

Chamber CHATTER



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

4.30.26

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!

April

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

May

28 - 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

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!

AIA Alera Group
Civil War and More
Bill Houck
PaySmart Payroll Services
The Bridges at Bent Creek

16th Annual



REGIONAL FIESTA MIXER

THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2026

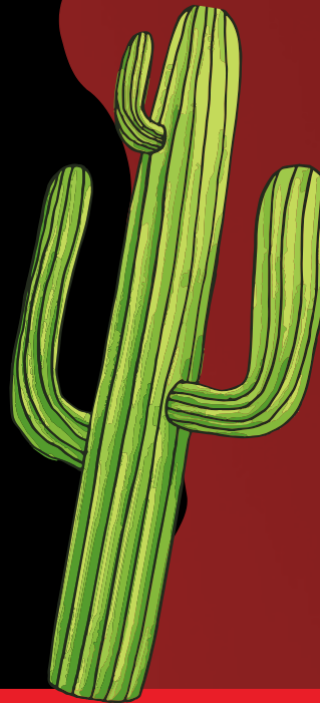
4:30 - 6:30 PM

V O L V O

Volvo Construction Equipment Customer Center 200 Rowe Road, Shippensburg

RSVP:

https://bit.ly/45DuEHa



Mechanicsburg Chamber of Commerce presents:

Business Leaders Discussion Group

Thursday, May 28

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!

**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 2026 EVENTS

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

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

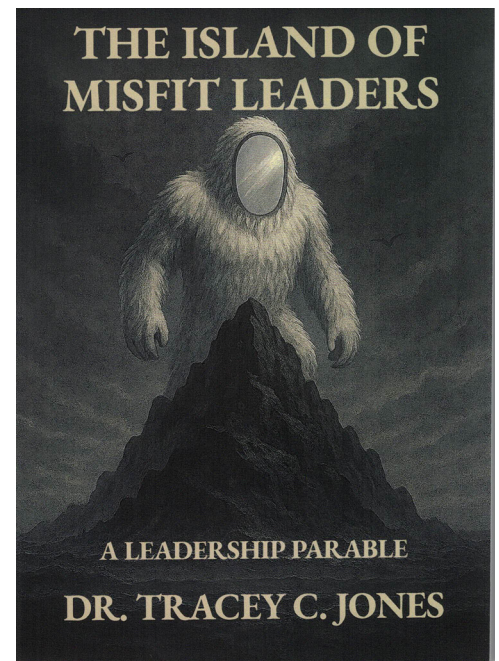
For more information - on HOSTING AN EVENT
contact the Chamber office at 717-796-0811 or email - info@mechanicsburgchamber.org.

Thank you to **Dr. Tracey Jones - Tremendous Leadership** for presenting the April A.M. Strategies ... for Business Success.

There were some fresh faces, great insight, and stimulating thoughts.

Tracey's presentation, "The Wildcat Factor: Lead Fierce. Lead Kind. Lead Well." touched upon 5 takeaways - Know Your Call Sign; Firm But Kind Is a Strategy, Not a Personality Trait; What Manny Taught Me About Your Business; The 60-Year Test; AI Didn't Replace Wildcat — It Armed Her.

Each attendees was also gifted with one of Dr. Jones' leadership books.



You may contact Dr. Tracey Jones to lead a leadership course for your group by contacting her through her websites:
www.tremendousleadership.com
and www.traceycjones.com



Thank you to the Joseph T. Simpson Public Library for use of the Tutor Room in accommodating our morning's presentation.



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



Aspiring Teachers Take Note



A state program that provides stipends to qualified student teachers in the Commonwealth is now accepting applications, according to the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA).

The PA Student Teacher Support Program provides \$10,000 to eligible student teachers and up to \$2,500 to cooperating teachers who will be working with and mentoring student teachers throughout the student teacher experience. Program recipients must commit to teaching in Pennsylvania for three years following the completion of their teaching certification.

Pennsylvanians who will be student teaching in the fall and spring semesters of the 2026-27 academic year are encouraged to apply. Stipends are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis, based on the date and time a completed application is received.

Learn more at pheaa.org/StudentTeacher.

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](#).

The Vehicle Emissions Inspection and Maintenance program mandates motorists in 25 Pennsylvania counties undergo annual emissions testing. However, a Joint State Government Commission study has shown that removing seven of these counties from the program would have minimal impact on maintaining federal air quality standards. Less than 1% of the five most recent model year vehicles fail annual emissions inspections.

The measure now goes to the full Senate for consideration. [You can read more about our efforts to reform emissions testing here.](#)

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.

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.

