

February 17, 2025

Hotel/Motel Tax Revenue Request - FY2026

City of Frostburg
37 S Broadway
Frostburg, MD 21532

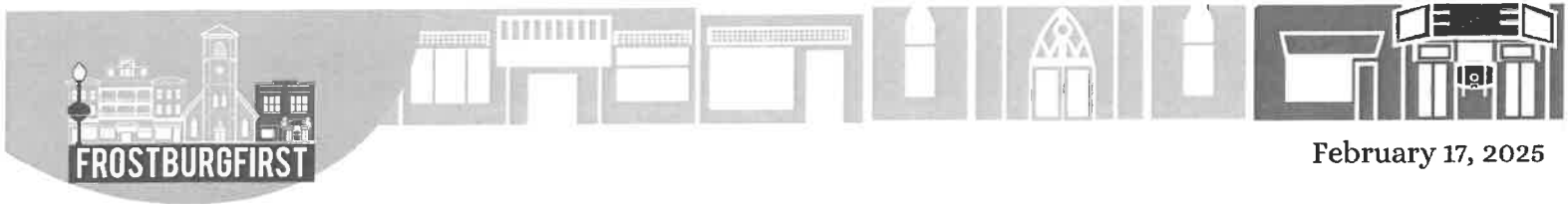
Dear Mayor and City Council,

Thank you for your generous support of \$30,000 in Hotel/Motel tax revenue in the Fiscal Year 2024 - 2025. Operational support from the City of Frostburg was key in maintaining and expanding FrostburgFirst programs and services. With your support, we were able to directly impact economic development, plan and implement multiple creative place-making and public art projects, and build stronger community buy-in to local events and programs. Using these funds as leverage, we have returned the City's investment in our program through fundraising, grants, program investments, and event revenue. Over the past year, FrostburgFirst applied for and was awarded over \$350,000 in grant funds for projects, programming, and operations. Approximately 85% of awarded funds are applied directly to project implementation benefiting the economic vitality of the Frostburg Main Street district, with FrostburgFirst receiving limited operational or administrative support, despite being responsible for implementation and reporting.

The presence of a designated Main Street Maryland program in our community helps to attract new businesses and sustain and expand existing businesses and art enterprises. Our ability to leverage funding from state and national grant programs only available to Main Street organizations provides Frostburg with resources lacking in many other cities. Utilizing state and federal grant funds, FrostburgFirst engaged consultants to provide economic development planning technical assistance services including a visioning project for downtown Frostburg, a feasibility study on large building rehabilitation for 59 E Main, and a Frostburg market analysis. Frostburg First will use the data to develop our strategic planning and inform our project development for the next 5 years, and will contribute the findings to the City's comprehensive plan process. FrostburgFirst was also awarded \$240,000 in grant funds from the Project Restore 2.0 program to assist in renovating 1 E. Main Street and 27 E. Main Street for at least 2 new businesses to open by December 2025, including a gym (Frostburg Fitness Center) and a women's clothing boutique (She's So Pretty).

We regularly act as a facilitator for existing and potential business owners in finding resources, local artists to find appropriate venues, and we work closely with our county tourism department to highlight the area's attractions, including the Great Allegheny Passage, the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad, and the natural beauty of Western Maryland. FrostburgFirst sourced federal grant funding to provide a free Locable platform for all Frostburg businesses. The platform allows any participating business to create a landing page with links and photos, and businesses can upload events that automatically populate the downtownfrostburg.com community calendar or be embedded on existing websites. Mini-grants to expand Locable listings and make better use of the new platform will be available to eligible small businesses for application in early 2025.

During the past year, FrostburgFirst successfully held multiple events, including the Annual Cocoa Crawl, annual Spring Arts Walk, First Fridays, "Fall in Love with Frostburg" & Cider Crawl, Annual Lemonade Crawl, and Small Business Saturday & Shop Small Holiday Market. We worked with PPR Strategies to run a Burg Bucks social media campaign through the holiday season and conducted marketing campaigns in national magazines Travel + Taste +Tour and Adventure Outdoors. FrostburgFirst also ran an advertising campaign with DCNews Now and on streaming platforms that reached over 300,000 viewers. The FrostburgFirst staff and Board of Directors make a daily effort to promote downtown Frostburg, support the small business and artist community, and participate in local economic development in meaningful ways.



February 17, 2025

FrostburgFirst has also made the arts a priority. In 2024, we completed the Brownsville/Park Lane Public Art Project, "Anchors of Endurance" with a special event for descendants and a final public dedication in August. In collaboration with The Brownsville Project, & funded through the Maryland State Arts Council, FrostburgFirst installed a 3-dimensional artwork honoring the descendants of the Brownsville/Park Ave Community while highlighting the importance of the contribution of the community to the history and culture of Frostburg. We also successfully completed the 3rd year of the Frostburg Honors Banner program honoring local veterans and first responder on banners throughout the downtown from Memorial Day - Veterans' Day.

Recently, we have been honored to represent our community on the state and national stage. FrostburgFirst was invited by MD Dept. of Housing & Community Development and Dept. of Commerce to participate in conference panels including annual summits for the Maryland Economic Development Association and the Council of Development Finance Agencies for our work on Project Restore. Additionally, FrostburgFirst was selected to present at two sessions at the National Main Street Conference this April in Philadelphia. In February, we were asked to represent Maryland Main Streets at the National Main Street Capitol Hill Day where we advocated for federal funding programs that benefit small businesses and economic development.

For Fiscal Year 2026, FrostburgFirst is requesting to maintain the same level of support from the City of Frostburg of **\$30,000.00** for operations. These funds will be applied directly to operational expenses to ensure that the basic functions of salary, rent, utilities, and general marketing will be able to continue uninterrupted.

Sourcing funding to support operational expenses is always a significant challenge for nonprofits, which makes the City's investment in our Main Street Program essential to successfully addressing the needs of our Main Street Community. The FrostburgFirst Main Street program is the community's crossroad, a place in our hearts and minds that evokes strong emotions and helps define our identity. FrostburgFirst serves as a catalyst for economic development and facilitates collaboration and cooperation throughout the community.

The funding request of **\$30,000** will support FrostburgFirst operations, programming, and marketing efforts. In the following pages, you will find:

- About FrostburgFirst, A Maryland Main Street Community, Inc., Transformation Strategies, & Workplan
- FrostburgFirst: Annual Impact Report 2024
- FrostburgFirst: Financial Overview of Fiscal Year 2024-2025
- Letter of Agreement
- Letters of Support

We are happy to provide any additional financial records or organizational data for the fiscal year to date. Thank you for your time and consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deirdre", written over a light blue circular background.

Deirdre Robertson
Executive Director

FrostburgFirst - a Maryland Main Street Community, Inc.

(301) 689-6900
41 E. Main St.
Frostburg, MD 21532



P.O. Box 434
Mt. Savage, MD 21545-0434

February 18, 2025

The City of Frostburg
37 Broadway Street
Frostburg, MD 21532
ATTN: LYDIA CLaar, DEPUTY CITY ADMINISTRATOR

RE: CITY HOTEL / MOTEL TAX APPROPRIATION REQUEST

Dear Ms. Claar:

On behalf of the Classy Chassis Car Club, we would like to request funds again this year from the Hotel/Motel Tax Revenue. Previously, the Mayor and City Council have generously presented our Organization with \$1,500.00 to assist with our "Cruisin' Main Street, Frostburg" expenses. As the single largest one-night yearly event in Frostburg, it draws visitors in from Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Virginia, as well as across the State of Maryland. On an average year, we draw in an estimated 700 vehicles as well as thousands of spectators who walk through Frostburg, patronizing local businesses and enjoying the "coolest place" on what we would like to think is the coolest night!

Our 2025 event will be our 23rd year for "Cruisin' Main Street". This funding, as well as the partnership that we receive from the City of Frostburg, is essential to keep the event rolling along.

With proceeds from our "Cruisin' Main Street" and 50/50 sales, we contributed over \$4,000.00 to the following charities and service organizations last year:

- Allegany County Public Schools—Auto Care
- Mineral County Vo-Tech – Auto Depart.
- Allegany Fire Police
- The League – A Children's Place
- Toys for Happiness
- Elks Derby Day
- Frostburg City Employees
- Frostburg Elks Club
- Frostburg Fire Department
- Frostburg Food Pantry
- Western Maryland Food Bank
- Mountain Ridge High School – Scholarship
- Mountain Ridge After Prom
- Fort Ashby Historical District
- Salvation Army

I look forward to partnering once again with the City of Frostburg. Your providing us with a grant from these funds will help us to ensure we can continue to make "Cruisin' Main Street" the family friendly event that people look forward to attending year after year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Snyder", written in a cursive style.

