

Chamber CHATTER



MECHANICSBURG
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
The Strength of One. The Power of Many.™

5.8.25

6 West Strawberry Avenue, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055 (717) 796-0811 www.mechanicsburgchamber.org

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News, Events & more!

Seeking HOSTS for 2025 EVENTS

- Business Women's Networking Luncheon
 - After Hours Mixer
 - Business Leaders Discussion Group

BE A HOST and showcase your business,
service and more...

CHAMBER EVENTS

Watch for Weekly Updates!!

May

**20 - After Hours Mixer - Penn Harris Hotel, 1150
Camp Hill Bypass, Camp Hill. 4:00 - 6:00pm.**

**29- Business Leaders Discussion Group -
Sponsored by PaySmart Payroll Services, 650 Wilson
Ln, Ste. 100, Mechanicsburg. 7:45 - 9:00 am.
Members only event.**

RSVP to info@mechanicsburgchamber.org

For a full calendar of chamber and member events,
visit www.mechanicsburgchamber.org/events

Thank You For Renewing Your Membership!

America's Auto Auction Harrisburg
Ellie Mae's Concessions
Paulus Farm Market
Silver Spring Township
VibraLife

After-Hours Mixer

FREE
EVENT!

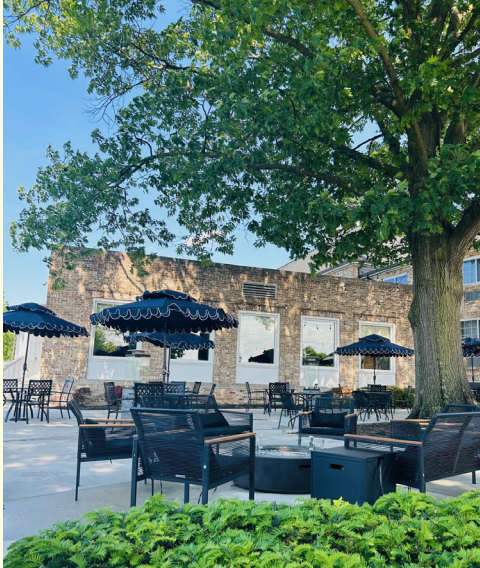
Tuesday, May 20
4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

FREE
EVENT!

Penn Harris Hotel
1150 Camp Hill Bypass
Camp Hill, PA 17011



Join us for a Mechanicsburg Chamber of Commerce After-Hours Mixer at the Penn Harris Hotel. Come see and check out the newly restored hotel featuring its new restaurant - Mercato Mio - and freshly opened pool and patio area.



Music will be provided by the Noah Spangler Quartet (as seen/heard at Jubilee Day).

We invite you to come network with other businesses and get to know fellow professionals in the area. The Mixer is FREE.

RSVP to info@mechanicsburgchamber.org or call 717-796-0811.

Enjoy an evening of networking, refreshments and a chance to win a prize!

Mechanicsburg Chamber of Commerce presents:

Business Leaders Discussion Group

Thursday, May 29

7:45 - 9:00 am

**Sponsored by
PaySmart Payroll Services
650 Wilson Ln, Suite 100
Mechanicsburg**



RSVP to info@mechanicsburgchamber.org or call 717-796-0811.
This members-only event is **free** to attend!

Bring your questions and business topics and hear what others have to say!

Seeking HOSTS for 2025 EVENTS

- Business Women's Networking Luncheon
 - After Hours Mixer
- Business Leaders Discussion Group

BE A HOST and showcase your business, service and more...

For more information - on **HOSTING AN EVENT**
contact the Chamber office at 717-796-0811 or email - info@mechanicsburgchamber.org.



Jubilee Day

Save the Date

On June 19, Jubilee Day returns to the streets of downtown Mechanicsburg. This year marks the 95th Annual edition!

Don't miss your chance to be exposed to nearly 70,000 attendees from across the midstate.

Booth space is available at a discounted rate for Chamber members.