JAZZ ME BAND

KIRK WISE UPCOMING SOLO, DUO & BAND
PUBLIC DATES

Fri. 5/1 – Veterans Event, State Capitol...Kirk solo 10AM

Fri. 5/1 – AJ's on the Creek, Chincoteague, Virginia...Kirk solo 6-9

Tues. 5/5 – Range + Rye @ Range End, Dillsburg...Kirk solo 6-9

Wed. 5/6 – VibraLife, Mechanicsburg...Kirk solo 2:30

Sat. 5/8 – Reid's Wine & Cider House, Gettysburg...Kirk & Beth Duo 6-9

Sat. 5/9 – Captain Bob's Steamed Crabs, Railroad/ Shrewsbury...Kirk solo 6-8

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**

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.****



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

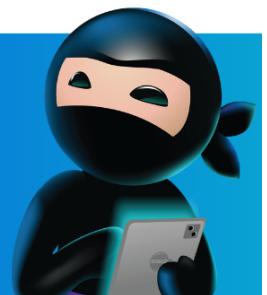
- Record an audition at your local Code Ninjas.
- Submissions are sent directly to casting.



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



Teacher Appreciation

at Mechanicsburg



Earn a Digital Costco Shopcard and a FREE pizza with every new teacher sign-up in the month of May, and enter to win a pizza party for your class!

\$40



Digital Costco Shop Card* with an Executive Membership sign-up

\$20



Digital Costco Shop Card* with a Gold Star Membership sign-up

*To receive a Digital Costco Shop Card, you must provide a valid teacher ID, email address, and set up auto renewal of your Costco membership on a Visa® card at the time of sign-up. If you elect not to provide a valid email address and sign up for auto renewal, a Digital Costco Shop Card will not be emailed. Valid only for nonmembers for their first year of membership. Limit one per household. Nontransferable and may not be combined with any other promotion. You must bring this flier to the Mechanicsburg Costco location to join in person with a Costco representative.

New members will receive their Digital Costco Shop Card by email within 2 weeks of sign-up. Costco Shop Cards are not redeemable for cash, except as required by law. A Costco membership is \$65 a year; an Executive Membership is an additional \$65 upgrade fee a year. Each membership includes one free Household Card. May be subject to sales tax. Costco accepts all Visa cards, as well as cash, checks, debit/ATM cards, EBT and Costco Shop Cards. Departments and product selection may vary. Shop Cards are valid at any U.S. Costco location. Employees of Costco are excluded.

Thank you, Teachers!

Pizza Party!

We appreciate you!

Your friends over at Costco Mechanicsburg, #1719 would like to say THANK YOU to all the Teachers who are helping grow our community from the ground up! From creating core memories in the classroom, developing self-confidence and competence, intelligence, and empathy, Teachers are one of the most important pillars of our growth into adulthood!

We would like to extend an exclusive welcome promotion to ALL Teachers in the Cumberland Valley district for Teacher Appreciation Week this upcoming May! In the month of May any Teachers that come to sign up for a new membership will receive a \$20/\$40 digital shop card, a FREE pizza from our food court, and an entry to win a Costco pizza party for their classroom!*

*This promotion is exclusive to Costco Mechanicsburg only, and open to all teachers interested in joining our member base for the first time (and/or teachers who have had an expired membership for 18 months or more). Please post the attached flier, and/or distribute digitally to your location!



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. 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.

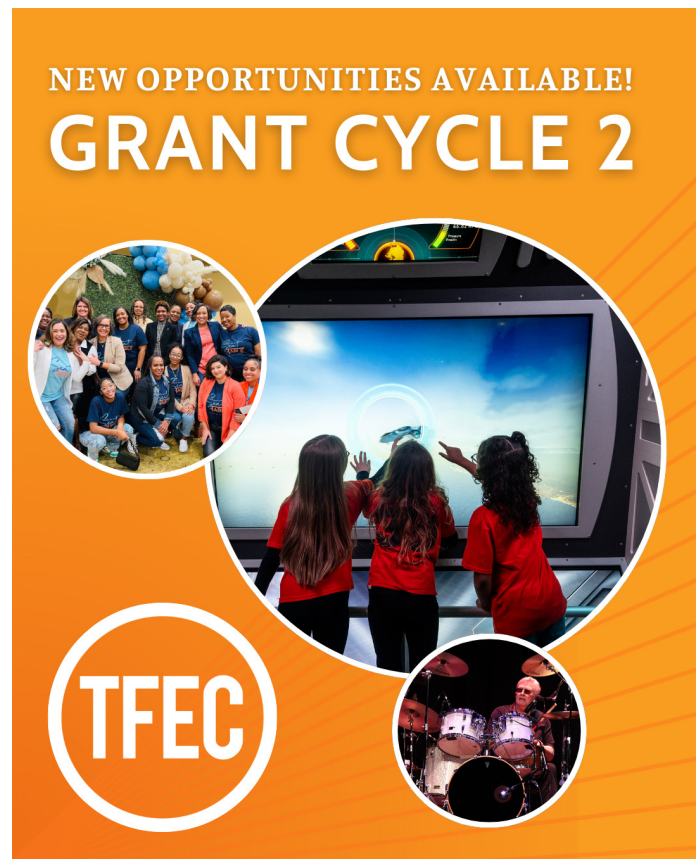
These funds support programs that strengthen families, expand access to education and health care, address basic needs, protect the environment and enrich communities through the arts.

