

# Chamber CHATTER



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

**4.16.26**

6 West Strawberry Avenue, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055 (717) 796-0811 [www.mechanicsburgchamber.org](http://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](http://www.mechanicsburgchamber.org/events)

## CHAMBER EVENTS

*Watch for Weekly Updates!*

*April*

**28 - AM Strategies...for Business Success -  
The Wildcat Factor: Lead Fierce. Lead Kind. Lead  
Well.** Presented by **Tracey Jones, Tremendous Leader-  
ship.** Location sponsor - **Joseph T. Simpson Public  
Library.** 8:30 - 10:00am. FREE member event.

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

**30 - 16th Annual Cinco de Mayo Regional Fiesta  
Mixer -** Location - **Volvo CE, 200 Rowe Rd.,  
Shippensburg,** 4:30 - 6:30pm. RSVP requested.

RSVP to [info@mechanicsburgchamber.org](mailto:info@mechanicsburgchamber.org)

*One study found that 64% of adults familiar  
with their local chamber of commerce were  
more likely to purchase from a chamber  
member.*

*- U.S. Chamber of Commerce*

## Thank You For Renewing Your Membership!

**Caring Transitions of Mechanicsburg  
Comfort Suites Carlisle  
Country Meadows  
DePalma Construction**

**JoJo's Pizza  
Leadership Cumberland  
M.C. Walker Realty  
Penn State Health**

# A.M. Strategies...for Business Success

Tuesday, April 28th  
8:30 am - 10:00 am

**The Wildcat Factor: Lead Fierce. Lead Kind. Lead Well.**

**Presented by: Dr. Tracey Jones, MBA, CPBC, CPBL - Tremendous Leadership**

## **Key Takeaways**

1. Know Your Call Sign — How to build a leadership identity so strong that your team, clients, and competitors all know exactly who they're dealing with.
2. Firm But Kind Is a Strategy, Not a Personality Trait — The framework for holding the line with grace in difficult conversations, tough seasons, and fast-changing markets.
3. What Manny Taught Me About Your Business — The 3 questions every leader must ask about their customer experience before a crisis asks them for you.
4. The 60-Year Test — How Tremendous Leadership has outlasted nearly every company in its era, and the principles that apply to YOUR business right now.
5. AI Didn't Replace Wildcat — It Armed Her — A candid, practical look at how AI is already in your business, whether you invited it or not, and how to lead that reality with confidence.



## **About Dr. Tracey “Wildcat” Jones**

Dr. Tracey “Wildcat” Jones is President & CEO of Tremendous Leadership, a publishing and leadership development company carrying forward the 60-year legacy of her father, Charlie “Tremendous” Jones. A former Air Force officer, F-15/F-16 Aircraft Maintenance Officer, and Operation Desert Storm veteran, Tracey holds a PhD in Leadership and has authored 14 books. She coaches executives, speaks to organizations worldwide, and has a gift for making leadership both deeply practical and genuinely unforgettable.

She leads with two things her father taught her, and the Air Force confirmed: Be firm. Be kind. Never apologize for either.

**Location:**  
**Joseph T. Simpson Public Library**  
**16 N Walnut Street**  
**Mechanicsburg 17055**

RSVP to [info@mechanicsburgchamber.org](mailto:info@mechanicsburgchamber.org) or call 717-796-0811  
This event is free to attend!

**Mechanicsburg Chamber of Commerce presents:**

# **Business Leaders Discussion Group**

**Thursday, April 30**

**7:45 - 9:00 am**

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



RSVP to [info@mechanicsburgchamber.org](mailto: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!**

## **Welcome New Chamber Members**

**Itten Dojo, Inc, 701 West Simpson Street, Suite C, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055;  
Robert Wolfe; 717-766-8871; [www.ittendojo.org](http://www.ittendojo.org); Martial Arts / Education / Fitness**

**Rule 5 Digital, 3101 Herr Street, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055; Mitchell Stowman;  
717-433-3776; [rule5digital.com](http://rule5digital.com); Web Design / Computer Services / Consultant:  
Business**

**Signature Bath Solutions, 701 West Simpson Street, Suite A, Mechanicsburg, PA  
17055; Paul Buchta; 717-853-1764; [www.signaturebathsolutions.com](http://www.signaturebathsolutions.com);  
Home Improvement / Building/Construction**

***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](mailto:info@mechanicsburgchamber.org).

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

16th Annual



REGIONAL FIESTA MIXER

THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2026

4:30 - 6:30 PM

V O L V O

Volvo Construction Equipment Customer Center 200 Rowe Road, Shippensburg

RSVP:

https://bit.ly/45DuEHa





## Save the Date

On June 18, Jubilee Day returns to the streets of downtown Mechanicsburg. This year marks the 96th 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](mailto:info@mechanicsburgchamber.org)



The 88th District's veterans, active-duty military personnel and their families are invited to my 14th annual Tribute to Veterans Breakfast on Thursday, April 23, at 8 a.m. at the Mechanicsburg First Church of God Community Center, 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 History in Preparation for America250."