Contact the chamber for an application. 717-796-0811 or info@mechanicsburgchamber.org

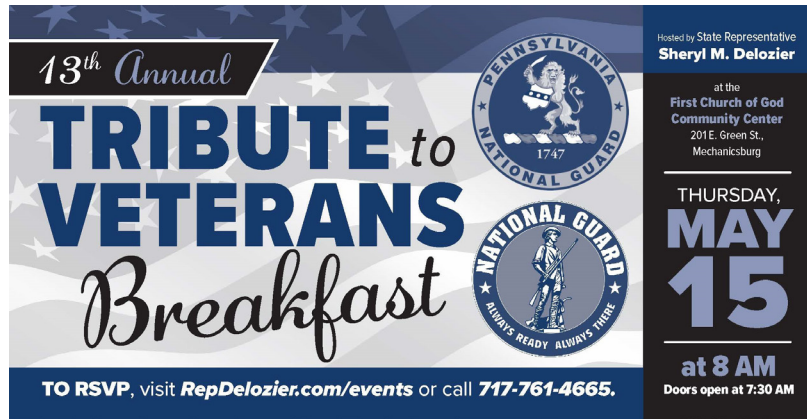


Governor Josh Shapiro has [proclaimed May 4-10, 2025, as Pennsylvania Small Business Week](#), aligning with the U.S. Small Business Administration's National Small Business Week.

For more than 60 years, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has celebrated [National Small Business Week](#), which acknowledges the critical contributions of America's entrepreneurs and small business owners.

National Small Business Week is when SBA officially recognizes their hard work, ingenuity, and dedication, including their contributions to the economy. This year's activities include in-person events and an educational virtual summit on a variety of business topics.





The 88th District's veterans, active-duty military personnel and their families are invited to my 13th annual Tribute to Veterans Breakfast on Thursday, May 15, at 8 a.m. at the Mechanicsburg First Church of God Community Center, located at 201 E. Green St. in Mechanicsburg. At this free program and breakfast, we will pay tribute to the service of local veterans.

This year, our theme is "Celebrating Our National Guard." Rep. Joe Kerwin (R-125), a Pennsylvania Army National Guard captain who deployed for 11 months as commander of Task Force Paxton, 2nd Battalion, 112th Infantry in support of Operation Enduring Freedom-Horn of Africa, will be our guest speaker.

I am looking forward to expressing our gratitude and reflecting on the extraordinary service, sacrifice and dedication that defines our Guard soldiers and airmen. Whether it's responding to natural disasters, protecting our communities at home or supporting our armed forces abroad, National Guardsmen embody the essence of service.

Please RSVP to 717-761-4665 or visit RepDeLozier.com/Events.

JAZZ ME BAND

KIRK WISE UPCOMING
SOLO, DUO & BAND
PUBLIC DATES

Fri. 5/9 – Hemauer Brewing, Mechanicsburg
...Kirk solo 6-9

Sat. 5/10 – Captain Bob's Steamed Crabs,
Railroad/ Shrewsbury...Kirk solo 6-8

Sun. 5/11 – Mt Airy Orchards for
Mothers Day...Kirk solo 1-4

Thurs. 5/15 – VibraLife, Mechanicsburg
...Kirk solo 2-3

Fri. 5/16 – Jimmy Jaxx Shine Shack,
Dillsburg...Kirk & Beth 7-10

Sat. 5/17 – Williams Grove Chili Cook Off
...Kirk solo 8-Noon +

Sat 5/17 – Totem Pole Wine Farm/Ranch
Carlisle...Kirk solo 6:30-8:30

Sun. 5/18 – Freedom Biker Church.
Lemoyne...Service starts at 10:30

Sun. 5/18 – Captain Bob's Steamed Crabs,
Railroad/ Shrewsbury...Kirk solo 1-3

For complete up-to-date
schedule, information,
and photos go to
www.jazzmeband.com

Bookings: call Kirk at 717-979-0341 or
E-mail wisemotors@aol.com

Tour sponsors:
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CLASSIC DRY CLEANERS, STUDIO D &
LANDON WISE PHOTOGRAPHY



Get Ready for REAL ID

The deadline for enforcement of the federal REAL ID Act is less than a month away.