David Snyder
President – Classy Chassis Car Club



Frostburg State University
Cultural Events Series
101 Braddock Road
Frostburg MD 21532-2303
301.687.3137
ces@frostburg.edu

February 18, 2025

Frostburg Mayor and Council
59 East Main Street
Frostburg, MD 21532

Honorable Mayor and Council:

CES (Cultural Events Series) at Frostburg State University respectfully requests funding from the 2025-26 City Hotel/Motel Tax Fund in the amount of \$7,000.

CES produces an annual series that features high-caliber professional performing artists. Each season includes multiple public performances from national and international artists in diverse genres of theatre, music and dance. A robust educational program of workshops, lectures, master classes and discussions allow community members and visitors to connect with visiting artists beyond performance attendance.

We pride ourselves on CES's many years of multi-cultural programming. In the past 10 years alone, visiting artists, who have appeared at prestigious venues like the Kennedy Center, Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center and the Palais Garnier in Paris, have come from India, the People's Republic of China, South Korea, Tibet, New Zealand, Australia, South Africa, Guinea, Kenya, Russia, Greece, the Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland, Scotland, France, Germany, Switzerland, Spain, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, the Bahamas, Puerto Rico, Ecuador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Argentina, Venezuela, Mexico, the Stockbridge Munsee Band of Mohicans and Canada. Over the course of our nearly 70-year history, we have hosted multiple Grammy, Tony and Emmy award-winning performers and legends like Dave Brubeck, Jack Klugman, Herbie Hancock and Esperanza Spalding, to name just a few.

We believe that our programs have a strong impact on the people of our community. An example of a recent success was a free, outdoor performance from Puerto Rican plena and bomba ensemble Plena Libre, which attracted a diverse audience of community members, children, seniors, students and even a few canines. The band's warmth and enthusiasm contributed to a fun, familial atmosphere and their gift for engaging the audience in their music was a joy to witness. The musicians prompted attendees to get onto their feet, teaching them the simple but invigorating steps of the traditional bomba. Early in the performance, the musicians addressed the audience in Spanish to get a sense of who in attendance might understand; only a handful of individuals did. They proceeded to warmly tell the crowd that "even though we come from different cultures, we are glad to be here with you." Exuberant comments reveal the sensory impact: "Wooo - that was so much fun!" The band were engaging with such positive, high energy. I don't see how anyone could sit still listening to their music and watching them have so much fun entertaining. Best part of it for me was their encouragement of audience participation. Good choice, CES!"

Engaging touring artists that will successfully attract visitors to Frostburg involves sizeable production costs and artist fees. Our request of \$7,000 would support roughly 50% of the cost of the artist fee for a single engagement.

CES is not an FSU academic department but is a program within the Division of Advancement and Regional Engagement. We are committed to using the power of the arts to connect with community members from the campus, city and tri-state region. In a typical season, CES brings an average of 3000-4000 people into Frostburg to not only attend performances but to visit local restaurants, bars and businesses. School children from across the tri-state region come to the campus each year to experience school-day performances that connect with classroom curricula. CES guest artists use an average of 100-150 hotel room nights each year.

Recent years have seen an increasing number of events scheduled in venues beyond the FSU campus, including the historic Palace Theatre, The Deep End pub, Clatter Café and Hoffman Park. Partnerships with local organizations – whether cultural, civic, business or educational – have always been an important aspect of our program. Several creative endeavors have been launched in recent years to impact the local economy. A new collaboration with the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad offers round-trip train excursions between Cumberland and Frostburg to attend CES performances; passenger data reveal that participants have come from far beyond the region, even including a European passenger in 2023. Our CES Restaurant Partners Program invites ticket holders to receive show-day discounts when visiting participating local eateries.

We strive to maintain a ticket cost that allows accessibility to all in our community. We work to ensure that no one, regardless of economic situation, is denied admittance to these events. We firmly believe that everyone has a right to experience the arts, which are a powerful tool for building community.

CES will continue to work with FrostburgFirst and the Main Street Manager to increase our presence beyond the FSU campus in the downtown City of Frostburg. This includes supporting the Children's Literature Festival's *Pirate Ahoy!* and *Storybook Holiday* programs; A&E District Arts Walk; the annual Block Party; and Small Business Saturday.

As part of our partnership with the annual Levitt AMP Cumberland Music Series, we are supporting the Allegany Arts Council in bringing one of the series' guest artists to present a free concert in Frostburg in summer 2025; a similar collaboration brought one of the Levitt AMP artists to Hoffman Park in July 2024.

Over the past three years, our allocation from FSU student activity fees was reduced from \$22.27 to \$13.36 per student. Coupled with reduced enrollment, this allocation now accounts for only 13% of the FY 24 operating budget. The remaining 87% of the CES annual budget must be funded through ticket sales revenue, sponsorships, business partnerships, individual donations and grant funding.

We are grateful to the City of Frostburg for its recent support of \$7,000 in 2024-25, \$6,000 in 2023-24, \$5,000 in 2022-23, \$3,000 in 2021-22, \$3,000 in 2019-20, \$3,000 in 2018-19, \$2,500 in 2017-18, \$3,000 in 2016-17 and \$2,000 in 2015-16. We appreciate your consideration of this ongoing request.

Recognition of City of Frostburg funding will be provided on all marketing components produced throughout the season. This includes press releases, the annual CES brochure, electronic marketing and social media, performance programs, color posters and flyers, promotion on CES and FSU websites, print advertisements, and special mailings to school districts and private schools.

In addition, CES will provide the City of Frostburg with quality photography documentation of these projects with the appropriate releases to allow the city to use such materials for ongoing promotional purposes.

The CES operating budget is included on the following page. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Submitted by:

Melanie Moore

Director
CES at Frostburg State University
101 Braddock Road
Frostburg, MD 21532
301.687.7495
mamoore@frostburg.edu



February 3, 2025

Dear Mayor Logsdon and Commissioners,

The Frostburg Elks Lodge #470 is again requesting financial assistance for Derby Day.

This is annual event that has become a City of Frostburg tradition that has carried on for the past 40+ years. 2025 will be the 49th year.

In years past the city of Frostburg has contributed funding from the Hotel/Motel Tax for the purchase of hay to be used as safety barriers along the race route. The cost has risen and we will be needing approx. \$2,500.00 this year to purchase the hay and other safety barriers.

Any assistance that you can contribute to help us continue this great tradition for the youth of our surrounding area will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

B. Joene Patterson, Secretary Frostburg Elks Lodge #470

Cc: Jim Meyers, Treas./ Derby Day Chairman

City Administrator
Lydia Claar
City of Frostburg
37 Broadway Street
Frostburg, MD 21532

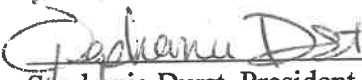
Mayor and City Council,


On behalf of the House and Garden Club of Frostburg, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to request funding from the Hotel/Motel Tax Revenue.

This year we would like to request \$3,000 in support of our Main Street Flower Basket Projects. We currently maintain 62 baskets and 8 area garden beds throughout the city with flower plantings and watering in the summer, and holiday greenery with bows and lights in the winter months. These added funds are a valuable resource for the Club and its volunteers to continue our work and we appreciate this support.

The basket project is funded by the city's generous support and individual donations that are made to the Foundation for Frostburg specifically in support of the Garden Club. As a result, for the last few years we have not had to rely on separate fundraisers to support the basket project. As you know, we are currently in meetings with the city to find the best use for those funds and the maintenance of the lampposts themselves is on our radar.

Sincerely,


Stephanie Durst, President


Sue Bebernes, Treasurer

House and Garden Club of Frostburg
P.O. Box 615
Frostburg, MD 21532

Included:

House and Garden Club Projected Operating Budget



CHILDREN'S LITERATURE CENTRE

February 17, 2025

Dear Mayor Logsdon and Members of Frostburg City Council,

On behalf of The Children's Literature Centre, I would like to request \$3,000 from the Hotel/Motel Tax Fund to support Frostburg's 22nd annual Storybook Holiday celebration, to be held on Saturday, December 6, 2025.