Our keynote speaker will be Lt. Col. Devin Hammond. Lt. Col. Hammond is a U.S. Army War College resident student. He enlisted in 1998 as an infantryman, serving in the 75th Ranger Regiment and the 101st Pathfinder Company before commissioning through ROTC at Radford University. As an infantry officer, he held multiple leadership and staff roles, including platoon leader and company

commander with deployments to Iraq. Since transitioning to the Acquisition Corps in 2013, he has served in key contracting and leadership positions, most recently as the 904th Battalion commander and MICC–Fort Stewart director. A native of Staunton, Virginia, he and his wife, Daiquiri, have two children, Garrett and Skylar.

I am looking forward to celebrating the service of local veterans, as well as our country's rich military history as we prepare to mark the 250th anniversary of our nation's founding on July 4.

Please RSVP to 717-761-4665 or visit [RepDeLozier.com/Events](http://RepDeLozier.com/Events).



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## Donate Life Month

April is Donate Life Month, an opportunity to raise awareness about the growing need for organ donation across the Commonwealth and the country. According to Donate Life PA, 16 people on average die each day while waiting for a life-saving organ transplant.

Across the country, more than 100,000 people are waiting for a transplant to save their lives, and every eight minutes, another person's name is added to the national waiting list. In Pennsylvania alone, more than 6,000 people are on the waiting list for a life-saving

organ transplant.

About 5 million Pennsylvanians have added the donor designation to their driver's license, learner's permit or state identification card, but this represents only half of those eligible to register. [If you'd like to register as an organ donor, you may sign up here](#). You are also encouraged to let your loved ones know of your wishes.

For more information about organ donation, visit [donatelife.org](http://donatelife.org).

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## New 'Preserve Our Heritage' License Plate Available

Are you a history buff and fan of the state's agricultural heritage? You may now purchase the newly designed "Preserve Our Heritage" special fund license plate featuring the Pennsylvania Bank Barn on the state's new standard Liberty Bell plate.



The Pennsylvania Bank Barn is a distinct and highly efficient agricultural structure that became a defining feature of the American rural landscape. Originating in the early 18th century, it is celebrated for its ingenious integration of architecture and topography.

The special fund license plate is available for cars or trucks with a registered gross weight of not more than 14,000 pounds. Each plate costs \$64, with \$23 going directly to support the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission's education and exhibit programs. Pennsylvanians who are interested in ordering this new plate can complete the MV-911 form, "[Application for Special Fund Registration Plate](#)."

[A complete list of available special fund plates can be found on PennDOT's website.](#)

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## Voter Registration Deadline May 4



Pennsylvanians who are not already registered to vote but wish to participate in the May 19 primary election should be sure to register no later than Monday, May 4.

To be eligible to vote in the primary, you must be a citizen of the United States for at least one month before the election; a resident of the election district in which you register to vote for at least 30 days before the election; and at least 18 years of age on or before the date of the primary. Under state law, only voters registered as Republicans or Democrats may vote for candidates in the primary election.

[Citizens may register to vote online here](#) or [visit your county voter registration office](#). Not sure of your registration status?

[Check it here.](#)

Voters who prefer to vote by mail-in or absentee ballot have until May 12 to apply for the ballot and until 8 p.m. on May 19 to return it. [For more information, click here.](#)

# SENATOR DAWN KEEFER

Pennsylvania's 31st District  
Serving Cumberland & York Counties



## 31st Senatorial District Residents: Share Your Input on Proposed Deer Season Change

A proposal under consideration, [Senate Bill 1244](#), would move the opening day of firearms deer season to the Monday after Thanksgiving. This potential change could impact participation and scheduling for many. To better understand the perspective of hunters in my district, I am asking for your input. Please take a moment to complete the [brief survey](#) and share your views on how this proposal may affect you and deer season participation overall.



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## Women Veterans Invited to Submit Their Stories of Service



Women who served in the armed forces are encouraged to register by May 8 for a state Capitol ceremony honoring their service. The 4th annual Women Veterans Day Commemoration will be held on Wednesday, June 10.

Women veterans across the commonwealth are invited to submit entries for a display featuring each participant's likeness alongside a personal reflection on "What Service Means to Me."

In advance of the in-person ceremony, a virtual display will be accessible online beginning June 8 at the website of the event's host, [SenatorPennycuick.com](#). To submit a biography and be featured in the display, [click here](#). For additional information or assistance with registration, call 215-541-2388.

## Interested in Law Enforcement? Check Out This State Police Program



If you are thinking about a future in law enforcement, consider participating in the Pennsylvania State Police Law and Leadership Academy, which offers a 15-week program to experience the process of becoming a cadet.