As of May 7, federal law will require you to present a federally accepted form of identification to board a commercial domestic flight or visit a secure federal building that requires ID at the door. Federally accepted forms of identification include a Pennsylvania REAL ID driver's license or ID card, a U.S. passport or passport card, or a military ID.

While all Pennsylvanians must comply with the new law, obtaining a state-issued REAL ID is not mandatory. PennDOT will continue to offer standard-issue driver's licenses and photo IDs for those residents who do not want or need one. If you're not sure, [PennDOT is offering the REAL ID online wizard to help you decide.](#)

In light of growing reports of long lines and limited hours at the state's driver license centers, House Republican leaders have called on the Shapiro administration to expand evening and weekend hours to ensure those who choose to obtain a REAL ID are served more efficiently. PennDOT is currently offering a series of dedicated REAL ID Days on Mondays at many driver license facilities. [Check the schedule here.](#)

To learn more about REAL ID and how to obtain one, visit penndot.gov/REALID.



Join Cumberland County in Celebrating America250!

This year, Cumberland County proudly kicked off its 275th anniversary, and we're already gearing up for another milestone—the 250th anniversary of the United States in 2026! To ensure a memorable celebration, Cumberland County has formed an America250PA Committee with representatives from various organizations, including local historical societies, chambers of commerce, non-profits, school districts, higher education institutions, the Cumberland Valley Visitors Bureau, and Cumberland Area Economic Development Corporation.

We invite your business to join the excitement and contribute to making America250 truly special in Cumberland County! Here are the ways you can assist.

- Explore and share the microsite VisitCumberlandValley.com/America-250.
- Plan an America250PA-themed event and submit it for free to our online calendar.
- Take an active role and join one of our sub-committees:
 - Programming & Events
 - Marketing & PR
 - Education
- Consider sponsoring an America250PA-themed event.

If you'd like to participate or learn more, please contact Stacy Snyder at smsnyder@cumberlandcountypa.gov.



rabbittransit is exploring the concept of High Intensity Transit Corridors (HIMC). The idea of a HIMC includes a variety of improvements compared to the current service and amenities, including focus on increased frequency, amenities, signage, and branding. However, we need help from the community to guide our priorities in terms of corridors and expectations.

We'll be hosting a series of public engagement opportunities for this effort including the following:

York:

- Monday, May 12 from 11AM to 1PM
 - o King Street Station, 213 W. King Street, York, PA 17401

Dauphin:

- Tuesday, May 13 from 11:30AM to 1:30PM
 - o Amtrak Station, 4th St &, Chestnut St, Harrisburg, PA 17113
 - o Strawberry Square, 320 Market Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101

Cumberland:

- Wednesday, May 14 from 3PM to 5PM
 - o Farmers on the Square, 2A N Hanover Street, Carlisle, PA 17013
- Wednesday, May 14 from 6PM to 8PM
 - o 310 Allen Road, Carlisle, PA 17013

Zoom Meetings (for anyone in Cumberland, Dauphin or York Counties):

- Saturday, May 10 from 10:30AM to 12PM
 - o [Join the Meeting](#)
- Tuesday, May 13 from 6PM to 7:30PM
 - o [Join the Meeting](#)

Aspire to Rise Scholarship

The Foundation for Enhancing Communities (TFEC) wants to help fuel your academic future, even if it has an unconventional timeline. The Aspire to Rise Scholarship provides financial assistance for non-traditional students who have experienced adversity in their lives but are looking to overcome those struggles through further education. The opportunity also supports students who plan to register or are scheduled to take the GED.

Rise at any time!
www.tfec.org



If you are 22 or older and ready to pursue further education despite life's challenges, the Aspire to Rise Scholarship from The Foundation for Enhancing Communities (TFEC) can help.

This TFEC scholarship supports those who have experienced setbacks such as caregiving responsibilities, financial hardship or other obstacles that delayed attending college, trade school or completing a GED.