We will bring the magic as always and are excited to welcome the crowds of children, families, and elves to the streets, shops, and restaurants of Frostburg once again!

The Hotel/Motel tax funding will assist the Centre, and the Storybook Holiday Planning Committee, in continuing this literary and holiday event for children and families. Held on the first Saturday in December, it continues to be a perfect example of how Frostburg State University, through the Children's Literature Centre, collaborates with the City of Frostburg to provide a weekend that ushers in the holiday season for families, FSU students, visitors, and businesses. Traditionally, we welcome over 800 children and their families, who spend the day in Frostburg, participating in a wide variety of activities in City Place and throughout the city. In 2024 we had over 1,100 people come through City Place! Children can make crafts, have a photo taken with an elf, meet a children's author/illustrator, cheer on a favorite elf in Elf Olympics, write letters to Santa, attend a parade, and enjoy winter themed games. Additionally, families can check out vendors, visit shops and restaurants, meet Santa, enjoy a vintage movie, eat breakfast with the elves, as well as other activities throughout our town.

Each year, this event continues to draw more people to our city and provides an opportunity for local businesses to showcase their products and services. Storybook Holiday is one of the biggest retail days for many of our businesses. Many businesses are "sticker stops" during the event which draws in families and allows children to end up with a special treat for collecting stickers along the way.

In addition to financial support from the City of Frostburg, the ongoing success of Storybook Holiday can be attributed to the consistent support of hundreds of volunteers, FSU students, Frostburg City employees, the Parks & Recreation Department, Frostburg First, the Frostburg Fire Department and Frostburg Police Department. We are extremely appreciative of the City's continuing support of this event over the past 20+ years and look forward to another successful Storybook Holiday in 2025.

Phone 301.687.3133 • Fax 301.687.7032 • Email
clc@frostburg.edu

219-A EHSC Building, Frostburg State University, 101 Braddock Road, Frostburg, MD 21532-2303





February 4, 2025

Ms. Lydia Claar
Acting Deputy City Administrator
And
Ms. Elaine Jones, CPA
Director of Finance
City of Frostburg
P.O. Box 440
Frostburg, Maryland 21532

Re: Hotel/Motel Tax Allocation Request **\$10,000 for Operating Expenses and Additional Funds Towards City-mandated Downspout Changes**

Dear Ms. Claar and Ms. Jones:

For the Fiscal Year set to begin on July 1, 2025, the Frostburg Museum Association is requesting an allocation of **\$10,000 in Hotel/Motel Taxes** for Operating Expenses. These funds will be vital in assisting the Museum with increases in property insurance, electricity and natural gas utilities, and increased Maintenance and Repairs. This would also continue the multi-year relationship between the City and the Museum in support of our location at the center of Frostburg's Main Street business, cultural and tourism district. These funds will enable us to continue the work of collecting, organizing, preserving and presenting the items, artifacts and stories of our community's heritage.

In addition to our primary activities, your funding enables the Museum to maintain our support for Frostburg's holiday traditions. The Community Christmas Tree Lighting Event occurs in our courtyard at 50 E. Main Street. The amazing holiday lamp post wreaths are stored in the basement of our building at 56 E. Main Street, as well as the lights and materials for the Community Christmas Tree. From the first of October to mid-November, the Holiday Lamp Post Committee uses that space to rehabilitate and prepare the wreaths for their installation. Our space replaced the space the Committee lost when City Hall was moved back to 59 E. Main Street.

Attached you will find our Monthly Budget Report for December 2024. It includes Year-To-Date numbers that detail the first six months of our Fiscal Year. Please note the following:

1. We are seeing dramatic increases in the cost for electricity and natural gas utilities, due in part to rate increases granted Potomac Edison and Columbia Gas. We are also seeing increased expenses for Maintenance and Repairs for our old two buildings. As you know, our buildings are

centrally located in the Main Street business district and while they in good condition, have elements that are many decades old.

2. One of our important priorities is to provide for "Long-Term Financial Stability". Towards that end this past year we converted an under-performing Money Market account to a "Sweep Account". The result has been a significant increase in yields.

Also attached you will find a list of Special Events the Museum either hosted or was a participant, thus increasing our visibility and community involvement. You will also see a list of organizations that we partnered with during the last year. We believe it is so important to be an active part of the greater Frostburg community. As examples, we benefitted directly by the events implemented by FrostburgFirst and the bus transportation from the Depot to Main Street provided by the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad. Our Saturday visitor numbers were increased as a result of these two organizations.

Total visitors in 2024, were 1,113, compared to 1,000 in 2023. As in the past, there are only 8 to 10 core volunteers who host visitors, create the displays, conduct administration and financial management and maintain the buildings (which includes scrubbing floors and cleaning toilets).

One special note from 2024 was the expansion of our Frostburg Hero's Project. Just over 12 people or organizations are profiled for their special impact on the community in our past. With the help of WFWM Public Radio, the Hero's stories were recorded by FSU students. These brief recordings are now being broadcast on WFWM Public Radio. These broadcasts expand the community awareness of the Museum as well as share with WFWM's listening audience the stories of these Frostburg Heros.

We want to express our deep appreciation for the funding provided by the City in the past. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. Again, thank you.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Eshleman
President

Cc: Mayor Todd Logsdon



January 21, 2025

Lydia Claar, Acting Deputy City Administrator
City of Frostburg
City Hall
37 Broadway
Frostburg, MD 21532

Re: Hotel/Motel Tax Allocation Request

Dear Ms. Claar:

On behalf of the Allegany Arts Council, I would like to make a request for an appropriation from the City's Hotel/Motel Tax Revenue for FY 2025 in the amount of \$2500. We are sincerely appreciative of the opportunity to continue applying for this funding and for the City of Frostburg's continued support of our work in the community.

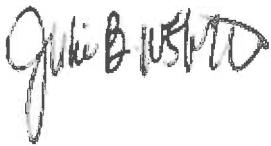
The Allegany Arts Council has served as the umbrella organization for the arts in our community since 1975 and is charged, as one of 24 County arts agencies across the state, with promoting awareness and engagement of the arts, promoting and providing arts education, contributing to economic development through the arts, and producing high-quality programming, both which attracts visitors to our community and engages our residents.

In 2024, the Arts Council lost its longtime home in downtown Cumberland and has purchased a new home which requires complete renovation. While this process is underway, we will be partnering even more with Frostburg partners to host many of our signature programs, including the return of our Levitt AMP series this summer on the campus of Frostburg State University, and our national Allegany Photo Show and 25th Annual Wills Creek Exhibition of Fine Arts in partnership with the FSU Stephanie Ann Roper Gallery. We remain the premiere annual sponsor of the Cultural Event Series in Frostburg and we will be partnering with CES once again to host the Mystical Arts of Tibet this spring. We also partnered with Allegany County Economic Development this past fall to host our annual Members Show at the Lyric Theatre. We value the opportunity to conduct programs and initiatives which support Frostburg's uniqueness as a stand-alone community as well as part of our larger county-wide family.

Per your instructions, I am attaching a copy of the Allegany Arts Council's final budget summary for our

most recently completed fiscal year. Please let me know if you require any additional information pertaining to these funding requests. Thank you in advance for your consideration and continued support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julie Westendorff". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with some capitalization.

Julie Westendorff
Executive Director



Tuesday, 18 February 2025

Mayor and City Council
City of Frostburg
PO Box 440
Frostburg, Maryland 21532

Mayor Logsdon and Members of the City Council:

Thank you for the continued benevolence that you have shown to the Arion Band all these years. The commitment of the city and of the citizens of Frostburg to preserving the history of the band, as well as continuing to help the band grow and serve the community that we are proud to represent, is admirable and appreciated. Indeed, even in the leanest of fiscal years, the city has never failed to recognize the importance of the Arion Band in the Frostburg community, and for that, we are incredibly grateful.

In 2024, the Arion Band gave fifteen performances during our season, including eight within the city limits of Frostburg. Band members collectively put in hundreds of hours of rehearsal and performance time to bring music to the Mountain City. Additionally, the band continued to make physical improvements to the 130-year-old Arion Band Hall, located at 35 Uhl Street. In the last five years, through fundraising and private donations, including hotel-motel funds, the Arion Band has made the following improvements to the building:

- New 50-year metal roof
- Upgraded 200-amp electrical service
- New electrical fixtures and lighting inside
- Switching from natural gas to electric baseboard heat.