Applicants age 18 and over with a high school diploma or GED can apply. The program covers:

Physical Fitness  
Paramilitary Discipline  
Law Enforcement Education  
Time and Stress Management Skills  
Hands-On Practicums

The program runs from early May to early August at six locations statewide. Cadets meet twice a week, with occasional Saturday sessions. You can learn more [here](#).

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When the Senate gathers in Harrisburg to consider legislation, we open session with a non-denominational prayer delivered by a guest chaplain. Religious leaders from across the commonwealth have offered messages of peace, reflection and hope in this role for many years.

If you are interested in visiting the state Capitol when the Senate convenes for a session day to take part in this time-honored tradition, please contact my office for more details. Religious leaders of all faiths are welcome to reach out about this opportunity.



# JAZZ ME BAND

KIRK WISE UPCOMING SOLO, DUO & BAND  
PUBLIC DATES

Fri. 4/17 – Columbia Cottage Retirement, Linglestown...Kirk solo 3-4

Fri. 4/17 – Royale Winery, Harrisburg...Kirk solo 6-8

Sat. 4/18 – Rotunda Brewing/Restaurant, Annville... Kirk & Dave Duo 6-9

Sun. 4/19 – Wolf Brewing Brunch, Mechanicsburg...Kirk solo/duo 11-2

Tues. 4/21 The Homeland Center, Harrisburg...Kirk solo 1:30-2:30

Tues. 4/21 – Range + Rye @ Range End, Dillsburg...Kirk solo 6-9

For complete up-to-date schedule, information, and photos go to  
[www.jazzmeband.com](http://www.jazzmeband.com)

**Bookings:** call Kirk at 717-979-0341 or E-mail [wisemotors@aol.com](mailto:wisemotors@aol.com)

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



Would you consider  
volunteering to be an usher?

You will be able to stay and  
watch the show also.

Sign up below using the link  
provided.

Thank You!

[Click Here to Volunteer](#)





# Now Casting Local Kids

Ages 9-17

For Mark Rober's **SCHOOLED!** on Netflix



At your local Code Ninjas, your child has a chance to go on camera to show the casting producer their personality for **SCHOOLED!**, the new **Netflix** competition show from Mark Rober.

## Why This Matters for Students

- ▶ Build confidence through **real-world** creativity.
- ▶ Learn how to prevent ideas and **think like a problem solver**.
- ▶ Experience technology, coding, and innovation in action.

## For Parents & Community

- ▶ **Safe, structured environment** for kids to explore tech.
- ▶ Encourages leadership, independence, and communication.
- ▶ Connects local families to **future-ready** skills.

## Who Can Participate

- Ages 9-17
- No experience required!

## What to Bring

- A project, idea, or a passion for building.
- Creativity and curiosity.

## What Happens

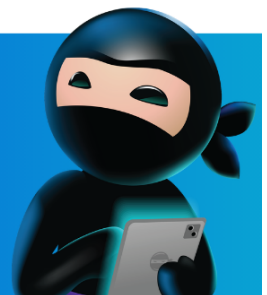
- Record an audition at your local Code Ninjas.
- Submissions are sent directly to casting.



Find Your Center

## Show the Casting Producers Your Child's Personality At Your Local Code Ninjas!

**CODE NINJAS HARRISBURG-MECHANICSBURG**  
35 Gateway Drive, Unit A-113, Mechanicsburg, PA 17050  
(717)-546-4652 harrisburg-mechanicsburg@codeninjas.com





**Big Brothers  
Big Sisters**  
OF SOUTH-CENTRAL PA



# BOWL FOR KIDS' SAKE

REGISTER TODAY. IMPACT TOMORROW.

## 1) Choose a Date.

- **Saturday, March 28** 2:00pm. ABC West, Mechanicsburg.
- **Sunday, March 29** 2:00pm. ABC West, Mechanicsburg.
- **Wednesday, April 8** 4:00pm. Clearview Lanes, Mount Joy
- **Friday, April 10** 6:00pm. Edgewood Bowl, Gettysburg.
- **Wednesday, April 15** 4:00pm. Clearview Lanes, Mount Joy.
- **Thursday, April 16** 6:00pm. Palmyra Bowling, Palmyra.
- **Friday, April 17** 6:00pm. Hanover Bowling Centre, Hanover.
- **Thursday, April 23** 6:00pm. Midway Bowl, Carlisle.
- **Friday, April 24** 6:00pm. Colony Park Lanes, York.

Presenting Sponsor



King Pin Sponsor



[BBSSCPA.ORG/EVENTS](http://BBSSCPA.ORG/EVENTS)

(717) 236-0199 • [events@bbbsscpa.org](mailto:events@bbbsscpa.org)

## 2) Register Today.

[BBSSCPA.ORG/EVENTS](http://BBSSCPA.ORG/EVENTS)

## 3) Build your team.

Invite friends, family & coworkers.