"We want individuals to know that it's never too late to continue your education," said Wendy Ellenberger, program officer for educational opportunities at TFEC. "Whether you need to earn your GED, start a trade program or enroll in a four-year degree, this scholarship can help open doors you never thought possible."

Why Apply for the Aspire to Rise Scholarship

The Aspire to Rise Scholarship offers flexible pathways by supporting various educational goals, from preparing for a GED to attending two-year or four-year degree programs. Awards vary and can help cover tuition or other essential expenses, allowing recipients to focus on their coursework. Schedules are flexible to accommodate students attending part-time or full-time so they can balance school with work or family commitments.

Extra consideration is given to those who have not completed a post-secondary degree, creating second chances for individuals ready to pursue new opportunities.

Who Should Apply

The scholarship supports nontraditional students who are 22 or older and have faced circumstances such as homelessness, substance abuse recovery, health issues, criminal justice involvement or military service. Applicants must live in Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Lebanon or Perry counties or in Dillsburg (York County), giving them access to local colleges, trade schools and certificate programs. It also covers related expenses for GED seekers who are preparing or planning to take the exam.

How to Apply

Visit tfec.org/scholarships/aspiretorise to review the criteria, gather the required documents and complete the application.

Submit your application, essay and supplemental files by Wednesday, December 31.

“We are excited to offer this scholarship to individuals who haven’t had an easy road,” said Caitlin Cluck, director of community investment at TFEC. “We believe everyone deserves the chance to invest in their future and positively impact our community.”

TFEC manages 195 scholarship funds and, in 2024 alone, awarded more than \$2 million to nearly 500 students, making higher education more attainable for aspiring learners in south central Pennsylvania. With opportunities spanning a wide range of academic paths, TFEC offers support for diverse interests and backgrounds. To explore all available scholarships, visit tfec.org/scholarships.

Would you like to support the TFEC Aspire to Rise Scholarship Fund? You can donate directly to this fund, helping it grow and continue providing essential educational resources to students in our community. Visit tfec.org to contribute or email info@tfec.org with any questions.



Recovery-Friendly Workplace Survey



Penn State's Center for Economic and Community Development is surveying Pennsylvania businesses and organizations about their needs for a recovery-friendly workplace training initiative.

Please click [HERE](#) or scan the QR code to participate!



All participants will receive a **\$10 Amazon gift card** as a token of appreciation for their time.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at cecd@psu.edu. Thank you!

The Center for Economic and Community Development at Penn State is conducting a survey to assess the needs and interests of businesses and organizations across Pennsylvania regarding a recovery-friendly workplace training initiative.

The survey gathers information on:

- Workforce needs
- Understanding of substance use disorder
- Current workplace practices in supporting recovery
- Interest in recovery-friendly workplace training

Responses will inform the development of a training initiative tailored to the needs of Pennsylvania employers. Survey responses will be anonymous. All participants will receive a \$10 Amazon gift card as a token of appreciation for their time.

If you are interested, please complete the survey at the link below. Also attached is a QR code to the survey.

https://pennstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5vB0M2dO1nmJWlw

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at cecd@psu.edu. Thank you!

EV, hybrid vehicle owners now have to pay a 'road-user' charge in Pa.

By [Amy Worden](#) - aworden@pennlive.com

If you plug in you now have to pay up to drive in Pennsylvania.

Under a law that takes effect for registrations expiring on May 1, electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles will have to [pay a fee](#) each year to help with road maintenance.

Legislation signed by Gov. Josh Shapiro last year is aimed at “leveling the roadway” for drivers who use state highways since gas-powered vehicle drivers already pay a gas tax every time they fill up their vehicles at gas stations.

The annual fee is set at \$200 for 2025 for full electric vehicles and \$50 for plug-in hybrids. In 2026 that amount jumps to \$250 for EVs and \$63 for hybrids. After that, the annual fee would be reset based on the prior year’s consumer price index.

The fee is assessed with the annual vehicle registration. Starting in July 2026, motorists will have the option to pay the EV fee in monthly installments.