These projects have gone a long way toward preserving the historic building, and toward ensuring the Band's long-term viability, but there is more work to be done. Namely, in the next few years, the Band hopes to make the following improvements to the building:

- Foundation stabilization
- Repairing plaster and lath walls
- Refinishing the original hardwood floors
- Re-installing water to the building in order to make the bathroom usable.

In addition to these capital projects, the band also incurs regular expenses that continue to increase, including property taxes, building insurance, and utility payments.



We write today to formally request an appropriation from the city's 2025 hotel-motel tax funds in the amount of \$1,000.00. We recognize that the Band is requesting a sizeable increase from the \$500.00 appropriation that we have received for the last 15 years or so, and we respect that the city's funds are limited. We hope that the city can understand that the Band has not been immune to the effects of inflation and increased maintenance costs over the last few years.

If the Arion Band can be of assistance to the city in any way at any time, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are incredibly proud to have been a part of the Frostburg community for 148 years and counting. Again, we thank you.

Sincerely,

The Arion Band of Frostburg



February 4, 2025

Mayor and City Council
City of Frostburg
37 S. Broadway
Frostburg, MD 21532

RE: 2024/25 HOTEL/MOTEL REQUEST

Dear Elected Officials –

It's been another great year at The Palace. 2024 brought over 2900 people into our 300-seat historic theater. This is an increase of over 700 from 2023! We held 27 events with our small volunteer staff. In addition to the film series and annual cultural events through our partnership with many local organizations including FSU's Cultural Events Series and The Center for Literary Arts, we added school trips for movie screenings, a fundraising concert for WFWM radio and our first movie themed wedding in late December. Already the calendar for 2025 is filling up with a new movie series, jazz concerts and a Derby Day documentary film screening in April in partnership with the Maryland Humanities Council.

Main Street is a better place with the doors of The Palace Theatre open. The City of Frostburg has always been a big part of our success. Our request this year is \$5000.00 from the 2024/25 hotel and motel fund. The theater audiences and unique programming just keeps growing. Our social media presence has also exploded this year with almost 3000 followers. Our posts assist The Palace as well as the image of Frostburg and its business district.

A brief note on the progress of ARC grant. Proposals will be ready to send out in the next month and bids will soon be reviewed. Our hope is to start the roof project in the summer. Admittedly, the grant process has taken more time and talent than we had expected but progress has been made.

A current financial statement is included with this letter. Note that \$63,500.00 in our budget is earmarked to match the ARC grant that has been approved but not yet processed.

Thank you for considering The Palace's request. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Fred Powell
Board member

mainstreetbooks@comcast.net
301-707-9039



Feb. 12, 2025

Dear Mayor Logsdon and City Council Members:

I am writing to ask for your continued support from the Frostburg Hotel and Motel Tax Funds for the annual Frostburg State University Appalachian Festival, slated for September 18-20, 2025. Featuring more than 150 artists, musicians, and presenters, the event celebrates all that is unique to our region—its culture, history, environment and artistic and musical traditions. Events take place on Frostburg's Main Street, in the Palace Theatre, and on FSU's Campus.

The Festival is directed through Folklore and Folklife Programming at Frostburg State University, which also manages Mountain City Traditional Arts, a shop and venue on Frostburg's Main Street. Both are supported in part via a partnership with the Maryland State Arts Council's Folklife Network. Funding raised for the Festival means more grant funding can be invested in Mountain City Traditional Arts, which offers a full roster of performances, workshops and demonstrations as well as selling locally crafted items. Our overnight guests are always hosted in Frostburg, using Frostburg-based lodging. This summer, we're excited to continue our Friday afternoon Performance Series for Children and Families and to host our third week-long Children's Folk Arts Camp.

Celebrating its 20th year this Fall, the FSU Appalachian Festival has become a cornerstone event for our community. Each year, we expand our advertising reach. We have ads in the Visitor's Guide and several other monthly or quarterly planners. In addition, we have rack cards available at Maryland Rest Stops and Visitors Center and on some stops along the Pennsylvania Turnpike. Over the last two years, we greatly increased our advertising in the Frederick and Winchester area. We also take out a significant amount of radio and newspaper advertising near the date of the event. In addition, we source Festival T-shirts and hats locally, using JRs.

It's difficult to estimate crowd size, but we generally expect up to 5,000 attendees for the event. A number of our out of town guests make plans to stay for the entire weekend, spending time exploring the Frostburg community. Moreover, the Festival has become something of an institution, with local families making a tradition of attending year after year. I've met people who travel from New Jersey, Florida and Texas each year to attend this event. We've also had individuals from Germany, Australia, and Estonia attend our events.

At present, the Festival includes two music stages, each highlighting acoustic music performances by regional musicians throughout the day, four presentation areas, including a performance tent for children's programs, an artisan tent, and a public service tent for local organizations. We are delighted to host aspects of the Festival on Frostburg's Main Street. The event kicks off Thursday evening at the Palace Theatre on Main Street with a Film Festival or theatrical event focusing on Appalachian issues and closes with a concert at the Palace Theatre. On Friday, FSU hosts a Learn-In Symposium on campus which tackles issues of economic development, community and environmental sustainability. That event is open to community members and draws on the expertise of regional businesses, leaders and residents. Paired with the on- campus Saturday Festival, these events present multiple opportunities for community engagement.

We greatly appreciate the support of the City of Frostburg and look forward to our continued collaboration. We'd like to ask the City of Frostburg to consider a contribution of \$2500. That funding would go toward covering advertising and performance stipends.

Sincerely,

Kara Rogers Thomas

Professor of Folklore and Sociology

krogerstthomas@frostburg.edu, 301-687-3124; Frostburg State University, 101 Braddock Road, Frostburg, MD 21532

February 2025

RECEIVED FEB 07 2025

Current Acting City Administrator
and Mayor City of Frostburg
PO Box 440
Frostburg, MD 21532

Mayor Logsdon,

On behalf of the Frostburg Holiday Lamppost Committee, I would like to thank you and the city council members for their ongoing support for our work to create a beautiful holiday celebration of our city's Main Street. We would also like to thank the city workers and the Parks and Recreation employees that installed all of the wreaths.

I am proud to mention that this year the Lamppost committee had 20 volunteers that donated more than 200 hours of service. Each of the 52 wreaths has more than 4 hours of volunteer time involved. It is truly a community effort. I would personally like to thank Rob Rephan for his leadership of the committee over the past 5 years.

For the 2025 holiday season (our 18th year as a committee) we respectfully request \$6000 from the 2025 Hotel/Motel Tax Revenue. The funds will be spent on:

- Commercial replacement lights, bows, greenery, and other maintenance supplies for the wreaths.
- Christmas tree, music, carriage rides, hot cocoa, and cookies for the tree lighting event.
- Updating a few dilapidated wreaths with LED lights and new greenery.

Our goal is to get a decade out of each wreath before fully re-doing all of them. We believe we can make it 3 more years with our current refreshing process. Ultimately, we hope then to convert all the wreaths to LED for energy and cost savings.

Again, we thank you for your continued support that has made this project a legacy and highlight for the Frostburg Christmas season. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions.

With sincere appreciation,



Dr. Kurt Hoffman
Frostburg Holiday Lamppost Committee
79 Pine Street
Frostburg, MD 21532
301-697-1812



February 18, 2025

Elizabeth Stahlman
City Administrator
City of Frostburg
PO Box 440
Frostburg, MD 21532

RE: Hotel/Motel Distribution Request

Dear Mrs. Stahlman:

P.O. Box
"Where the pas
W

On behalf of the Mountain Maryland Trails (MMT)¹ Board of Directors, I am **requesting a hotel/motel revenue share from the City of Frostburg of \$5,000**. As the primary steward of the Great Allegheny Passage (GAP), MMT strives daily to work with the cities of Frostburg and Cumberland, as well as the Allegany County government, to provide a first class outdoor experience for Frostburg residents, as well as over 160,000² Allegany County trail tourists, with ~50,000 of those tourists lodging in Allegany County. Below is a list of functional areas and activities where MMT continues to focus on benefiting the City of Frostburg.