## 4) Fundraise.

Teams of 5 raise \$500 (or more) to support a Big & Little.

## 5) Party!

Bowling. Pizza. Drinks. Raffle prizes. Inspire children to dream BIG!

Food Sponsors





## PASSPORT GALA PREMIERE EVENT

Vision Resources of Central Pennsylvania (VROCP) is excited to announce the premiere of the organization's new fundraising concept: **Vision Resources Passport Gala**. Each event will feature a different Passport destination, the first, on **April 23, 2026**, will be Italy and there is no better location for guests to enjoy an Italian experience than **Visaggio's Ristorante**.

The ambiance at Visaggio's will be the perfect setting to allow those attending to move about among the food and beverage stations, place bids on a variety of auction items, enjoy strolling musicians, and share this marvelous evening with passionate friends of Vision Resources. Gala guests will be treated to sensational cuisine featuring Northern, Central, and Southern regional Italian specialties, prepared by the talented chef Tony and the staff at Visaggio's. Tickets will include beverages of choice including select wines, beers, and the signature drink of the evening, an Aperol Spritz.

VROCP is a one-hundred-and five-year-old non-profit agency with a mission to facilitate independence, enrich the quality of life, and empower individuals who are visually impaired, or otherwise disabled. The organization is proud that for the past twenty-five years Vision Resources promoted awareness of the vital programs and services the agency provides, while celebrating the agency's importance in the community, with inspiring and spirited Visions of Monte Carlo events. The organization believes the Vision Resources Passport Gala is a creative and fresh concept that will continue to benefit the agency and take the organization farther in the fulfillment of its mission.

Mark your calendar for April 23, 2026, from 6:00-9:00 p.m. for Vision Resources Passport Gala. Tickets are \$125.00 per person, available online at the VROCP website, [www.vrocp.org](http://www.vrocp.org). Advance ticket purchases are required, space is limited and sales end Thursday, April 2nd. For more information call Vision Resources, 717-238-2531.





*Spreading sunshine to  
those in our community  
fighting cancer or other  
life-threatening  
illnesses.*



**Hearts - n - Hands  
Sertoma Club**

**SUNDAY  
APRIL 26, 2026**

**Mary Lank Memorial  
Flamingo Cash Bingo**

**Lower Allen VFW Post 7530 - 4545 Westport Dr.  
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055**

**For Tickets Scan Code:**

**CASH  
PRIZES &  
RAFFLES!**



**SMALL  
GAMES OF  
CHANCE**

**Or Call Karen - 717-979-5546**

**Please RSVP by 4/13/2026**

**Doors Open at Noon - Games begin at 1:30pm  
\$35 includes: 10 Games, Hearty Appetizers & Soda**

**Special Games available for purchase**

**EIN #63-0655922**



# THE FOUNDATION FOR ENHANCING COMMUNITIES

## Grant Applications Now Open to Support South Central Pennsylvania Nonprofits

The Foundation for Enhancing Communities (TFEC) is now accepting applications for Grant Cycle 2, offering funding opportunities to nonprofits serving South Central Pennsylvania.

Eligible nonprofits can review guidelines and apply at [www.tfec.org](http://www.tfec.org). The application deadline is Friday, May 1, 2026. Nonprofits with questions about application or eligibility for available competitive grants can learn more by emailing [grants@tfec.org](mailto:grants@tfec.org).

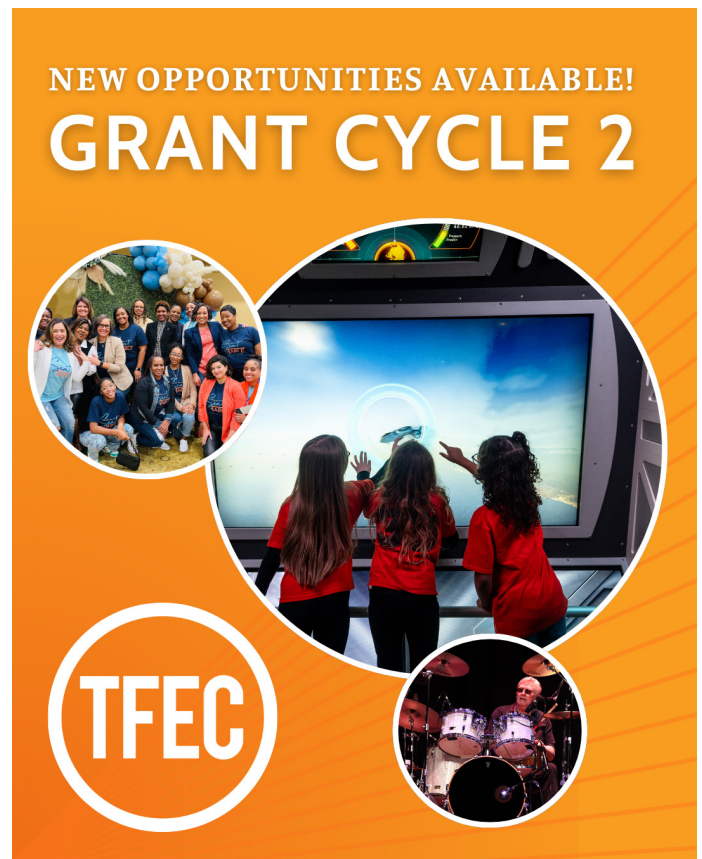
These funds support programs that strengthen families, expand access to education and health care, address basic needs, protect the environment and enrich communities through the arts.

