

Chamber CHATTER



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

11.13.25

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

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News, Events & more!

Seeking HOSTS for 2026 EVENTS

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

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

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

CHAMBER EVENTS

Watch for Weekly Updates!!

November

27 - Office closed for Thanksgiving Day

28 - Annual Community Tree Lighting - Downtown
Mechanicsburg. 5:15 - 6:30pm

29 - Small Business Saturday

December

10 - Business Women's Networking Luncheon -
Sponsored by HD Entertainment, Location:
Revolutionary Hot Sauce Eatery & Brewpub, 30 S Market
St, Mechanicsburg. 11:30am - 1:00pm. FREE member
event.

RSVP to info@mechanicsburgchamber.org

Thank You For Renewing Your Membership!

Avon - Melissa Hiler, Independent Consultant
British Swim School of Greater Harrisburg
Fairfield Inn & Suites Harrisburg West/Mechanicsburg
Haller Enterprises
Union Flats

Mechanicsburg's Annual Community



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

TREE LIGHTING

Friday, November 28 | 5:15 PM



**DOWNTOWN – MAIN STREET BESIDE THE
MECHANICSBURG FIRST CHURCH OF GOD**



Sponsors Welcome starting at only \$25!

Once again, the Mechanicsburg Chamber of Commerce is proud to join the business community of the area in participating as a drop off point for Toys For Tots. If you would like to donate a new, unwrapped toy (or wrapping paper, batteries, tape, etc.), there is a collection box at the office or you may bring your item(s) to any Chamber event.

TOYS FOR TOTS



U.S. MARINE CORPS RESERVE

Other local locations participating include:

A&B Automotive
AAA
American Legion Post 109
Benecard PBF
Best Line Equipment
Callery Dental Care
Classic Rock Design Center
Delbrook Manor Apartments
East Main Dental
Fusion Financial Group - Thrivent
GEICO
Hot Frog Print Media
IGPS Logistics
Lower Allen Township
Mechanicsburg Kung Fu Center
Mechanicsburg Mystery Bookshop
Orrstown Bank - Baden Powell Road office
Orrstown Bank - Market Street, Camp Hill office
Pivot Physical Therapy
Premier Martial Arts
Schneider Electric
State Farm Insurance - Denise Dombach
Trindle Bowl
University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work
West Shore Chamber of Commerce
Wolf Brewing Co.
Zimmerman's Automotive Tire Pros



is proud to support

SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY®

Saturday, November 29



Business Women's Networking Luncheon

Wednesday, December 10

11:30am - 1:00pm

NOTE CHANGE OF DAY/DATE

Heather Dino Laughman, M.A.
Headliner + President

HD Entertainment
All-Female DJ Company

Central PA Wedding Shows
presented by **HD**

717.850.0460

heather@hdentertainmentdj.com
ido@centralpaweddingshows.com

hdentertainmentdj.com
centralpaweddingshows.com

Gettysburg's Greatest DJ 2025

The Knot Best of Weddings 2017-2021

The Knot Best of Weddings Hall of Fame

WeddingWire Couples Choice Awards 2017-2025

HD Entertainment

hdentertainmentdj.com

Join Heather and HD Entertainment for an Ugly Sweater Christmas Cookie Bash at the December Business Women's Lunch!

Learn how you can add to your holiday and post New Year's gatherings.

Please bring a new, unwrapped toy of at least \$10 in value for Toys for Tots to get entered into our raffles. One lucky lady will win a free DJ event for her organization!

Bring your networking materials and your best ugly sweater!

Location:

Revolutionary Hot Sauce Eatery & Brewpub
30 South Market Street
Mechanicsburg

Space is limited. Reservations required.

RSVP to info@mechanicsburgchamber.org



Cumberland County Planning Commission Seeking Resident to Fill Vacancy

Applications are due to the Planning Commission Office by Nov. 21;

Term begins Jan. 2026

The Cumberland County Planning Commission is accepting applications to fill a vacancy on its board. Qualified applicants must be Cumberland County residents and willing to serve a four-year term beginning Jan. 2026.