Marketing (\$4,600 - Frostburg specific)

Annually, MMT covers costs directly associated with the City of Frostburg in relation to GAP maintenance and marketing³. Specific examples include, design and production cost of the *Trail Town* brochure and an extensive feature in the *TrailGuide*⁴. Both publications are critical resources to the promotion of the City of Frostburg and local business community in relation to tourists (cyclists, hikers and runners) who plan visits/trips along the GAP and connecting C&O Canal Towpath. MMT has expanded the trail ambassador program with an increase in trail ambassadors. This addition has shown an increase in collaboration between MMT and the local Wheelman cycling club. Members consistently ride the trail and roads with branded jerseys providing "eyes and ears" regarding trail conditions, visitor engagement and a physical human presence on the GAP trail and surrounding road routes.

Maintenance and Development (\$10,000 - Maryland section of GAP)

¹ Allegheny Highlands Trail of Maryland DBA Maryland Mountain (EIN 52-2018889) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

² Summary data provided by trail counters and volunteers on an on-going basis.

³ Appendix I

⁴ Appendix II

In 2024, MMT continued to work in collaboration with Allegany County, maintaining the surface of the GAP in the surrounding Frostburg area. As an example in 2024, MMT provided over \$10,000 in funds for updated signage and a new Fence along the GAP.

Events (\$4,395 - 3M expense)

From an event perspective, MMT annually features Frostburg as the finish line of the 3M Challenge. This Machine vs. Man vs. Mountain bicycle time trial attracts riders for both trail and rail, as cyclists race from Cumberland to Frostburg on the GAP trail. The lunch hour then brings the WMSR train on a mission to beat the times posted by the pedal-powered teams. This event, since 2018, has allowed MMT to raise over \$44,000 for GAP projects and maintenance, while also **highlighting Frostburg as the “finish line town” and after party destination** for our riders and guests. MMT regularly supports the **Home and Garden Club of Frostburg** in relation to the costs associated with flowers and planters at the GAP Riley Trailhead (New Hope Rd). MMT also featured two trail volunteer service days on the GAP trail to engage local trail enthusiasts in addition to helping beautify the trail for our daily users and tourists.

Conclusion

After considering the annual commitments, both financial and goodwill, that MMT executes in support and promotion of the City of Frostburg, I am requesting a \$5,000 distribution award from the hotel/motel tax revenues. I appreciate your continued support and consideration.

Sincerely,

Zach Bittinger
Treasurer
Mountain Maryland Trails

Hotel/Motel Tax Revenue Fund Request for FY 25-26

Mike Fetchero <mfetchero@gmail.com>
To: "lclaar@frostburgcity.org" <lclaar@frostburgcity.org>

Thu, Jan 16, 2025 at 9:52 AM

Hi Lydia,

Thanks for the notification of funds availability sent by Elizabeth. And Thanks also for the past support!

Allegany Museum, Inc. operates the Thrasher Carriage Museum on behalf of the Allegany County Commissioners. The relationship goes back many years. Thrasher is one of the best attended attractions year after year in Frostburg. Thrasher appears on Trip Advisor as the number 1 attraction in your city. We operate the museum in accordance with the scheduled WMSR train service. We also open the museum for special tour groups on request if their schedule doesn't match the train schedule.

We have a dedicated team of volunteers assigned to Thrasher, led by Rick Blair. Our activities include cleaning and routine maintenance of the facility including bathrooms. We perform detailing of individual components of the collection. We handle plantings at the museum entrance and keep the immediate grounds "picked up" We endeavor to keep the facility an attractive destination.

Our volunteers are proficient enough with their knowledge to explain the collection and answer questions from the guests. Past hotel/motel contributions from Frostburg have allowed us to create QR powered videos which describe the key items on display. In addition, past Frostburg contributions have funded cleaning and detailing supplies as well as bathroom necessities and plants for the exterior. WMSR guests access the museum at no charge.

An attractive Thrasher as a part of the Frostburg success story! We are once again requesting \$5000.00 to help our ongoing operations. I have enclosed our 2024 P&L. We show a nice profit which is largely due grant money being held for an ongoing construction project at the Cumberland location. Those funds will be expended during the first half of 2025. We continue to move forward with support from many sectors of our communities. Day to day operations are on a tight budget.

Thanks in advance for your consideration!

Mike Fetchero, Treasurer
Allegany Museum, Inc.
301-697-2237



2024 financials Allegany Museum.pdf
5975K



February 4, 2025

Mayor and City Council
City of Frostburg
37 S. Broadway
Frostburg, MD 21532

RE: 2024/25 HOTEL/MOTEL REQUEST

Dear Elected Officials –

It's been another great year at The Palace. 2024 brought over 2900 people into our 300-seat historic theater. This is an increase of over 700 from 2023! We held 27 events with our small volunteer staff. In addition to the film series and annual cultural events through our partnership with many local organizations including FSU's Cultural Events Series and The Center for Literary Arts, we added school trips for movie screenings, a fundraising concert for WFWM radio and our first movie themed wedding in late December. Already the calendar for 2025 is filling up with a new movie series, jazz concerts and a Derby Day documentary film screening in April in partnership with the Maryland Humanities Council.

Main Street is a better place with the doors of The Palace Theatre open. The City of Frostburg has always been a big part of our success. Our request this year is \$5000.00 from the 2024/25 hotel and motel fund. The theater audiences and unique programming just keeps growing. Our social media presence has also exploded this year with almost 3000 followers. Our posts assist The Palace as well as the image of Frostburg and its business district.

A brief note on the progress of ARC grant. Proposals will be ready to send out in the next month and bids will soon be reviewed. Our hope is to start the roof project in the summer. Admittedly, the grant process has taken more time and talent than we had expected but progress has been made.

A current financial statement is included with this letter. Note that \$63,500.00 in our budget is earmarked to match the ARC grant that has been approved but not yet processed.

Thank you for considering The Palace's request. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Fred Powell
Board member
mainstreetbooks@comcast.net
301-707-9039



209 W. Mechanic Street • Frostburg, MD 21532
www.savagemountainpunkarts.org • @svgmtnpunkarts

EIN: 85-3105106

10 February 2025

The City of Frostburg
Lydia Claar
Acting Deputy City Administrator
City of Frostburg
37 Broadway
PO Box 440
Frostburg, MD 21532

Dear Mayor, City Council, and Lydia,

First, on behalf of the Board of Directors of SMPA, I would like to thank all of you for the City's prior support of Savage Mountain Punk Arts. In the last year, we've been able to do positive things in Western Maryland, and we're excited to continue doing so in Frostburg, with both major events such as the Punk Picnic at Hoffman Park, and our PunktoberFest at City Place and smaller events that encourage people to patronize local businesses. More importantly, since our last request, we managed to host a successful benefit at City Place that paid off the entirety of student lunch debt in the county for academic year 23-24, and also allowed us to support summer lunchbox programs throughout the county. We have also opened up the B-side gallery showing national and local artists in The Deep End at 16 W Main Street.

For FY 2026 SMPA plans to host at least two major events this year in Frostburg—our annual Punk Picnic at Hoffman Park and our annual PunktoberFest in October at City Place. Moreover, we will host musical events at the Deep End in association with each new art opening (bi-monthly), put on literary and acoustic performances at Clatter, and will continue to work with the Appalachian Festival, Frostburg First, and The Center for Literary Arts to host/coordinate panels at the Indie Lit Festival, host artists at the Arts Walks, and support other programming.

In the heart of the City's A&E district, our B-Side Gallery is already bringing artists, musicians, and patrons from out of the area who come and stay in local hotels. The goal as we move forward is to have the gallery open during prime Western Maryland Scenic Railroad stops from Thursday-Sunday. It also functions as the City's first dedicated arts gallery off campus.

The 2024 Punk Picnic had over 250 audience members from seven states and Washington, DC; and supported not only local hotels and restaurants, but also supported the two dozen local artisan vendors. Our 2024 PunktoberFest had over 100 attendees from five different states. Our downtown programming in conjunction with the Appalachian Festival and the

Indie Lit Festival continues to bring people to Frostburg from all over the Appalachian and Mid Atlantic regions; they eat at local restaurants and stay in local hotels.

With this in mind, SMPA seeks Motel/Hotel Tax support of its programming, and is making a request of \$2000 for the coming fiscal year to help with event and general operating costs to continue and further develop this work and our relationship with the businesses in Frostburg.

We are looking forward to growing our organization, which includes the development of a Western Maryland Punk Archive in conjunction with the Maryland State Arts Council. It provides a fascinating look at, among other things, the changing face of Main Street. We also continue to explore the possibility of opening a Savage Mountain Arts Center downtown in the future.

Our FY 24 audited and appended budget is attached. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. I can be reached at 240.580.6677 or at gerryl@savagemountainpunkarts.org.