“Every grant awarded represents an investment in our community,” said Jennifer Doyle, president and CEO of TFEC. “When local nonprofits have the resources they need, they can respond to real challenges, meet people where they are and create lasting impact.”

Grant Cycle 2 is open to eligible nonprofits serving Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Lebanon and Perry counties, as well as the Dillsburg area. Funding priorities reflect the charitable goals of donors who partner with TFEC to make a difference close to home.

“When nonprofits thrive, our communities thrive,” said Stefani McAuliffe, vice president of community impact at TFEC. “In 2025 alone, more than \$9 million in grants helped organizations expand services, launch new programs and reach more people. That investment strengthens families, supports economic stability and improves quality of life across South Central Pennsylvania.”

Community change begins with people who care. TFEC is powered by private generosity, not government funding, which means individuals, families and businesses can shape the future of their own neighborhoods. By starting a charitable fund, donors can turn their values into lasting impact and strengthen the place they call home. To learn how to begin, connect with Kim Alvarez, Vice President of Philanthropy at TFEC, at [philanthropy@tfec.org](mailto:philanthropy@tfec.org).



**APPLICATION DEADLINE - MAY 1**



**tutor  
doctor.**  
how learning hits home™

# Tutor Doctor — Is Hiring! —

**Make a Difference in Students' Lives!**



## Now Hiring:



**Special Education Teachers**



**Math, ELA & Science Tutors**  
(Elementary through High School)

## Why Tutor Doctor?



**Flexible Schedules**



**One-on-One In-Home Tutoring**



**Rewarding & Impactful Work**



**Call or Text: 717-927-7204**



**Email: [skulkarni@tutordocor.org](mailto:skulkarni@tutordocor.org)**

**Message Us Today to Get Started!**

# 2026 ANNUAL TOURISM MEETING



MAY 11TH  
FROM  
11AM-3PM

📍 USAHEC  
950 SOLDIERS DR  
CARLISLE, PA 17013

Hear from **Josiah Brown**, “The New York Sherpa” as he discusses tourism advocacy, as well as breakout sessions covering influencer marketing and attracting first time visitors. Lunch will be served.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

**CAEDC**  
CUMBERLAND VALLEY  
PENNSYLVANIA



**Cumberland Area Economic Development Corporation**  
230 S. Sporting Hill Road, Suite 100  
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050

THE  
**CAEDC**  
PARTNERSHIP

**SPRING**  
NETWORKING  
EVENT

Join CAEDC for an evening of networking with business professionals over drinks and appetizers at one of our favorite local breweries!

**May 14th**  
from  
**4:30-6:30pm**

**Ever Grain**  
**Brewing Co.**  
4444 Carlisle Pike  
Mechanicsburg, PA

**CAEDC**  
CUMBERLAND VALLEY  
PENNSYLVANIA

**REGISTER  
HERE**

There are sponsorship opportunities available for this event starting at \$500. Contact [Janet](#) for more information.

Bridges to Wisdom



## *Identity Theft: What Every Consumer Should Know*



Join us for an informative session on identity theft led by the PA Office of Attorney General. Learn how to protect your personal information, recognize common scams, and what to do if your identity is compromised.

**Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup> • 6:00pm**  
Light Refreshments Served

RSVP by Monday, May 18 to  
[christine.meukel@bridgesatbentcreek.com](mailto:christine.meukel@bridgesatbentcreek.com)

**The Bridges at Bent Creek**  
**2100 Bent Creek Blvd, Mechanicsburg, PA 17050**



Learn more about our community at [TheBridgesAtBentCreek.com](http://TheBridgesAtBentCreek.com)





Join Big Brothers Big Sisters of South-Central PA on Thursday, May 21 for Big Night Out and celebrate 45 years of mentorship in our region! For 45 years, Big Brothers Big Sisters of South-Central PA has been working to empower youth to reach their full potential. This milestone celebration is a chance to come together, to share stories, and to recognize our supporters, volunteers, and partners who make the mission possible. Corporate sponsorships are available.