If the fee is not paid the registration will not be considered valid for law enforcement purposes.

At least 36 other states already have EV fees in place.

The fee is expected to generate \$16 million in 2025, which would be deposited in the state’s Motor License Fund that helps pay for construction, maintenance, repair and safety improvements on highways and bridges.

Roughly 65,000 electric vehicles are registered in Pennsylvania.

GFWC (General Federation of Women's Clubs) Mechanicsburg

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 13, 2025 at 7:00 PM at Buhrig's Gathering Place, 25 East Main Street, Mechanicsburg. The program will be a speaker will be Carol Forbes, from Tree 4 Hope. Tree 4 Hope is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization committed to providing a bright future of long-term hope for children, elders, and their families in Guatemala.

May 20th, election day we will be having a bake sale at the Monroe Township Building. Stop by and see us!

Would you like to know more about how we serve the community while helping Veterans, libraries and schools? Come for a visit to find out.

For more information, contact Sue at 717.243.9872 visit our website at <http://gfwcmecch.tripod.com/>



FRIDAY FOOD TRUCKS AT FIRST

MAY 16 JULY 18 SEPT. 19

**LIVE
MUSIC
ON THE
PATIO**

**4:30-
8 p.m.**

May 16: Summer Reading Kick off with Simpson Library
July 18: Inside Family Friendly movie
September 19: Fun and Fit Fair with Sadler Health

 **135 W. Simpson St.,
Mechanicsburg**
717-766-4611
fumchurch.com



MULTIPLE TRUCKS /// VARIETY OF FOOD



TIRE COLLECTION

May 16, 2025

Keep Cumberland County Beautiful!

Recycle your old tires at our Tire Collection Event!

May 16 Friday.....9am-3pm

Cumberland County E-Recycling Center

1001 Claremont Road, Carlisle



Registration:

www.signupgenius.com/go/70A044DA9AF23A7FE3-2023#/

Sponsors:

Cumberland County Recycling & Waste

Cumberland County Vector Control

Keep Cumberland County Beautiful

Collection fee: 15¢ per pound

- Limit of 50 tires per customer
- Payments: cash or card (2.3% card fee) No checks
- By appointment only (preregistration required)
- Cumberland County residents only
- ID required

Acceptable Items:

- Lawn & Garden Tires
- Car & Truck Tires
- Tractor Trailer Tires
- Agricultural Tires
- Racing Tires
- Tires on Rims
- Tubes

Unacceptable Items:

- Shredded Tires
- Tire Pieces
- Tires filled with mud/debris

More Information:

cumberlandcountypa.gov/5084/Tire-Collection-Events





RACE TO SHARE THE GOSPEL AROUND THE WORLD

2025 proceeds support The Tide ministry work in Cameroon!



Race Registration

Event Options

- 5K Race
- 1-Mile Fun Run/Walk

Registered racers receive

- Race t-shirt
- Race sticker

Top three 5K finishers in each category receive a medal!

Event Details

Saturday, May 17th
9 AM to 1 PM

Norlo Park
Pavilion 1 and 2
Fayetteville, PA

FREE
Family Fun Day
for everyone!

Open to the public!

Additional Fun

- Prizes
- Games
- Activities
- Inflatable
- Give Aways
- Picnic Lunch
- Sponsor Booths

See reverse side for Sponsorship
and Virtual Challenge information.

Chamber Chatter is published on-line every Thursday.

We encourage member businesses to send us information on sales, promotions, news and events. It is a great way to promote your business or organization.

Chamber Chatter advertisements will remain for up to 4 weeks, or as space permits.

If you have something to share, please submit it by Wednesday at noon to
info@mechanicsburgchamber.org.

****Chamber Chatter advertising is a FREE member benefit.****



**THE FOUNDATION
FOR ENHANCING
COMMUNITIES**

Emergent Needs Grant

In response to the recent federal funding freezes and disruptions, TFEC has seen and heard the needs of local nonprofits and is releasing an RFP for general operating expenses to ensure the continuation of essential community programming.