Board members are expected to attend the commission's monthly meetings, held at 7:30 a.m. on the third Thursday of each month. Residents interested in contributing to the county's planning and development efforts are encouraged to apply. Experience in planning is helpful but not required.

The Cumberland County Planning Commission partners with its urban, suburban, and rural communities to create and implement plans that promote economic development, provide more housing and transportation choices, and protect clean air, land, and water.

A commission subcommittee will review applications, conduct interviews, and recommend potential members to the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners, who will make the final appointment decisions.

How to Apply: To be considered, residents need to complete an [application](#) and submit a one-page resume. Submission of application materials is due to the Cumberland County Planning Commission Office by Friday, Nov. 21, 2025.

- By email: Applications should be emailed to Kirk Stoner, AICP, Director of Planning at kdstoner@cumberlandcountypa.gov
- By mail or in-person delivery: Applications can also be mailed or hand-delivered to the Cumberland County Planning Commission, 310 Allen Road, Suite 101, Carlisle PA 17013.

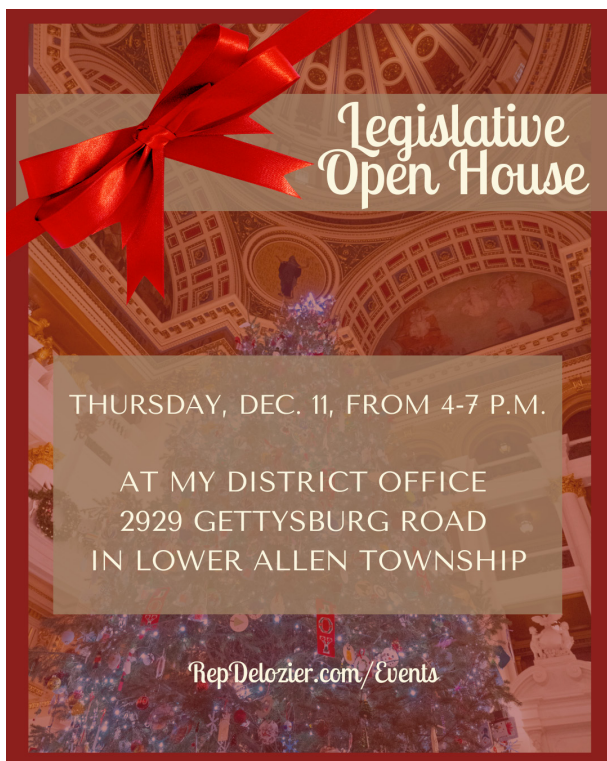
For more information visit: www.cumberlandcountypa.gov/planning.



Pennsylvania State Dog Law requires all dogs 3 months and older to be properly licensed every calendar year in the county they reside. The Cumberland County Treasurer's Office will facilitate dog licensing applications at these events, which coincide with pet photos with Santa.

Wag and Tag Dog Licensing Events will be held on Dec. 1, 8 and 15, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Capitol City Mall, 3506 Capital City Mall Dr. in Lower Allen Township.

Please RSVP to 717-761-4665 or [click here](#).



Residents of the 88th District are invited to drop by my district office at 2929 Gettysburg Road in Lower Allen Township for an open house on Thursday, Dec. 11, from 4-7 p.m. to celebrate the holiday season and have a discussion about state-related issues.

Light refreshments will be provided.

RSVP to 717-761-4665 or [click here](#).



I want to hear from you! Join us at one of our upcoming town halls to learn how the [School Property Tax Elimination Act](#) could affect your taxes and your community:

Nov. 20, 5 p.m. – West Deer American Legion, 57 Superior Rd., Tarentum

At these meetings, we will discuss legislation that [Rep. Wendy Fink](#) and I

introduced to end school property taxes and give Pennsylvanians the relief they deserve. Our legislation is designed to replace school property taxes with a 1.88% personal income tax increase and a 2% sales and use tax increase.

You can even see how this plan could affect you personally! Use [NoProp.tax](#) to calculate your potential tax changes. You will need your annual income, property taxes paid and retirement income info ready. Find out what relief could look like for you and your family!