Thanks again

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gerry LaFemina', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Gerry LaFemina
President, Savage Mountain Punk Arts



Department of Communication
101 Braddock Road
Frostburg, Maryland 21532-1099
301-687-3049
FAX: 301-687-3033

February 18, 2025

City of Frostburg
37 Broadway
Frostburg, MD 21532

Frostburg Mayor and Council,

Thank you for your continued support of FSU-TV3 and our activities within the community and at the University. Being awarded the Hotel/Motel Tax funding in fiscal year 2024 has helped with our overall commitment to bringing information from the city and educational programming to the local area.

FSU-TV3 was successful last year with Giving Day. We focused on acquiring funding to help provide additional opportunities for Frostburg State University students specifically. All our funding is held in a Foundation Development Account which is not an interest accruing account. With the funding we were able to pay for our part of the CASTUS expenses for the channel and been able to employ three additional State Work-Study students between the Fall 2024 semester and this semester with this funding. Frostburg State University is continuing to support the channel with the other CASTUS expenses from the Technology Fees from the university. Also, FSU-TV3 is also contributing to expenses for the Department of Communication with technical support as well. Your support with funding the Streaming Key for city meetings and other operational costs has allowed the channel more flexibility to work with students at the university and increase educational programming for the area. The channel is continuing to fundraise and apply for other opportunities to continue to serve the students as well as fund channel's operations. We hope you will continue your support with the following application which will allow us to work with you more specifically to provide additional coverage and opportunities for the City of Frostburg.

Financial Reporting		Income	Expenses	Total
Fundraising/Donations		\$6621.19		
Hotel/Motel Funding		\$1,999.00		
Expenses	CASTUS Costs		\$2,500.00	
	Work-Study Students		\$2,700.00	
	Repairs/Fees/Materials		\$280.00	
				\$3140.19

If you have any additional questions with regards to our report or the following proposal, please feel free to reach out to me directly at mlombardi@frostburg.edu or phone me at 301.687.3011.

Sincerely,
Melanie Lombardi
FSU-TV3 Cable Channel Manager

City of Frostburg Hotel Motel Tax Revenue Proposal

Applicant: FSU-TV3 and the Department of Communication at Frostburg State University
Project Name: Operating expenses for FSU-TV3's educational access channel
Name of Project Contact: Melanie Lombardi, 301.687.3011
Funding Ask: \$2,499

Project Description:

FSU-TV3 is an educational access channel assigned to Frostburg State University as part of the City of Frostburg's cable franchise agreement with Comcast/Xfinity. This channel provides educational programming to Frostburg State University, the City of Frostburg, and surrounding areas including Mt. Savage, Lonaconing, and Westernport. In addition to providing educational programming, FSU-TV3 provides educational opportunities for FSU students, works directly with educational outreach initiatives in area K-12 programs, and provides a free venue for non-profit organizations to promote their mission and initiatives.

Programming options for FSU-TV3 viewers include cultural programming from organizations such as the UCTV, Smithsonian Institution, and Heritage Broadcasting Service. One such program, STRATA Portraits of Humanity, features the many layers of the human experience with topics from all around the world. FSU-TV3 also provides programming centered around literature, life and leisure, and other areas. With the addition of having the Streaming licenses from funding last year with the Hotel/Motel tax we are also able to acquire educational programming from University of California Television (UCTV) they explore a broad spectrum of subjects including science, health and medicine, public affairs, humanities, arts and music, business, education and agriculture. And with the City's support we have streamed monthly City Council Meetings to serve the local area.

FSU-TV3 is the only source for university and community-produced programming. Some of the community-based programming that is in production include student-produced content includes an annual Halloween show, a holiday show called "The Christmas Special" a creative look at the Christmas holiday and various programs produced by FSU students enrolled in the FSU-TV3 Television Workshop class.

The current budgetary model, under which FSU-TV3 operates, does not ensure access to consistent funding sources. Instead, the channel, as part of an academic unit, must request funds through donations, sponsorships, the University's technology fund, and revenue streams like this. While the University continues to invest in staffing, outside funds are often needed for on going expenses.

To serve the university, the City of Frostburg, and the surrounding area, Frostburg State University has committed one full-time staff member and access to state-of-the art video production facilities. Funding of this proposal is imperative to ensure the continued delivery and expansion of educational programming to area residents and mission-specific promotional activities by area non-profit organizations.

This year, we'd like to expand the collaboration between FSU-TV3 and the City of Frostburg by offering credit to an upper level student to create content with and for the City. With input and collaboration from the City, an in-studio interview with City personnel could be produced. Short promotional messages could be produced. (The nature of the content would be decided upon by the City and those working on the project). Preliminary discussions of this concept took place with former City Administrator Elizabeth Stahlman.

Funding on Hand		\$3,140.19
Item Requested:	CASTUS Streaming license (1 year) for operating funds	\$1499.00
	Programming acquisition and production expenses	\$500.00
	Cost to pay student and/or faculty coordinator to undertake/oversee the for-credit experience	\$500.00
Total Requested:		\$2499.00



One University. A World of Experiences.

Center for Literary Arts
Frostburg State University
101 Braddock Road
Frostburg, MD 21532-2303
301.687.4340

16 February 2025

The Honorable Todd Logsdon, Mayor
and The City Council of Frostburg, Maryland
37 South Broadway
Frostburg, MD 21532

RE: \$1500 Funding Request for FY 2025-2026 Hotel/Motel Tax Revenue

Mayor Logsdon and members of the Frostburg City Council:

The Center for Literary Arts (CLA) serves Western Maryland and the surrounding region by celebrating the literary arts through a variety of public events and productions, by educating and broadening an audience for literature, and by fostering new writers and their work.

Our goals are to provide varied and high-quality literary arts programming to diverse audiences; to engage new participants; to enrich the cultural life of Frostburg; to collaborate with university, community, and business partners to strengthen our collective work in the region; and to better publicize through varied media the programming and services available at the CLA.

We have been an appreciative recipient of city hotel/motel tax funding in the past, and we hope to be again. That funding has supported programs—especially our One-Act Play Festival and the Western Maryland Independent Literature Festival (Indie Lit)—that encourage creative placemaking within and tourism to Frostburg.

In 2024, participants joined us from places as far afield as Cleveland, Delaware, Detroit, Massachusetts, and New York.

Whether visiting Main Street Books, Clatter, Allegheny Trail House, Mountain City Traditional Arts, or Giuseppe's—to name but a few of our partners—our arts audiences have enjoyed all that Frostburg has to offer.

If granted hotel/motel tax revenue funding, we will continue to broaden our offerings and to seek out new audiences. We're always looking for ways to bring literary arts into the community, and one example is our new project focused on writing about the rare, threatened, and endangered species of Allegany County.

I've included as an attachment to this letter a list of the literary events we hosted in 2024. We hope to be able to use hotel/motel funding to support even more events which pull audiences to town. We are making a request of \$1500.

We hope that you will, again, help us do all that we can to make Frostburg a vibrant literary arts community.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Jennifer Browne', with a stylized, flowing script.

Jennifer Browne
Director, Center for Literary Arts
jabrowne@frostburg.edu
301.687.4340

Summary: Center for Literary Arts Events, 2024

Western Maryland Independent Literature Festival (Indie Lit): In partnership with the Allegany County Library system, the Lewis J. Ort Library, and Savage Mountain Punk Arts (SMPA), the CLA hosted its 18th Annual Indie Lit Festival. The festival opened with a Thursday evening Poetry slam featuring Nicole Yurcaba.

The Friday evening kickoff reading featured the novelist George Guida.

Saturday's Indie Lit events included readings by contributors to the *Fantastic Imaginary Creatures* prose poem anthology and to the *Against Absence* project, Chuck Joy, Joe Kidd, Sheila Burke, and John Burroughs.

Craft talks and panels included sessions on generating poems from research, writing about music, nature storytelling, building community connections, tricks to finding inspiration, writing tight/revision, and growing up in Appalachia/memoir writing.