- Up to \$15,000 in grant support to help nonprofits sustain vital community programs.
- Rolling application process for flexible, timely funding
- Trust-based philanthropy ensures a streamlined process and empowers nonprofits to use grants where they are needed most.
- Focus on south central Pennsylvania, serving Cumberland, Lebanon, Perry and York Counties.
- Up to \$250,000 in total available grant funds.

Visit tfec.org to learn more

Nonprofits in south central Pennsylvania work tirelessly to address urgent community needs—from food insecurity to healthcare. When these organizations face sudden federal funding disruptions and uncertainty, vital services can suffer.

To help continue their essential work, The Foundation for Enhancing Communities (TFEC) announces its Emergent Needs grant, offering eligible nonprofits up to \$15,000 in support for programs that serve residents across the region.

“When unpredictable shifts in the funding occur, nonprofits often struggle to meet rising community needs,” said Caitlin Cluck, director of community investment at TFEC. “This grant program assists in bridging those gaps by providing critical financial support so organizations can maintain vital services for individuals and families who rely on them—even when funding support is uncertain.”

By embracing a trust-based philanthropic approach, TFEC aims to bolster nonprofits’ ability to address urgent community needs without the constraints of burdensome processes. By providing flexible, timely support, TFEC ensures that funds—dispersed on a rolling basis over the next three

months—can be used where they are needed most. This targeted effort helps safeguard social services and improve quality of life in Cumberland, Dauphin, Lebanon, Perry and York Counties.


“The Emergent Needs Grant is a reflection of our mission to protect and uplift the nonprofits that strengthen our communities,” said Jennifer Doyle, president and CEO at TFEC. “We want local organizations to know that when circumstances become uncertain, TFEC is here to help them stay resilient and impactful.”

Eligible nonprofits can find details on how to apply at www.tfec.org, where information on deadlines, application guidelines, and FAQs is readily available. Community members or potential partners seeking more information are encouraged to email TFEC’s Community Investment Team at ccluck@tfec.org.



eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca
carlisle & cumberland county

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Persimmon
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Honoring Women of Achievement



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& CO *Design Group*
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IN-KIND SPONSORS



The
Whimsical
Poppy



Speckled Hen
Florida


Please join us for the annual
Persimmon Awards Luncheon
as we honor the diverse achievements of
women in Cumberland County.

May 29, 2025
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM
Army Heritage and Education Center

2025 Persimmon Honorees

Colleen Friend Carlisle Area School District Superintendent	Sonya Browne Domestic Violence Services of Cumberland and Perry Counties Executive Director	YWCA George Award Jacqueline L. Powell Alliance Financial Certified Financial Planner™
Ashley Knight Carlisle Area School District Teacher	Jamie DiMartile Carlisle Police Department Corporal	

Register Here





Cumberland Area
Economic Development
Corporation



ANNUAL SUMMER TOURISM MEETING

JUNE 5, 2025 FROM 1-4 PM

Join the Cumberland Valley Visitors Bureau for an afternoon of networking and learning. Hear how Cumberland County can collaborate with the PA Tourism Office, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and America 250 on their initiatives. Refreshments will be provided.



**CUMBERLAND COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

21 N PITT ST. CARLISLE, PA 17013

REGISTER HERE

CUMBERLAND VALLEY
PENNSYLVANIA

Cumberland Area
Economic Development
Corporation



Cumberland Area
Economic Development
Corporation

LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT SEMINAR



June 12, 2025



10 AM - 12 PM

Register Here

Join CAEDC to learn more about the Local Share Account programs and discuss best practices to engage stakeholders.



**West Shore Theatre
317 Bridge St
New Cumberland, PA 17070**

CUMBERLAND VALLEY
PENNSYLVANIA

Cumberland Area
Economic Development
Corporation

Mechanicsburg Lions Club

5th Annual "We Serve" Golf Tournament



July 11, 2025 @



The Mechanicsburg Lions Club will host the 5th annual "We Serve" charity Golf Tournament on Friday, July 11, 2025 at Mayapple Golf Club in Carlisle. 8am shot gun start with lunch to follow at Fiddler's Bar & Grill at the golf course.