Below are answers to some of the most frequently asked questions about the plan:

Q: If you propose eliminating Pennsylvania's school property taxes, which fund our education system, how would your plan provide funding for education?

A: The School Property Tax Elimination Act would shift education funding by increasing the sales and use tax by 2% and the income tax by 1.88%. This means Pennsylvania's sales and use tax would become 8% and the income tax would increase to 4.95%.

Q: Would the 2% increase in sales and use tax apply to clothing and food?

A: The sales and use tax on clothing would only be 2%, not the full 8%. There would be no tax on food.

Q: Would you tax my pension?

A: Under this proposal, pensions would be taxed only when money is withdrawn, with some exceptions. Social Security, military pensions and any portion of pension withdrawals that have already been taxed would not be taxed again.

It's worth noting that most states already tax pensions when funds are withdrawn, while pensions in Pennsylvania remain untaxed. This has led to Pennsylvania becoming a destination state for retirees from places such as Maryland and New Jersey. Our plan would align Pennsylvania with this common approach while providing relief from school property taxes.

Q: How is your School Property Tax Elimination Act a better solution than the current property tax system?

A: It's important to understand that every year, property taxes continue to rise regardless of a person's income or ability to pay. Under the School Property Tax Elimination Act, you would no longer need to worry about making that property tax payment or fear losing your home from your inability to pay.

With this plan, you have control over what you spend and how much. If you can't afford something, you simply don't buy it. Your taxes would reflect your financial choices, not an arbitrary assessment. In fact, more than 75% of Pennsylvanians would fare better under this plan compared with what they currently pay in property taxes.

Q: How do I know if this plan will benefit me?

A: You can visit noprop.tax to see how your taxes would change under the School Property Tax Elimination Act. You'll just need your annual income, property taxes paid, and any retirement income to calculate your results.

Our School Property Tax Elimination Act gives Pennsylvanians fairness, predictability and control — three things our current property tax system fails to deliver. By replacing an unfair, ever-growing property tax with a system tied to what people earn and spend, we can fund education responsibly while protecting homeowners and families across the commonwealth.

**Do you know a great way to show off
what, where, and how you do the things you do?
Host a Business Women's Networking Luncheon or
After Hours Mixer. There is no fee to host an event,
contact the Chamber office for more details.**

Seeking HOSTS for 2025 and 2026 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.

JAZZ ME BAND

KIRK WISE UPCOMING
SOLO, DUO & BAND
PUBLIC DATES

Thur. 11/13 – Food Truck Rally,
New Cumberland...Kirk solo 5-8

Fri. 11/14 – Totem Pole Wine Farm/Ranch,
Carlisle...Kirk & Dave 6:30-8:30

Sat. 11/15 – Reid's Wine & Cider House,
Gettysburg...Kirk Duo 7-10

Tues. 11/18 – Range + Rye Restaurant @
Range End, Dillsburg...Kirk solo 6 – 9

Thurs. 11/20 – Big Bottom Brewery @
Al's Pizza, Dillsburg...Kirk solo 6-9

Fri. 11/21 – Captain Bob's Steamed Crabs,
Railroad/ Shrewsbury...Kirk solo 6-8

Sat. 11/22 – Sage Lane Christmas Show,
Dillsburg...Kirk solo/duo 1-3

Sun. 11/23 – Masonic Homes Brunch,
Elizabethtown...Kirk solo 11-2

Tues. 11/25 – Range + Rye Restaurant @
Range End, Dillsburg...Kirk solo 6 – 9

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:
FARNHAM INSURANCE,
MEMBERS 1st F. C. U.,
CLASSIC DRY CLEANERS, STUDIO D &
LANDON WISE PHOTOGRAPHY



F&M Trust promotes Steve Butz to Executive Vice President

F&M Trust is pleased to announce that Steve Butz, Chief Commercial Services Officer, has been promoted to Executive Vice President.

Butz has been a vital part of F&M Trust since November 2013, previously serving as Senior Vice President and Chief Commercial Services Officer. With over 40 years of experience, he has played a pivotal role in building the Commercial Services Division and driving expansion in the Capital Region and other markets that are important to the bank's strategic growth.