Details and registration: <https://www.bbbsscpa.org>

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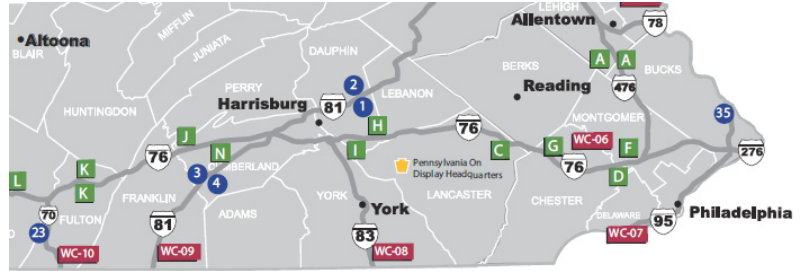
## Seeking HOSTS for 2026 EVENTS

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

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

For more information - on HOSTING AN EVENT  
contact the Chamber office at 717-796-0811 or email - [info@mechanicsburgchamber.org](mailto:info@mechanicsburgchamber.org).

## 2026 will be a high travel year for Pennsylvania!



**We Serve**

### 6th Annual Mechanicsburg Lions "We Serve" Golf Tournament

Friday, July 10, 2026



Tee Off: 8:00am Shotgun Start

Use the QR Code or URL below to visit us on our  
Tournament Website to Register & Pay:



<https://events.golfstatus.com/event/mechanicsburg-lions-golf>

Check us out on **FACEBOOK**....

"Mechanicsburg Lions Club"

Let us help capture the travelers and tourists' attention and promote your tourism business.

1. Celebrate America's 250th birthday in July! Gettysburg and many PA locations will have special commemorative events to experience this once-in-a-generation milestone,
2. FIFA World Cup in Philadelphia, June 14 to July 4th! Fans from more than 200 countries have requested tickets and Pennsylvania is anticipating over 72 million visitors in the state and specifically traveling through DE/MD I95 travel plazas.
3. NFL draft in Pittsburgh, April 23-25! A half-million people could attend this legendary event in Steel City.
4. MLB All-Star Game in Philadelphia, July 14th! Baseball's biggest stars take center stage with nearly 43,000 fans filling the stands for this unforgettable experience.
5. NCAA March Madness tournament in Philadelphia, March 20 to 22nd! Top college basketball teams will be drawing passionate fans from across the county.

2026 is your opportunity to be seen, remembered, and chosen. Let's put your tourism message directly in front of the travelers who are already on the move.

Advertising options with our company include:

- Exclusive distribution in Pennsylvania FREE Welcome Centers
- Paid Turnpike Service Plazas and Interstate Rest Areas
- Sole contract for three DE/MD travel plazas along I-95 — only \$750 for the entire year
- Local distribution options for hotels, campgrounds, and attractions

Teresa Crawford  
Account Executive  
Getaways On Display  
717-653-8070 x208  
TCrawford@GetawaysOnDisplay.com  
www.GetawaysOnDisplay.com

## Community CARES welcomes new Development Director



Erik Larson has been named as new Development Director of Community CARES. Community CARES provides Reassurance, Rest & Resources to those experiencing housing insecurity in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania.

Erik Larson comes to us with extensive business, organizational and team building experience. He worked for the PA Liquor Control Board for 8 years. During his time there, he helped facilitate wine sales at grocery and convenience stores and managed organizational

development projects related to IT system implementations. Before this, Erik served as a sales manager for a beer distributor in Maryland and as a wine and spirits sales representative in Washington DC.

Erik's educational background consists of an MBA from West Chester University, where he became a part of Beta Gamma Sigma International Business Honors Society, and a bachelor's degree from McDaniel College, where he was a 4-year varsity basketball player. He is also a certified Change Manager through Prosci.

Erik has coached basketball for nearly 20 years and is on the coaching staff of the 2026 3A State Champion Trinity High School. He also coached locally for the Team Pennsylvania Basketball program. Erik has a son, Finlay, who is a freshman at Trinity High School and his wife, Meredith, owns and operates a staffing firm in Camp Hill.

"I am excited to take on the role of Development Director for the opportunity to connect with the community, partners, members and donors to help forward the mission of Community Cares. Feel free to reach out to me to learn more about us."



## F&M Trust Announces New Hire

F&M Trust is pleased to announce Kevin Leibold has been hired as a Wealth Advisor, serving clients in Greater Harrisburg and Cumberland County. With 25 years of experience in financial services, Leibold brings a wealth of knowledge in trust, investment, estate, and retirement planning to the bank's regional Wealth Management sales team.



Leibold specializes in retirement income planning, portfolio review, asset protection, and management. He is committed to helping clients confidently navigate their financial journeys by offering thoughtful strategies tailored to individual goals. Through proactive communication and a personal approach, Leibold fosters strong, long-term relationships with individuals and families, ensuring seamless and compliant service with the highest standards of professionalism and accuracy.