A small-press book fair was held at City Place featuring Air and Nothingness Press, What Why Aesthetics, Samsara Magazine, Red Tales, Crisis Chronicles Press, Lefty Blondie Press, JD Brayton, Old Scratch Press / Instant Noodles, Mahoney Reads, Backbone Mountain Review, and the Lewis J. Ort Library

One-Act Play Competition and Festival: We hosted the 15th Annual One Act Play Festival in the Historic Palace Theatre with readings of our Third Place Winner, *Penguin Play (or Living and Dying in Antarctica)* by Brandt Adams; Second Place Winner, *Past Tense* by Robert Moulthrop and staged production of the First Place Winner, *She's Got a Gun* by Colby A. Poston and a post-production talkback with writers, actors, directors, and Heidi Gardner, the festival's Managing Director.

Women's Writing Meetup: the Center for Literary Arts established a writing meetup for woman-identifying writers. This monthly meetup offers draft feedback, prompts, and a nurturing community.

Readings: The Center for Literary Arts hosted readings featuring Lori Jakiela (memoir), Jason Irwin (poetry), and Michael Garrigan (nature writing/poetry), Jennifer Browne (poetry), Amanda Newell (poetry), Todd Davis (poetry) and Bob Kunzinger (non-fiction).

Backbone Mountain Review: The CLA, in conjunction with the Allegany County Public Library System and the Allegany Arts Council, published the 2024 issue of *Backbone Mountain Review*. A release celebration and reading was held in the South Cumberland Library on 20 July.

Creative Writing Program Student Reading: The CLA hosted a reading by students in FSU's creative writing classes.

Open Readings: The CLA hosted readings for writers (and readers) in the community. These included a Valentine's Day-themed reading, and in collaboration with Savage Mountain Punk Arts (SMPA), we hosted two Poetry Slams. These competitive readings were held on the stage at Clatter in Frostburg. They featured spotlight performances by Keith Kopka and Nicole Yurcaba.

Coffee With A Writer: Our academic-year coffees welcomed Sid Gold (poetry), Frank Asher (poetry and memoir), Katy Giebenhain (poetry), Michael Comiskey (poetry), Robert Walicki (poetry), Cole Fiscus (poetry), and Julie Costillo (fiction). These informal readings and discussions are wide-ranging and always move in unexpected ways.

Against Absence: Through the support of FSU IT staff, the Department of Visual Arts and Rocky Gap State Park, the CLA launched *Against Absence*, a public literary arts project considering the rare, threatened, and endangered species of Allegany County, MD. To celebrate National Poetry Month and Earth Day, the CLA launched a curated website for *Against Absence* and hosted a reading by contributors to the project at Rocky Gap State Park.

Oasis: The Center for Literary Arts sponsors Oasis, a moment of poetry on WFWM Public Radio. The CLA Director selects and reads a poem on air every Thursday evening at 5:30. 47 broadcasts took place in 2024, featuring diverse poets and subject matter to surprise, challenge, and delight the listeners of WFWM.



February 18, 2025

Acting City Administrator Hayden Lindsey and Lydia Claar:

The Western Maryland Scenic Railroad (WMSR) would appreciate being considered for an appropriation from the Frostburg Hotel/Motel Tax Revenue for the fiscal year beginning **July 1, 2025**. We respectfully request the amount of **\$20,000** to utilize in continuing to promote activities in downtown Frostburg utilizing are recently launched shuttle service, originating at the Frostburg Depot. The shuttle service continues a partnership started in 2023 with Frostburg State University's 'Cultural Event Series: Journey to the Maryland Symphony Orchestra' (CES) which was sold out. The CES events have continued to gain traction during this 2024-25 school schedule. In 2024, WMSR transported approximately **45,000** visitors on our Flyer and Ice Cream events in Frostburg. WMSR is very proud to be able to furnish the shuttle through donations and support from the City of Frostburg. Consistent shuttle service encourages revenue growth in the downtown shopping district.

WMSR is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization providing a scenic railroad journey through Mountain Maryland along the original rights-of-way of the Western Maryland Railway and the Cumberland & Pennsylvania Railroad. Our organization is the centerpiece of Allegany County tourism for over 30 years and has been one of the primary visitor experiences offered in your city, by our terminating destination at the Frostburg Depot. The WMSR serves as a bridge to our railroading past, educating the public on the significance of freight and passenger rail service in the community, and serving as an economic engine for the future.

WMSR envisions using the funds for the following:

- Creating and maintaining Frostburg impacting marketing through our multi-media advertising efforts.
- Maintaining the operation of a former transportation vehicles to bring passengers up to downtown Frostburg. The operational bus was donated to WMSR by the generous efforts of one of our own staff through the school bus pool based in Hagerstown and through ARC Transportation in Carroll County.
- Driver compensation.
- Fuel reimbursement.
- Insurance premiums.
- Provide a mass transit solution to moving passengers quickly from the depot area to the downtown hospitality and retail district.

Please thank the Mayor, City Council, and the administration for trusting our organization with this appropriation to continue to provide the shuttle service and deliver revenue potential to the City of Frostburg's many small businesses.

Regards,

Wesley Heinz
Executive Director

WESTERN MARYLAND SCENIC RAILROAD
13 CANAL STREET, 2nd FLOOR CUMBERLAND, MARYLAND 21502
301-759-4400 www.wmsr.com



Elaine Jones,
Frostburg City Hall
37 Broadway
Frostburg, MD 21532

10 February 2025

Mrs. Jones,
WFWM Public Radio respectfully requests an allocation of \$1,500.00 from the City's Hotel/Motel Revenue for the FY2026. If awarded this allocation, WFWM Public Radio will use the funds to help pay for our annual programming costs, which are our single largest annual expenses.

WFWM Public Radio proudly continues to serve the Frostburg community, both on-and off-campus, Western Maryland and surrounding areas of West Virginia and Pennsylvania.

WFWM Public Radio understands that as the only radio station broadcasting from the City of Frostburg and the only local public radio station located in Allegany County, we have an obligation to provide quality programming to our community. In 2024, Mayor Todd Logsdon began recording the "Frostburg Mayor's Update," which provides the Mayor up to six minutes of airtime to provide useful information to residents of our community.

Attached with this request are a brief description of WFWM Public Radio and our latest financial report conducted by Turnbull, Hoover and Kahl.

Thank you for providing this funding opportunity to WFWM Public Radio. We appreciate it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chuck Dicken', written over a horizontal line.

Chuck Dicken,
Director, WFWM Public Radio



WFWM Public Radio is a public service of Frostburg State University in Frostburg, Maryland. It broadcasts informational, educational, and cultural programming 24 hours a day to the westernmost counties of Maryland and adjacent areas in Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

Programming on WFWM includes locally originated and acquired news and features from National Public Radio (NPR), Beethoven Satellite Network, National Weather Service and many other sources. WFWM's musical formats include Classical, Jazz, Big Band, Blues, Celtic, Bluegrass, and Americana.

WFWM operates at an assigned frequency of 91.9 MHz, with studios located in the Gira Center on the campus of Frostburg State University. It also operates a translator station, W242AD (96.3 MHz), in Oakland, Maryland. Main transmission facilities are located on Dan's Mountain in Midland, Maryland. WFWM also maintains and assists XFSR, the FSU student intranet radio station.

WFWM Public Radio is a part of the Office of University Advancement.

WFWM Public Radio
Frostburg State University
101 Braddock Road
Frostburg, MD 21532
(301) 687-4143
wfwf@frostburg.edu
www.wfwf.org

CAMP HOPE, Inc.
PO Box 420
Frostburg, Md. 21532
February 13, 2025

Ronald Tenaglio
Administrative Director

Mayor and City Council
City of Frostburg
City Hall
37 Broadway
Frostburg, Md. 21532

Greetings Mr. Mayor and City Council members

I would like to take this time and thank you opportunity for to apply for a grant from the Hotel/Motel tax revenues for CAMP HOPE, Inc. During the past 49 years CAMP HOPE, Inc. has been based in Frostburg. We are a mission project that performs free repairs to eligible homeowner occupied homes. In an average year we have about 475 campers which we arrange and pay to house on the campus of Frostburg State University during the month of July. Most of our campers are from out the area and come from a wide variety of backgrounds throughout the Mid Atlantic region. Our work teams are comprised of volunteer teenage workers with volunteer adults serving as team leaders and chaperones. We are an organization that works diligently to improve the quality of life for deserving local families while at the same time paying a significant amount of money into the hotel/motel tax fund each year as a result of our housing at Frostburg State University.

CAMP HOPE:

Christian Appalachian Mission Project/Helping Other People Enthusiastically.

Listed below is a summary of a portion of our footprint in Frostburg and Allegany County.

1977—Formation of the first work mission project CAMP HOPE.