Prior to joining F&M Trust, Butz held leadership roles at Susquehanna Bank, where he served as Regional President from February 2012 to October 2013, and at Graystone Bank, where he spent over six years in various commercial banking positions.



Butz is a graduate of the University of Delaware where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Finance, and he is an alumnus of the Mechanicsburg Area High School. Butz currently serves as a member of the Board of Directors for the United Way of the Capital Region.



Help shape your community's future. Vote in the SPARK! contest by Nov. 16.

The final round of voting is now open for SPARK!, a community contest created by The Foundation for Enhancing Communities (TFEC) that proves everyone can spark change in their community. Residents across South Central Pennsylvania are invited to help decide which cause will receive a \$10,000 permanent fund that will support local nonprofits for years to come.

Voting is open through Nov. 16 at www.tfec.org/spark.

Five causes have advanced to the final round:

- Building Strong Readers From the Start
- Addressing Gun Violence
- Support Services for Those Experiencing Homelessness
- Mental Health Awareness

- Assisting Families with Special Needs Services

Each cause represents the compassion and commitment of local residents who want to make a difference in their communities.

For Jairee Ann Countermand, who submitted Building Strong Readers From the Start, early literacy is the foundation for lifelong learning. "Up to 90 percent of brain development occurs before age five," Countermand said. "Early literacy programs are crucial to developing vocabulary and reading skills that can't be made up later."

Keaira Hopkins-Dawood shared her experience as an educator who has seen firsthand how gun violence affects students and families. "Our children deserve to grow up in safe communities," Hopkins-Dawood said. "Addressing gun violence by reducing access to firearms and studying its root causes is essential."

For Amanda Beitler, who submitted Support Services for Those Experiencing Homelessness, the cause is deeply personal. "This cause is important to me because I've been in similar situations," Beitler said. "I want to be able to help those who need it and want it. Seeing people I care about change and make it gives me hope that others can too."

Asia Wannamaker, who submitted Mental Health Awareness, believes mental wellness is essential for every person to thrive. "Mental health enables individuals to cope with life's stresses, realize their abilities, and contribute meaningfully to their communities," Wannamaker said. "I'd like to see increased access to care and early intervention for those who need support."

The fifth finalist, Assisting Families with Special Needs Services, focuses on supporting families in accessing the care and tools they need to help their children reach their full potential. "Philanthropy isn't just for a select few. It belongs to everyone who cares about their community," said Jennifer

Doyle, president and CEO of TFEC. "SPARK! is about turning passion into action. By sharing your idea, you can spark change that grows far beyond one person. With the power of collective giving, your vision can become a permanent \$10,000 fund supporting nonprofits right here in our region. Together, we create something bigger than any one person could achieve."

Residents can vote through Nov. 16 at www.tfec.org/spark. The winning cause will be announced in December and will become a \$10,000 permanent fund through TFEC, providing grants to nonprofits that support the selected issue.

www.liveworkplay.media

BREAKING NEWS

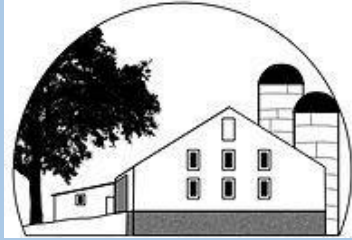
● LIVE

SMALL BUSINESS FINALLY GETS WHAT THEY DESERVE!!

**We've created the first true Coast-to-Coast
small business directory where your
customers - whether locals, travelers or new
movers find YOU for \$20/\$30 month!!**

Christine Vasiliades
Founder
liveworkplay.media






Strock Enterprises, Inc.


Open House, Meals and More!


November is full of gratitude (and plenty to do).

Let Us Handle Dinner!

From workdays to holiday prep, your plate is already full. Let us take care of dinner so you can enjoy the season without the stress.

 Tuesday, November 18, 2025

 5:00 – 7:00 PM

 Strock Enterprises, Inc., Catering Barn
729 Williams Grove Rd., Mechanicsburg

We'll have seating available if you and your family would like to enjoy dinner right here on the farm with a live musical duo — or feel free to grab it to go!