“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.



APPLICATION DEADLINE - MAY 1

YOU ARE INVITED TO A FREE
UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION SEMINAR

Refusal of Suitable Work



Hosted by

PA CAREERLINK® Cumberland County

Location

PA CareerLink® Cumberland County

40 Noble BLVD #12

Carlisle, PA 17013

Thursday, May 7, 2026

Program Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Registration

Register through www.pacareerlink.pa.gov or by

Email: nathan.trindel@equusworks.com using

"UC Seminar" in the subject line

by *April 28, 2026.*

Please contact the PA CareerLink® Cumberland County
at 717-243-4431 / TTY: 717-243-3236 **if you require a
disability accommodation.**

Topics

The UC Service Center is often contacted about what to do when a person refuses work. This presentation explains the application of Section 402(a) of the PA UC Law (Refusal of Suitable Work). Discussion includes the employer's responsibilities regarding notification that a job offer has been made to both the Claimant and the service center, the factors used in suitable work determinations and appeal rights.

Our seminar will guide you through the process of informing the UC Service Center of such offers. A few of the important points we will explain include...

- How an employer should notify us of a refusal to accept a job offer
- How the UC Service Center will investigate the job offer
- What factors determine if a job offer is indeed "Suitable"
- What exceptions exist to such offers and how we apply exceptions
- What additional protections an employer has when placing an offer through the PA CareerLink® System
- How important time deadlines can affect the determination

Questions & Answers

Our skilled professionals will be available to answer your questions and help you to better understand everything about the UC program.

For more information on all aspects of unemployment compensation, go online at **www.uc.pa.gov** and click on "Employer Services."

*Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.
Equal Opportunity Employer/Program*



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



Now Hiring:



Special Education Teachers



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(Elementary through High School)

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Email: 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

GFWC (General Federation of Women's Clubs) Mechanicsburg



The next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 12 at 7:00 PM at Buhrig's Gathering Place, 25 East Main Street, Mechanicsburg. Our speaker will be Joyce Kieffer, RN, BS and author of "The Trees Remember," a trilogy of historical novels: "The Trees Inspire," "The Trees Endure," and "The Trees Remember."

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://gfwcmech.tripod.com/>



THE FOUNDATION FOR ENHANCING COMMUNITIES

TFEC's Offers New Opportunity to Financially Support Young Learners Throughout the Summer

Families should take advantage of this new opportunity to offset the financial burden of summer camps for their young children. The Foundation for Enhancing Communities (TFEC) is breaking down barriers to summer learning with a new scholarship that helps cover the cost of children's participation in summer educational programs.

By funding this scholarship, TFEC ensures that children return to school better prepared; families are supported, and our communities grow stronger, more resilient and equitable. It's a part of their Early Education Initiative, which aims to cultivate fun and fascinating community opportunities for children. With an award of up to \$2,000 per child, TFEC wants our little learners to excel. Applications are open now and will close on May 15.

Eligible families must live in TFEC's service area of Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Lebanon, Perry Counties and the Dillsburg area of Northern York County. This scholarship supports eligible rising Kindergarten through fifth-grade students. For more questions, please reach out to grants@tfec.org or visit www.tfec.org.

Start your application today by clicking [here!](#)

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 20th • 6:00pm
Light Refreshments Served

RSVP by Monday, May 18 to
christine.meukel@bridgesatbentcreek.com

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



Learn more about our community at 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>

Cornerstone Chiropractic Wellness has moved!

Cornerstone
CHIROPRACTIC
the family wellness center

You may now find
Dr. Curren at
2 Kacey Court, Suite 101
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
(717) 458-5877

welcome@cornerstonechiropractic.us



WWW.TFEC.ORG/HBGHOOPLA

HARRISBURG HOOPLA

#COMPETEFORACAUSE

Harrisburg Hoopla Returns June 6 to Support Local Nonprofits

Harrisburg Hoopla will return to City Island on Saturday, June 6, 2026, giving teams from across the region a chance to compete for a cause while supporting local nonprofits.

Hosted as a program of The Foundation for Enhancing Communities, Harrisburg Hoopla is a full-day event where friends, coworkers and neighbors form teams to take on physical challenges and puzzle games. Each team selects a local nonprofit to represent and competes to win money that will be donated to that organization.