A graduate of Bloomsburg University, Leibold holds professional designations including Series 7, 66, 31, PA Life & Health, and RICP®. He teaches Investing for the Future at Temple University and is active in groups like the West Shore Chamber of Commerce and Valley Green Golf Executive Committee. Leibold is based out of the F&M Trust regional headquarters in Harrisburg.

“We are thrilled to welcome Kevin to our team,” said Chad Carroll, Chief Operating Officer and Senior Executive Vice President at F&M Trust. “His dedication to personalized service and deep expertise in wealth management will be invaluable to our clients and the communities we serve.”

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# UPMC

## LIFE CHANGING MEDICINE

### Midstate Medical Moment: Keeping Your Brain Healthy Throughout Life

*Heather Nissley, Ph.D., neuropsychologist, UPMC Neurological Institute*

Our brains are built to solve problems, store and recall memories, pay attention, process language and several other tasks we don't even think about during daily moments. Just as it's important to

work out the body to maintain proper physical health, it's important to exercise your mind to maintain optimum brain health through all stages of life.

**Q: What can I do to keep my mind sharp as I get older?**

Brain exercise comes in many forms. Some activities that are good for the brain include learning a new language, playing a musical instrument, traveling, reading, and solving puzzles like crosswords or Sudoku.

Our brains enjoy variety and challenge, so it's important to find a balance between novelty and difficulty when selecting tasks to engage your mind. The key is to find activities that aren't too easy or too difficult that you also enjoy doing.

**Q: Does social interaction affect brain health?**

Meaningful person-to-person interaction contributes to a healthy mind. We know that during the early weeks and months of the pandemic, reports of memory impairment increased exponentially. While virtual interaction or social media engagement can play a role in building relationships, it doesn't have the same effect as interpersonal communication. Even though some people like socialization less than others, all brains crave engagement with others.

**Q: Does physical health affect brain function?**

One of the most important things you can do to keep your mind sharp is to maintain proper heart health, stay physically active, get sufficient sleep and eat a balanced diet. There are some types of memory loss that are associated with nutrient deficiencies, so it's important to consider your diet when thinking about ways to keep your brain healthy.

Managing chronic conditions like diabetes, heart disease and hypertension can help you maintain optimal brain function.

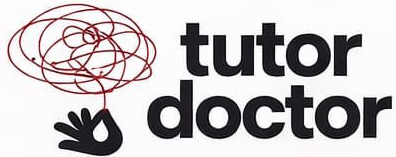
**Q: What are some early warning signs of cognitive decline to look out for?**

Dementia and Alzheimer's disease are not a normal part of aging. People with active, healthy minds have intact memory well into their 80s and 90s.

People with cognitive decline will often complain that things require more thought and effort than they used to. If forgetfulness is happening on a regular basis, getting in the way of routine tasks and activities, or if you're telling the same stories repeatedly, talk with your primary care provider about these memory concerns. They will be able to evaluate you and determine if follow-up specialty care is needed.

Through the Midstate Medical Moment, UPMC wants to raise awareness about the health conditions affecting people living in the communities we serve. For more information about UPMC services in Central Pennsylvania, visit [UPMC.com/centralpa](https://www.upmc.com/centralpa).





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## **CAEDC Awards Nearly \$1 Million in Tourism Grants for Cumberland County; 2026 Application Still Open**

The Cumberland Area Economic Development Corporation (CAEDC), through the Cumberland Valley Visitors Bureau, has awarded \$994,140 in tourism grant funding to support 14 projects across Cumberland County.

The funding is part of CAEDC's ongoing commitment to strengthening the region's tourism economy by enhancing visitor experiences, supporting local businesses, and investing in attractions that draw travelers to the Cumberland Valley. In 2025, CAEDC administered three grant programs: the Tourism Recovery Grant, Tourism Product Development Grant, and Destination Sales Grant.

A list of awarded projects is below:

### **2025 Tourism Product Development Grant**

- Cumberland Valley Rails to Trails received a \$176,000 grant to assist with construction of a trail along Middle Spring Creek. The project will connect the Shippensburg Station trailhead of the Cumberland Valley Rail Trail to downtown Shippensburg.
- Destiny Dairy Bar received a \$152,777 grant to enhance visitor experiences on the farm. Improvements include a pavilion with shade, seating, and lighting, a food truck for on-farm dining, and a concrete entrance to the cow barn to improve access for strollers and children.
- Midway Bowl received a \$133,709 grant to update event rooms, add better seating and shade to the outdoor patio, and install new windows and an ADA-accessible door.
- Jubilee Cake Studio received an \$87,020 grant to expand the indoor play area playhouses, amusement equipment, and LED displays.
- The Event Cafe was awarded a \$76,586 grant for ADA accessibility upgrades and structural improvements.
- Shippensburg University received a \$74,000 grant to support new equipment purchases that will enhance performance quality at the H. Ric Luhrs Performing Arts Center.
- Shippensburg University Foundation received a \$25,260 grant to support the creation and installation of "Happy Birthday! America's Milestone Celebrations from Lafayette to Today," an exhibit celebrating the nation's 250th anniversary at the Shippensburg Fashion Archives.