We hope you will join us again this year and help us support our many charitable organizations.

[Click here for registration forms](#)

Limited to the first 108 golfers that sign up and pay. We look forward to seeing you on the course. Thank you for your continued support.



Time is Brain: Minutes Matter When It Comes to Strokes

Kerstin Bettermann, MD - UPMC Neurological Institute

Every 40 seconds, someone in the U.S. has a stroke, and unfortunately, every three and a half minutes someone dies of stroke. A victim can lose up to two million brain cells every minute during a stroke, but immediate care helps reduce the stroke's impact and most importantly can save that person's life.

BE FAST

If you think that you or a loved one is having a stroke, remember the acronym **BE FAST**.

- Balance—Does the person have a sudden loss of balance?
- Eyes—Has the person lost vision in one or both eyes?
- Face—Does the person's face look uneven or appear to droop?
- Arms—Is one arm weak or numb?
- Speech—Is the person's speech slurred? Does the person have trouble speaking or seem confused?
- Time—Call 911 NOW!



What To Do

If any of these symptoms arise, do not hesitate to call 911 right away. Rapid treatment is proven to lead to a better recovery; time is precious from the moment stroke symptoms appear.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), patients who arrive at an emergency department within three hours of their first symptoms often have less disability three months after a stroke than those who received delayed care.

A CDC survey also stated that 93% of respondents recognized sudden numbness on one side as a symptom of stroke, but only 38% were aware of all the other major symptoms and knew to call 911.

Ultimately, the chances of survival are greater when emergency treatment starts immediately.

Why Strokes Happen

A stroke most often occurs when blood flow to the brain becomes blocked due to clots that form in the heart or elsewhere in the body. Though a small percentage also occur due to broken blood vessels that bleed into or around the brain.

Doctors will diagnose stroke with neurological exams, blood tests, and other tests to determine the cause, location, and amount of damage.

Stroke Prevention

The best way to prevent a stroke is to become aware of the risks and to try to minimize them. If you have high blood pressure, high cholesterol, smoke, have diabetes or are obese, you are most at risk for having a stroke.

Maintain a healthy weight by exercising regularly and eating more fruits and vegetables than salts and fats. Refrain from smoking and drink alcohol in moderation. Check your blood pressure frequently and follow your health care provider's recommendations for keeping it in a safe range. Certain medical conditions or genetic factors can increase the risk of stroke. Talk to your physician to find out if you are at risk.

Kerstin Bettermann, MD, is chief of neurology at UPMC in Central Pa. To learn more about the Stroke Center at UPMC in Central Pa, visit [UPMC.com/CentralPaNeuro](https://www.upmc.com/CentralPaNeuro).



Surgery Live! Program Inspires Next Generation of Health Care Workers

Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts, UPMC, and the UPMC Pinnacle Foundation are partnering to develop the next generation of health care professionals through the Surgery Live! program. The initiative connects middle and high school students to UPMC operating rooms through interactive high-definition video conferencing technology.

More than 25 school districts from more than 20 Pennsylvania and Maryland counties will participate virtually or in-person as a facilitator guides students' discussion with operating room staff, demonstrates surgical instruments used in the operation, and explains factors that cause disease and contribute to conditions that place patients on the operating table.

The program then transitions live to the operating room where students see and hear the surgical teams. The surgeon explains each step of the procedure and the students can ask questions during the program.

"At Whitaker Center, we believe in the power of immersive, hands-on experiences to inspire the next generation of professionals," said Mary Oliveira, president and CEO, Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts. "Surgery Live! gives students an unprecedented opportunity to step into the world of modern medicine, sparking curiosity and a passion for healthcare careers both inside and out of the operating

room. By partnering with UPMC, we are shaping the future of medicine, one student at a time.”

Whitaker Center estimates that more than 2,000 students will have witnessed a live surgery through Surgery Live! by the time the 2024-2025 academic year concludes in June. By the beginning of summer, seven UPMC surgeons will have demonstrated four different types of surgery – some robotic assisted – including heart procedures, hysterectomies and gastrointestinal procedures.