Bring your appetite and let us help make your evening a little easier.

Curious about hosting an event with us?

Now's your chance to walk through our event spaces, ask questions, and see what we have to offer. Whether you're dreaming of a wedding, planning a party, or considering a corporate gathering — this is the perfect time to explore!



Dinner will feature your choice of our chef's **Sugar Cured Ham** and **Meat Lasagna**

Served with delicious sides:

- **Sweet Potatoes**
- **Creamed Spinach**
- **Signature Mac & Cheese**

Chef Special: Butternut Squash Soup

Dessert: Pumpkin Roll

Pre-orders are available on our website to guarantee your meal, [order here!](#)

A pre-order assures your food, including the chef special and dessert— walk-ins are always welcome, but there are limited quantities, and we have run out of some items quickly!

We also have individual items available if you don't need a full meal.

Come and eat with Strock Enterprises, Inc.,
where quality and community are always on the menu! 🍴❤️



[Click here to Pre-order](#)



UNITED WAY POINSETTIA SALE



Check off Your Holiday “To Do” List While Supporting a Great Cause

Order beautiful poinsettias and help support United Way of the Capital Region’s internal campaign!

These make great office decorations or gifts for family, friends or coworkers!

Poinsettias will be delivered the first week of December. Order 5 or more and receive FREE delivery!

- **Poinsettias are 6” pots**
- **COLORS:** red, white, pink or burgundy
- **COST: \$12 each**
- **Orders are due by November 20**

What is United Way’s Internal Campaign?

Just like other organizations, United Way of the Capital Region runs a fundraising campaign among its staff members. Funds are generated through donations and special event sales such as this one. All proceeds from this sale will go directly to United Way’s 2025 campaign. Thank you for supporting United Way!

PLACE YOUR ORDER TODAY AT:
www.uwcr.org/uw-poinsettia-sale



UNITED WAY
Capital Region

Questions? Contact Heidi Neuhaus at 717.724.4055, or e-mail hneuhaus@uwcr.org.

CHRISTMAS GIFT CARD FUNDRAISER!!

It's that time of year again, the Hearts~n~Hands Sertoma Club is doing our annual gift card fundraiser. We have gift cards for over 50 different stores and restaurants. We can have gift cards available for you to do your Black Friday shopping and/or to give out as gifts during the holiday season.



Proceeds go to Hearts~n~Hands ongoing mission projects of spreading sunshine to those in our community dealing with cancer and other life depleting diseases.

If you are interested, please a club member or [CLICK HERE](#) for an order form.

Thanks for your support and have a blessed holiday season.

[CLICK HERE FOR ORDER FORM](#)



November 24

6:30 PM

**St. Timothy's Lutheran Church
4200 Carlisle Pike,
Camp Hill**

**SPEAKER: Cheryl Hornung, Founder
Abby's Angels and Caitlin's Smiles**

"What I want people to understand," she said, "is how fragile people are. You don't know what someone's going through. A harsh word, a moment of road rage – it might be the thing that pushes someone already struggling. We need to work harder to be kinder."

Harrisburg Magazine October 14, 2025

Please join us Monday November 24th as we welcome Speaker Cheryl Hornung share the impact of Caitlin's Smiles and Abby's Angels in our community. For more information about Hearts~n~Hands Sertoma Club contact 717-805-7243.



PA Small Business of the Year Awards

*Share Your Story! Apply for the PA Chamber's Inaugural
"PA Small Business of the Year Awards"*

The PA Chamber proudly launched an exciting new initiative — the inaugural **PA Small Business of the Year Awards**. This statewide program will spotlight the innovation, resilience, and community impact of small businesses across the Commonwealth.

We're honored to count thousands of small businesses among our nearly 10,000 members and deeply value the far-reaching economic and cultural impact they have on the communities they serve. As we host the 2025 "PA Small Business of the Year Awards," we're excited to recognize the contributions of small businesses to jobs, the economy, and Pennsylvanians' way of life.

If your business qualifies, we encourage you to apply, share your story, and take a chance at becoming one of this year's nominees!

