE COUNTY ANNOUNCES NEW TRAVEL AND TOURISM INITIATIVE

Towson, MD (December 12, 2008) Baltimore County Executive Jim Smith today announced a new initiative to grow business and leisure tourism in Baltimore County. At a ceremony in Towson, he signed an Executive Order creating a new Conference and Tourism Advisory Council. Hal Ashman, owner of Ultimate Watersports in Middle River and president of the Essex-Middle River-White Marsh Chamber of Commerce, has been appointed chair of the 16-member Advisory Council.

"We recognize the potential of the travel and tourism sector, not only from an economic perspective, but as a way to enhance our quality of life," stated County Executive Smith. "As we look for new places to discover close to home, Baltimore County offers a wealth of choices, from War of 1812 and Benjamin Banneker heritage sites to 175 miles of Chesapeake Bay waterfront, concerts at Oregon Ridge and our universities to award-winning wineries and international steeplechase racing."

The 16-member Baltimore County Conference and Tourism Advisory Council includes representatives from the hotel, conference and hospitality sector, restaurants and retail, sports attractions, historic destinations, the arts, and agriculture. To enhance partnerships and regionalism, two members represent Baltimore City attractions.

Over the past several months, Baltimore County's Department of Economic Development has transitioned the County's tourism program from the Baltimore County Conference and Visitors Bureau, a stand-alone non-profit organization, to a division within the county department.

"We believe this new effort will maximize partnerships among the travel and tourism industry and other County businesses, and benefit from existing programs in economic development," stated David S. Iannucci, the department's executive director.

Two new staff members have been hired in the County Department of Economic Development to support the initiative. Jill Feinberg is director of conference and tourism with Marge Saunders serving as associate.

About Jill Feinberg, Baltimore County Director of Conference and Tourism

Jill Feinberg comes to Baltimore County from UMBC, where she most recently served as the Director of Advancement Communications supporting university leadership. Jill worked for Marriott International corporate headquarters for eight years in a series of marketing and communications positions. She received her Masters degree from the Cornell Hotel School.

About Marge Saunders, Baltimore County Conference and Tourism Associate

Marge Saunders served as Sales Manager for the former Baltimore County Conference & Visitors Bureau. She brings 15 years experience in hospitality sales and marketing.

Members of the Baltimore County Conference and Tourism Advisory Council

Hal Ashman (Chair)
Ultimate Watersports

Beth Huber
Middle River Water Taxi

Joey Bivona
Peerces Plantation

Jesse Issa
Tonino's Restaurant

Rob Deford
Boordy Vineyards

Nick Mangione
Hilton Pikesville

Louis Diggs
Writer and Tour Guide
Historic African American Communities

Louise Miller
Towson University

Jim Dresher
Skye Hospitality

Gilbert Pascal
Glenn L. Martin Aviation Museum

Maria Flores
El Nayar Restaurant

Terry Slade-Young
The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore

Nancy Hafford
Towson Chamber of Commerce

Gay Vietzke
Hampton National Historical Site

Rebecca Hoffberger
American Visionary Arts Museum

Sherri Weaver
Courtyard by Marriott