“UPMC employs some of the brightest surgeons and health care staff in our region and we’re proud to demonstrate our excellence in patient care while simultaneously inspiring the next generation of health care workers,” said Elizabeth Ritter, president, UPMC Harrisburg, UPMC Community Osteopathic, UPMC West Shore, and UPMC Carlisle. “Through Surgery Live!, students can witness how we treat some of the chronic diseases that members of our community face.”

Whitaker Center also offers an extension experience for students and educators that attend Surgery Live! in person. This innovative program occurs directly following the procedure where students dive into hands-on, interactive activities that reinforce and enrich their knowledge from the procedure seen earlier that morning.



**THE FOUNDATION
FOR ENHANCING
COMMUNITIES**

TFEC Recognized Nationally for Transparency and Trust in Philanthropy

The Foundation for Enhancing Communities (TFEC) has earned three of the most respected recognitions in the nonprofit sector, affirming its commitment to transparency, accountability and lasting impact. These honors matter to everyone TFEC serves: donors who want their gifts to be used wisely, nonprofits that rely on TFEC’s support and guidance and students who depend on scholarships to access education.

TFEC has received a Four-Star Rating from Charity Navigator, the Platinum Seal of Transparency from Candid and full accreditation through the Community Foundations National Standards® program.

These awards confirm what many in South Central Pennsylvania already know: TFEC is a proven, trustworthy partner that puts the community first.

“These honors are a reflection of the trust TFEC has earned through more than 100 years of connecting philanthropists of all types with the needs of our local communities,” said Jennifer Doyle, president and CEO of TFEC. “We are proud to serve as a bridge between donor intent and meaningful impact across South Central Pennsylvania.”

Charity Navigator, the nation’s largest nonprofit evaluator, awarded TFEC its highest possible rating for demonstrating strong financial health, responsible governance and measurable results. The Four-Star Rating designates TFEC as an official “Give with Confidence” charity, indicating that donations are being used effectively and transparently.

“We are delighted to provide The Foundation for Enhancing Communities with third-party accreditation that validates their operational excellence,” said Michael Thatcher, president and CEO of Charity Navigator. “The Four-Star Rating is the highest possible rating an organization can achieve. We are eager to see the good work that TFEC can accomplish in the years ahead.”

“Our Four-Star Charity Navigator rating is further validation that our supporters can trust our commitment to good governance, but also that we’re effectively implementing our donors’ wishes,” Doyle added. “We hope it will introduce our work to new supporters who can help us advance our mission to inspire giving and strengthen communities.”

TFEC also received the 2025 Platinum Seal of Transparency from Candid, which is awarded to organizations that share clear, up-to-date information about their goals, strategies, leadership and impact. This helps donors, nonprofits, students and other partners make informed decisions about where to give and whom to trust.

TFEC additionally maintains accreditation with Community Foundations National Standards®, the nation’s highest benchmark for philanthropic excellence. The standards evaluate everything from governance and financial management to donor services and community investment.

“These recognitions reflect the strength of our internal systems and our commitment to doing the work the right way,” said Caitlin Cluck, TFEC’s director of community impact. “They show that we are stewarding resources responsibly and building relationships based on trust, clarity, and long-term partnership. That’s what makes real community change possible.”

These recognitions are more than symbols for the community—they are safeguards.

For donors, they affirm that TFEC manages gifts with integrity and stewards with the donors’ intentions held at the forefront.

For nonprofits, they demonstrate that TFEC follows fair, strategic grantmaking practices and remains a committed partner in addressing local needs.

For students and scholarship recipients, they ensure that educational support is handled equitably and with long-term sustainability in mind.

Transparency builds trust. These national awards reflect TFEC’s long-standing commitment to serving the region with clarity, purpose and accountability.

Anyone interested in learning more about how TFEC supports donors, nonprofits and students is encouraged to visit www.tfec.org/connect-with-us.