Eligibility Criteria:

Small businesses are eligible if they:

- Is headquartered in Pennsylvania
- Has between 100 and 250 employees, and generates less than \$20 million in annual revenue; OR
- Has fewer than 100 employees, and generates less than \$10 million in annual revenue.

Why Apply?

Two standout businesses, one in each category named above, will be named **Top Small Business in Pennsylvania**, receiving:

- A one-year Investor-level PA Chamber membership (\$6,500 value)
- Statewide recognition
- Exclusive networking opportunities with business leaders and policymakers

Finalists will also be recognized across several categories, including growth, leadership, innovation, and community engagement.

Deadline to Apply: November 30, 2025

We'll announce our full list of winners in early December.

Visit our [2025 "PA Small Business of the Year Awards" webpage](#) to learn more and apply!

Let us celebrate your success and amplify your story. We look forward to your application!

APPLY NOW



Annual Payroll, Human Resources & Business Seminar

Thursday, December 4, 2025 | 9 AM - 12 PM

Registration is now open for our 2025 Payroll, HR & Business Seminar!

This virtual event brings together industry experts to share key updates and strategies to help you lead better, hire smarter, and stay compliant.

Empower your HR and leadership strategies for 2026 and beyond at this must-attend event.

Whether you're an executive, HR professional, or business owner, join us for a half-day of impactful sessions covering the most relevant topics in workforce management.

We'll kick things off with an essential update on upcoming payroll changes and compliance mandates to keep your organization ahead of the curve. From there, you'll discover how small leadership habits can drive long-term success and learn how to sharpen your recruitment practices.

Industry experts will also walk you through the latest developments in employment law, ensuring you're aware of new legal risks and responsibilities. The day rounds out with hands-on guidance on conducting effective annual reviews and onboarding new hires in a way that fosters long-term engagement.

Topics Include:

- Payroll updates for 2026 and compliance best practices
- Transformational leadership through small daily habits
- Employment law updates from top labor attorneys
- How to lead impactful annual reviews that inspire growth
- Creating onboarding experiences that boost retention

Walk away with practical tips, legal updates, and leadership strategies you can put into action immediately.

[Register Here](#)

*Circle of
2025
Angels*

eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca
carlisle & cumberland county

Happy Holidays

*from all of us at
YWCA Carlisle and Cumberland County.*

December 8, 2025, 4:00-6:00 pm

We welcome you to join us for our Circle of Angels Reception
Come celebrate the holiday season and the impacts we have
made as a community.



**RSVP today,
and join us
December 8th!**

Add a donation to your
registration to support
survivors of sexual assault
and human trafficking

Sponsored by:

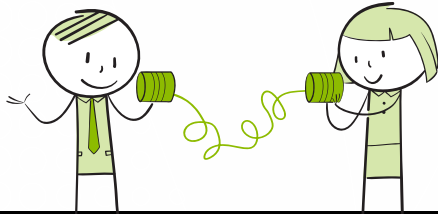


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FEDERAL CREDIT UNION



Confidently close out 2025 payroll with PaySmart.

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THAT **LISTENS** TO
YOUR SMALL
BUSINESS NEEDS?



payroll@paysmartpa.com | 717.766.1777
www.PaySmartPA.com

As 2025 comes to a close, we know your to-do list is growing. Payroll compliance shouldn't be another headache on it!

That's where PaySmart can help. As a locally owned and operated payroll company, we've been supporting Central PA businesses for years. Our team of payroll advisors can give you practical tips to help ensure:

- Your payroll tasks are completed on time
- You stay compliant with year-end regulations
- You feel confident closing out the year

Let's set up a quick call so you can walk into 2026 with peace of mind.

[Schedule a quick chat](#)

We'd love to be your trusted payroll resource here in Central PA.

PaySmart | Central PA's Trusted Payroll Partner
717.766.1777





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!

Join
OUR TEAM
POSITIONS AVAILABLE



Are you detail oriented, reliable and take pride in creating beautiful, spotless spaces?

Angel Home Solutions, LLC is a luxury cleaning company serving high end residential homes and premier businesses in Central Pennsylvania. We're looking for exceptional people to join our team.