### **2025 Tourism Recovery Grant**

- Denim Coffee was awarded a \$10,000 grant for new furniture, a water filling station, butcher-block tabletops, and additional enhancements. [Denim Coffee's award was highlighted in a recent Success Story.](#)

- Williams Grove Historical Steam Engine Association received a \$5,819 grant to replace a 40-year-old sound system.

### **2025 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.
- Innovation Management Consulting LLC received an \$89,812 multi-year grant for the PA Gospel Fest in Shippensburg to cover artist fees and related expenses.
- Carlisle Family YMCA was awarded a \$24,155 grant for the Carlisle Crush Volleyball Tournament, supporting field maintenance and facility upgrades.
- Pennsylvania Junior Wrestling received a \$12,000 grant to assist with hiring officials and renting timing equipment and mats for the Youth Championships.
- Professional Women and Women Entrepreneurs Association received a \$7,000 grant to assist with performance and venue fees for the Annual Gala Dinner at the Penn Harris Hotel.

Since the program began in 2010, more than \$4.2 million in tourism grant funding has been awarded to 237 projects.

### **2026 Tourism Grant Opportunities**

CAEDC is currently accepting applications for its 2026 Tourism Grant program. Available opportunities include:

- **Tourism Product Development Grant:** Supports physical product development projects seeking between \$25,000 and \$500,000 for creating new tourism experiences that attract overnight visitors or provide experiences for visitors already in-market, including construction, furniture and fixtures, and equipment.
- **Tourism Partnership Grant:** Offers funding from \$2,500 to \$10,000 for smaller-scale product development projects that expand tourism products, experiences, or services designed to 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 quarterly. The next Tourism Grant Program application deadline is May 8, 2026. Grants are reviewed on a first-come, first-serve basis as funds are available. “CAEDC’s tourism grant program helps turn great ideas into visitor-focused experiences that strengthen Cumberland County’s appeal. By investing in projects that enhance attractions, events, and infrastructure, we’re driving tourism growth, supporting local businesses, and creating lasting economic impact for our community,” said CAEDC’s Director of Tourism and Marketing, Laura Delaney. To learn more about CAEDC’s tourism grants, including eligibility, timelines, and application guidelines, visit [cumberlandbusiness.com/tourism-grants](https://cumberlandbusiness.com/tourism-grants).

# **SBA Offers Disaster Relief to Pennsylvania Small Businesses and Private Nonprofits Affected by Rainfall**

## **Low interest disaster loans now available**



U.S. Small Business  
Administration

The [U.S. Small Business Administration \(SBA\)](#) announced the availability of low interest federal disaster loans to small businesses and private nonprofit (PNP) organizations in Pennsylvania who sustained economic losses caused by the rainfall beginning May 2-July 17, 2025.

The disaster declaration covers the counties of Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Perry and York.

Under this declaration, the SBA's [Economic Injury Disaster Loan \(EIDL\)](#) program is available to eligible small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, nurseries, and PNPs with financial losses directly related to this disaster. The SBA is unable to provide disaster loans to agricultural producers, farmers, or ranchers, except for aquaculture enterprises.

EIDLs are available for working capital needs caused by the disaster and are available even if the small business or PNP did not suffer any physical damage. The loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable, and other bills not paid due to the disaster.

“Through a declaration by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, SBA provides critical financial assistance to help communities recover,” said Chris Stallings, associate administrator of the Office of Disaster Recovery and Resilience at the SBA. “We’re pleased to offer loans to small businesses and private nonprofits impacted by these disasters.”

The loan amount can be up to \$2 million with interest rates as low as 4% for small businesses and 3.625% for PNPs, with terms up to 30 years. Interest does not accrue, and payments are not due until 12 months from the date of the first loan disbursement. The SBA sets loan amounts and terms based on each applicant’s financial condition.

To apply online visit [sba.gov/disaster](https://sba.gov/disaster). Applicants may also call SBA’s Customer Service Center at (800) 659-2955 or email [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov) for more information on SBA disaster assistance. For people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, please dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunications relay services.

The deadline to return economic injury applications is Sept. 29, 2026.

**[CLICK HERE FOR A FACT SHEET ON  
ECONOMIC INJURY DISTASTER LOANS \(EIDL\)](#)**



## 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](http://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](mailto:smsnyder@cumberlandcountypa.gov).