The event offers participants a fun way to give back while providing nonprofits with a unique opportunity to engage supporters, build visibility and raise funds for their mission. Proceeds from Harrisburg Hoopla also help support the Emerging Philanthropists Program at TFEC.

In 2025, Harrisburg Hoopla welcomed more than 100 participants across 12 spirited teams. The event generated more than \$11,000 in sponsorship support and has raised more than \$70,000 overall.

Top finishers in 2025 included Dogs & Dolls, which competed for Humane Society of Harrisburg Area, Enterprise Mobility, which competed for Junior Achievement of South Central PA, and The Nice Guys, which competed for American Cancer Society.

Team registration is now open. Nonprofits are encouraged to invite supporters, staff members and volunteers to form a team and compete on behalf of their organization.

To learn more about Harrisburg Hoopla, visit www.tfec.org/hbghoopla.

JOIN US FOR THE

Annual Parade of Trees

Does your business or organization want to give back to the community and help local families? We invite you to participate in a fundraiser that benefits Highmark Caring Place, a program dedicated to supporting children & families who are grieving. Your participation can make a real difference in their lives!

You can participate by
SPONSORING A TREE - \$250
or **WREATH - \$100**

- Includes a holiday tree (approx. 6 ft. with white lights) or wreath that you get to decorate! You can showcase your brand or promote the work that you do in the community!
- Community exposure through a social media campaign and in-house guests!
- Special community event in December to highlight sponsors!

Engage your team by decorating together!
Tree & wreath decorating will be held on
November 24, 4:00pm-6:00pm

Contact Penn Harris Hotel Sales Office to reserve your sponsorship today!
(717) 433-9714 or kbrown@centrehotel.com



Parade of Trees sponsor a local non-profit!

Are you a business that wants to give back to your local community? You can TRIPLE the impact of your donation by sponsoring your favorite non-profit!

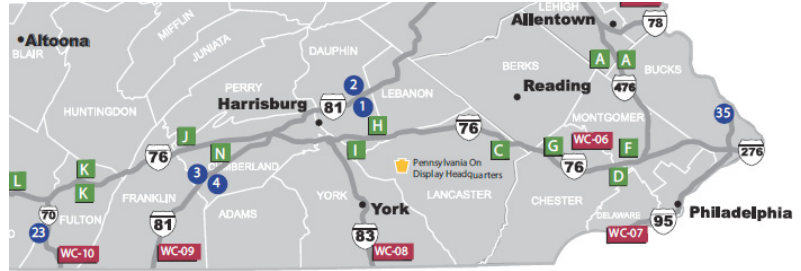
How it works:

- Sponsor a tree/wreath on behalf of your favorite local non-profit.
- The non-profit you choose gets to decorate a tree to highlight their work & increase community exposure.
- Your business is highlighted as a corporate sponsor.
- All proceeds of your donation go directly to grieving children & families supported by Highmark Caring Place.
- Highmark matches your donation!

Support two causes with one gift today!



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.

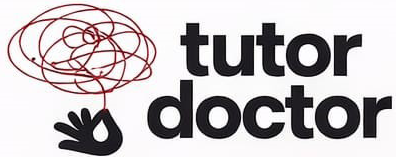
1. Celebrate America's 250th birthday in July! Gettysburg and many PA locations will have special commemorative events to experience this once-in-a-generation milestone,
2. FIFA World Cup in Philadelphia, June 14 to July 4th! Fans from more than 200 countries have requested tickets and Pennsylvania is 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



One-on-One In-Home & Online Tutoring

Now Enrolling for 2026

Personalized Tutoring for Every Learner

Tutor Doctor provides **customized, one-on-one tutoring** tailored to your child's learning style — delivered in-home or online.

Subjects We Offer

Math

- Elementary Math
- Pre-Algebra
- Algebra I & II
- Geometry
- Pre-Calculus
- Calculus
- Statistics

Science

- Elementary & Middle School Science
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics

Other Subjects

- Social Studies
- French

★ Specialized Programs

- Special Education Support
- Executive Function & Study Skills
- Homework Help
- Test Prep (SAT / ACT)
- **Language Arts (ELA)**
- Reading & Comprehension
- Writing & Grammar
- Vocabulary Building



Why Choose Tutor Doctor?

- One-on-One Personalized Attention
- Customized Learning Plans
- Flexible Scheduling
- Builds Confidence & Academic Success



Flexible Learning Options

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- Online Tutoring
- Live, Interactive Sessions
- Sessions Tailored to Strengths & Needs

REGISTER NOW | Serving Harrisburg & Mechanicsburg

 **717-927-7204**

www.tutordocor.com/harrisburg-mechanicsburg



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.

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. Applicants may also call SBA’s Customer Service Center at (800) 659-2955 or email 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.
- 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.