We offer:

- Competitive compensation
- Flexible schedules
- A professional, respectful work environment
- Opportunities to grow

Contact us today and let's get started on a brighter future together. We look forward to hearing from you!

Please contact Karen at 717-773-1340

New Hope Ministries Provides Help for Families Impacted by Federal and State Funding Delays

As the state budget impasse continues and the federal government shutdown begins, New Hope Ministries wants the communities we serve to know that help is available for anyone facing hardship. While the impact of the shutdown may vary, we understand that some families could experience financial strain or uncertainty in the days ahead.

New Hope Ministries remains committed to serving our neighbors in need. Our food pantries are open, and assistance with basic needs is available to anyone experiencing difficulty. We believe in the strength of our community and want to reassure everyone that no one has to go through times of uncertainty alone.

“We know times like these can be stressful,” said Eric Saunders, Executive Director of New Hope Ministries. “Our mission has always been to walk alongside people in moments of need. If you are struggling, please reach out. We are here to help.”

New Hope Ministries offers food, housing, transportation, and stability services across Dillsburg, Dover, Enola, Hanover, Littlestown, Mechanicsburg, New Oxford, Red Land, and West Shore locations. Families affected by the shutdown, or anyone facing hardship, are encouraged to contact their local New Hope Center or visit www.nhm-pa.org for more information. Together, as a community, we can support one another and get through this challenging time with hope and compassion.



The Mechanicsburg Kung Fu Center is teaming with a local church to collect food items for the holiday season and those that are affected by the recent government shutdown.

Since many programs have had funding stalled, food providing programs are strained. If you would like to donate to help local residents in need, you may drop items off during regular business hours.



**Mechanicsburg Kung Fu Center
2 W Allen St
Mechanicsburg PA 17055
717-364-5252**

[Click here for more information](#)



✱ *Tutor Doctor is Hiring! ✱ *

Are you passionate about teaching and helping students reach their full potential?

Join Tutor Doctor, a leader in one-on-one personalized learning, and
make a real difference in young lives!

We are currently looking for:

- ☐ Special Education Teachers
- ☐ Math, ELA & Science Teachers for Elementary through High School

✱ Why Join Tutor Doctor?

- ✓ ☐ Flexible schedules – work around your availability
- ✓ ☐ One-on-one tutoring – in-home
- ✓ ☐ Rewarding opportunity – watch students grow in confidence & skills

☎ Call/Text us at: [717-927-7204] or [805-824-7354]

✉ Or email us today skulkarni@tutordocor.org to get started!

Our Website

<https://www.tutordocor.com/harrisburg-mechanicsburg/>



Local Nonprofits Invited to Strengthen Their Storytelling Through TFEC and Wakeen & Company Partnership

Local nonprofits now have the opportunity to build their communications capacity and share their impact through Stories That Serve, a new program created in partnership by The Foundation for Enhancing Communities (TFEC) and Wakeen & Company. The program offers one nonprofit a custom professional video package designed to help the organization tell its story, strengthen donor relationships and reach new audiences.

Applications are open through Nov. 17 at www.tfec.org/stories-that-serve.

As nonprofits face mounting financial pressures, many organizations are being asked to do more with less. The sector is seeing rising demand for services while budgets are delayed and restricted. Emerging trends show that nonprofits must now also contend with expanding issues such as workforce shortages, increasing operational costs and intensified expectations around social and environmental impact.

“Nonprofits spend every day giving back to our community,” said Kevin Wert, chief engagement officer and partner at Wakeen & Company. “This is our opportunity to give back to them with the same heart and dedication they show others.”

In this environment, Stories That Serve offers a timely and practical resource to help nonprofits amplify their message and inspire community support.

“Every nonprofit has a story worth telling, but nonprofits often lack the resources to tell it,” said Jennifer Doyle, president and CEO at TFEC. “Through Stories That Serve, we’re helping organizations communicate their work in a way that strengthens relationships, inspires giving and builds long-term capacity.”

The selected nonprofit will work closely with Wakeen & Company to produce a four to five-minute feature video showcasing their story, as well as a 30-second social cutdown. The project will include concept development, filming and two rounds of revisions. Final video assets will be optimized for use across web and social platforms.