Since 1978 our work camp lasts for four weeks each summer with about 125 different campers each week.

Since 1978 CAMP HOPE has raised and spent about \$165,000 each summer. All of these funds are spent locally. Our total economic footprint in Allegany County easily

reaches into the millions of dollars through our 48-year history. We have completed home repairs to over 2,600 homes and associated families in Allegany County through the years.

Funds spent locally include:

Housing at Frostburg State University

Generating revenue for the **Allegany County Hotel/Motel Taxes**

Building Supply Centers Lowes, 84 lumber, Ternents, Bonds, Naylor's, Surplus City as well as other local building material suppliers.

Food Service Business' We purchase a considerable amount of food from local wholesale vendors as well as from local supermarkets in order to feed our campers.

Salaries 15 part time seasonal employees generating nearly \$53,000.00 in income.

Gasoline and automotive expenses We have over 50 vehicles in use throughout the summer.

Insurance We purchase liability and workman's compensation policies from local insurance brokers each year.

Our campers are fed breakfast at the Frostburg United Methodist Church for each of the six mornings that they are in town. In addition, evening meals are provided by local churches as well as civic organizations.

Since the pandemic we have had to reorganize in an effort to return to our pre-pandemic proportions. During the two years of the pandemic, we still held our sessions but they were held virtually and did not include on-site home repairs. During the summer of 2022 we restarted our residential home repair program with two weeks of summer mission camps in Frostburg. We completed repairs last summer on 35 Allegany County homes utilizing about 200 campers. During the summer of 2025 we will again host a two-week camp based out of Frostburg State University. We anticipate working on another 35 homes with about 190 campers.

As I'm sure our mayor and city council members are aware, the price of home repair materials has increased significantly since the pandemic as well as inflation across the board on just about everything that we purchase. We are attempting to rebuild our program to pre-pandemic levels. Financing our program this year is very challenging considering all of the issues listed above.

We humbly ask the Mayor and City County to consider our request and grant us \$2,500.00 or more, if possible, which would be spent locally to help cover our increasing expenses. This year we are projecting a \$27,600.00 negative balance.

In most years we contribute significantly more than the \$2,500.00 requested, as we pay our portion of the hotel/motel tax to Allegany County via our housing bill at Frostburg State University.

During the summer of 2024 our housing costs at Frostburg State University was \$32,688.00 which included a substantial sum of over \$2,000 for hotel/motel tax. This was for two weeks of lodging at FSU for approximately 200 campers. We anticipate our hotel/motel tax during the summer of 2025 will again exceed \$2,000.00 as our projected cost for housing at FSU is \$42,180.00. The generous hotel/motel tax grant provided by the City of Frostburg in 2024 of \$1,500.00 helped to offset the expense of the tax we paid. CAMP HOPE is grateful for the assistance and support of the Mayor and Council of Frostburg.

As we prepare for the 2025 summer session of CAMP HOPE, we currently have in our checking account \$31,359.33. This amount includes all fees, grants, etc. that have been paid towards our 2025 summer session thus far. We have approximately \$8,400.00 in savings for our rainy-day fund. Our rainy-day fund has been generated through many years of donations, memorials and fiscally conservative spending.

CAMP HOPE, Inc. has a positive impact on many families in Allegany County and our dedicated board of volunteer directors are making a special effort this year to ensure that we are able to continue to serve our area for many years to come. Our operating budget for 2025 includes an estimated \$116,650.00 in income generated by camper fees, church team fees, donations and grants. Our 2025 expenses are estimated at \$144,251.00. Of the operational funds spent, the vast majority stay locally and remain in our community. As in previous years we will find a way to cover our negative balance. The extra \$1000.00 requested this year would certainly be helpful.

Thank you for your consideration,

Ronald Tenaglio
Administrative Director
CAMP HOPE, Inc.

Frostburg Little League, Inc.

17010 Mt. Savage Rd NW

Frostburg, MD 21532

301-268-2157

frostburglittleleaguebaseball@gmail.com

The Frostburg Little League needs to replace the outfield fence windscreen as well as the backstop fence windscreen. Both are torn and aged to the point that repairs are no longer effective. We have reached out to a local business who specializes in projects like this. They have included an estimate below. Also attached are pictures of the current screens as well as a couple of examples for the new project. Any help with this facility upgrade will be greatly appreciated. Any questions can be directed to Jamie Clark or Jimmy Taylor.

Project Estimate:

Set-up and design for production \$185.00

Outfield fence 44' x 42"=\$750.00

Backstop 30' w x 9'h =\$1025.00

Total: \$1960.00

These are mesh banners and will include grommets every two feet.

Tom Evans

Owner/Senior Graphic Designer

Custom Concepts

12419 Vale Summit RD SW

Frostburg, MD 21532

301.689.6141

<http://www.customconceptsllc.com/>

www.facebook.com/custom.concepts.35



Frostburg Little League, Inc.

17010 Mt. Savage Rd NW

Frostburg, MD 21532

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Forward: Hotel/Motel Funding Request

From: bvought@frostburgcity.org <bvought@frostburgcity.org>
To: Lydia Claar <lclaar@frostburgcity.org>

Tue, Feb 18, 2025 at 3:36 PM

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jacki Dixon <jacki@mymcca.com>
Date: February 18, 2025 at 3:36:17 PM EST
To: Brian Vought <bvought@frostburgcity.org>
Subject: Hotel/Motel Funding Request

Good afternoon Brian,
I hope you are well! I am writing on behalf of Mountain City Center for the Arts and specifically our 501(c)3 nonprofit - Beyond the Stage Foundation, Inc. We are requesting to be considered in the allocation of funds from the Hotel/Motel tax revenue.

Mountain City Center for the Arts started the Beyond the Stage Foundation in 2016 to provide professional performance and artistic opportunities, quality education, personal growth and financial assistance to the community of artists in the Allegany and Garrett County areas. Our goal is to establish a professional artistic atmosphere for students to grow as artists, innovators, professionals and community members.

Along with the Peter B. Forno Scholarship Fund, which provides local students with financial assistance to attend MCCA classes and other local artistic learning opportunities, Beyond the Stage also helps to provide performance opportunities. If we had the privilege of receiving any Motel/Hotel funds, that money would be used to make sure that our students can continue to perform in local community events at no cost to their families. Providing the kick-off performances for the Frostburg Halloween and Storybook Holiday events is a true highlight for our students each year. They find so much joy in sharing their talents with the community. Along with the parade performances, our students also have the opportunity to perform at the Fall and Spring Arts Walks and the Frostburg Tree Lighting.

In order to continue to provide these performance opportunities at no cost to these students and their families, we would be grateful to receive any funding that might be available to help us offset performance costs. We would use the funding specifically to cover any costuming, float decorations, sound equipment rentals and staffing.

I am attaching a current bank balance as well as a balance sheet that shows Beyond the Stage's financial activity for 2023 and 2024. If there are any other details or specific information that I can provide, please feel free to contact me at your convenience. Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

Jacki Dixon

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Jacki Dixon (she/her)
Director of Operations
Private Lesson Coordinator
Musical Theatre & Piano Instructor
www.mymcca.com



February 20, 2022

Dear Mayor and City Council:

The Frostburg Business and Professional Association (FBPA), has a long history of serving the Frostburg community. Our purpose is to advance the business, commercial, civic, and general interest of its members and the City of Frostburg. FBPA has always appreciated the support of the City Administrator, Mayor, and City Council. We take pride in promoting business activity in Frostburg through activities such as discounted radio spots with Forever Media. We work collaboratively to promote the Allegany Passage, Western Maryland Scenic Railroad, Frostburg State University, and FrostburgFirst.

FBPA is requesting \$2500 to purchase a large banner to hang over the entrance of town by Somerset Bank. The banner will promote the City of Frostburg, Main Street, Scenic Railroad, Mountain Ridge, and Frostburg State University and welcome people into town. Feeling welcome not only promotes a sense of pride in the town, but also encourages visitors to come back to Frostburg. Return visitors support the economic development of Frostburg businesses. Remaining funds will be used to promote the businesses in the City of Frostburg.

FBPA collects annual dues of \$50 and represents 20-30 businesses. The dues are used to support activities in the association, discounted advertising during the holiday season, and requested donations. Attached is a financial report as requested.

We thank you for taking time to consider this request. We look forward to continued support and partnership with the City of Frostburg.

Sincerely,

George Pappas

George Pappas, President