Production will begin in January with filming in February and a premiere event in March. The nonprofit’s branding will appear prominently in the final video alongside a call to action of its choice.

“This initiative isn’t just about one video,” Doyle said. “It’s about giving organizations the tools to share their mission more effectively and connect with their community for years to come.”



CAEDC Awards Nearly \$550,000 in Tourism Grants for 2025 *2026 Grant Applications Now Open*

The Cumberland Area Economic Development Corporation (CAEDC), through the Cumberland Valley Visitors Bureau, has awarded more than \$547,000 in tourism grants to eight local projects in 2025. Building on this momentum, CAEDC has officially opened applications for the 2026 tourism grant cycle.

In 2025, CAEDC offered three tourism grant programs: the Tourism Recovery Grant, Tourism Product Development Grant, and Destination Sales Grant. These programs supported initiatives designed to attract visitors, enhance local attractions, and strengthen the tourism economy throughout Cumberland Valley.

Notable 2025 award recipients include:

Tourism Recovery Grant

- Williams Grove Historical Steam Engine Association received a \$5,819 grant to replace a 40-year-old sound system.
- Denim Coffee was awarded a \$10,000 grant for new furniture, a water filling station, butcher-block table tops, and additional enhancements.

Tourism Product Development Grant

- Midway Bowl received a \$133,709 grant for lane renovations, an outdoor area, new windows, and an ADA-accessible door.
- The Event Cafe was awarded a \$76,586 grant for ADA accessibility upgrades and structural improvements.
- Jubilee Cake Studio received a \$87,020 grant to add indoor playhouses, amusement equipment, and LED displays.

Destination Sales Grant

- New Cumberland Olde Towne Association received a \$120,000 multi-year grant for the Iron Bridge Festival to support entertainment and event expenses.
- Carlisle Family YMCA was awarded a \$24,155 grant for the Carlisle Crush Volleyball Tournament, supporting field maintenance and facility upgrades.
- Innovation Management Consulting LLC received an \$89,812.50 multi-year grant for the PA Gospel Fest in Shippensburg to cover artist fees and related expenses.

To see how CAEDC's tourism grants are making a difference, explore success stories like [Carlisle Crush](#) and the [Downtown Carlisle Association's 2024 beautification project](#), both of which showcase how local partnerships help elevate Cumberland Valley's tourism landscape.

In addition to the eight awarded projects, six additional applications, totaling over \$449,000 in grant award requests, are still in review for the 2025 grant cycle.

2026 Tourism Grant Opportunities

Beginning Thursday, November 6, 2025, CAEDC invites local businesses, nonprofits, and event organizers to apply for 2026 tourism grant funding. Three distinct opportunities are available:

- Tourism Product Development Grant - Supports physical product development projects seeking between \$25,000 and \$500,000 for creating new tourism experiences, including construction, furniture and fixtures, equipment and more.
- Tourism Partnership Grant – Offers funding from \$2,500 to \$10,000 for smaller-scale product development projects aimed at expanding tourism products, experiences, or services that attract overnight visitors to Cumberland Valley.
- Destination Sales Grant – Provides \$3,000 to \$10,000 for multi-day event expenses, including bid fees, facility or shuttle rentals, speaker or performer fees, and marketing or advertising costs.

Tourism grant applications are reviewed and approved quarterly, and the final deadline to apply for 2026 grants is November 6, 2026.

To learn more about CAEDC's tourism grants, including eligibility, timelines, and application guidelines, [click here](#).



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CAEDC's America250PA Cumberland County Sponsorship Program

To support product development, event creation, and promotion efforts for America250PA Cumberland County, CAEDC will consider sponsorship requests of \$500-\$3,000 for activities happening in Cumberland County prior to December 1, 2026.

Sponsorship requests will be reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis. Emphasis will be placed on projects and activities that attract visitors. Please allow three weeks for review after submitting your sponsorship request.

All America250PA Cumberland County sponsorship requests must be submitted through this form.

[See full Sponsorship Guidelines.](#)

**CLICK HERE FOR
APPLICATION FORM**



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.