

August 20, 2025



# NEWSLETTER

## FORWARD LAWRENCE

### CHAMBER AND ECONOMIC ALLIANCE

CONNECT • MARKET • ADVOCATE • EDUCATE • ENHANCE

2025

# REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT BREAKFAST

AUGUST 15, 2025



## Real Estate Development Breakfast Showcases Opportunities in Lawrence County

Forward Lawrence welcomed a roomful of real estate professionals, community leaders, and economic development experts at the 2025 Real Estate Development Breakfast on August 15 at the Avalon Field Club at New Castle. The invitation-only event offered insights into Lawrence County's most strategic development opportunities while providing a unique networking platform for regional leaders.

### Opening Remarks

Executive Director, Benjamin Bush, opened the morning by emphasizing the potential for Lawrence County's growth.

He was joined by Justin Capouellez, Field Representative for the SW Region PA Association of Realtors, Stephen Demofonte, Chairman of the Neshannock Township Supervisors, developers, John LaCarte and Richie McClure, who each underscored the importance of collaboration between local government, developers, and business leaders to drive successful projects.

The program also featured an introduction of Maxwell Frederick, Economic Development Specialist for Forward Lawrence, who works directly with businesses and developers to support investment opportunities throughout the county.



Click here to view the PowerPoint Presentation:  
[Unlocking Opportunities in Lawrence County](#)







## Highlighting Sites and Facilities

Bush led a presentation outlining available sites and facilities across Lawrence County, ranging from industrial parks and commercial corridors to retail, residential, and data center opportunities. Key topics including the Industrial Sites Assessment, Brownfields Assessment Grant, and announcement of the upcoming hotel study were also featured, demonstrating the county's commitment to readiness and long-term growth.

## Economic Outlook

The program's keynote was delivered by Dr. Russell Mills, Regional Executive of the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland's Pittsburgh Branch. Dr. Mills provided an economic outlook that connected national and regional trends with local opportunities. He noted that while businesses are navigating challenges such as inflation and shifting workforce needs, Lawrence County's proactive site development and planning position it competitively within the Pittsburgh metro region.

## Closing & Networking

The event wrapped up with door prizes including an overnight Stay-and-Play package in New Wilmington Borough and continued conversation among attendees. Networking proved just as valuable as the presentations, with many participants connecting on future projects and partnerships.

## Looking Ahead

The Real Estate Development Breakfast reinforced that Lawrence County is prepared to welcome investment and development across multiple sectors. Forward Lawrence extends its thanks to all speakers and attendees and looks forward to building on this momentum. Stay tuned for upcoming opportunities to engage with us as we continue to shape the region's economic future.



# Chamber Perk-Up



[Register Here](#)

**Friday Morning  
Aug 22, 2025  
7:30 - 9:30 AM**

## **Join us at the FANCY STRAWBERRY**

We couldn't be more excited!

**The Fancy Strawberry Cafe** is hosting our August Chamber Perk-Up!

Latonia Smith, owner of **The Fancy Strawberry Cafe** welcomes us to check out this wonderful new cafe in downtown New Castle. Hear from Kelsey Schnur of **Casa of Midwest PA** about their mission to train and provide quality volunteer advocates for children.

Chamber Perk-Ups are breakfast networking events bringing local business professionals together over coffee, encouraging casual conversations, quick introductions, and relationship-building. Attendees connect, share ideas, promote their businesses, and hear community updates and brief guest presentations.

**[Click here to Register](#)**

**The Fancy Strawberry**  
101 North Mill Street  
New Castle, PA 16101  
**FREE FOR MEMBERS**  
**Non-Members Pay \$5**



**FORWARD**  **LAWRENCE**  
CHAMBER AND ECONOMIC ALLIANCE





# FORWARD LAWRENCE

CHAMBER AND ECONOMIC ALLIANCE

## STATE OF THE COUNTY

Presented By:



SENATOR ELDER A.  
VOGEL, JR.



REPRESENTATIVE  
AARON BERNSTINE



REPRESENTATIVE  
MARLA BROWN



SENATOR  
MICHELE BROOKS



COMMISSIONER  
DAN KENNEDY



COMMISSIONER  
DAN VOGLER



COMMISSIONER  
CHRIS SAINATO



MELANIE BREWER  
DISTRICT DIRECTOR  
REPRESENTATIVE MIKE KELLY

Join an informative panel discussion with elected officials, focusing on key topics such as economic policy, business incentives, economic development, infrastructure, and more.

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18**

8:30 AM - 11:00 AM

Cost: \$35

Breakfast Included

Register on [lawrencecounty.com](http://lawrencecounty.com) or  
email [overby@lawrencecounty.com](mailto:overby@lawrencecounty.com)

**Westminster College**

Witherspoon Rooms (Lakeview &  
Maple) Located inside the McKelvey  
Campus Center

319 S Market St.  
New Wilmington, PA 16172

**LIMITED SEATS AVAILABLE**

We are now accepting question submissions for the elected officials at the State of the County event. Have a question?  
Send it to [info@lawrencecounty.com](mailto:info@lawrencecounty.com)!



PRESENTED BY:



# HACKERS & HASHBROWNS

CYBER SECURITY  
BREAKFAST



**Topics Include:**

- Ransomware Trends
- Remote Workforce Security
- Cloud Security
- Phishing Attack Trends
- Two-Factor Authentication (2FA)
- Mobile Device Management (MDM)
- Security Fundamentals



**Tuesday, October 14th**

7:30 AM - 9:30 AM

**IBEW Local 712**

3891 Wilmington Rd  
New Castle, PA 16105

CALL OR EMAIL TO RSVP

724-658-1488

[perry@lawrencecounty.com](mailto:perry@lawrencecounty.com)

FREE TO MEMBERS!  
\$10 NON-MEMBERS



**FORWARD**  **LAWRENCE**  
CHAMBER AND ECONOMIC ALLIANCE



# NATIONAL BROWNFIELDS TRAINING CONFERENCE - 2025

Earlier this month, Lawrence County Economic Development Corporation's (LCEDC) Director, Diane Richardson, and Economic Development Specialist, Maxwell Frederick, represented our Forward Lawrence team at the 2025 National Brownfields Training Conference, held August 5-8 at McCormick Place in Chicago the largest U.S. gathering dedicated to environmental revitalization and economic redevelopment. This bi-annual event, co-hosted by the EPA and ICMA, drew more than 2,000 professionals and offered over 180 sessions, mobile workshops, and valuable networking opportunities.

They were immersed in a range of programming, from technical seminars to policy discussions. Highlights included sessions on GIS-based ESRI StoryMaps, strategies for stacking multiple funding sources, and conversations with EPA Region 3 staff who showcased real-world projects from start to finish. They also connected with Catalyst Connection's Petra Mitchell and attended a panel of mayors from multiple states who shared best practices from successful Brownfields redevelopment projects.

The conference emphasized how recent administrative priorities such as green energy, solar, and tax abatement programs are shaping redevelopment efforts. While Brownfields projects often face delays due to remediation costs and uncertainty around contamination, the EPA continues to expand programs that protect future property owners from liability. This protection is essential to attracting the private investment dollars needed to move projects forward.

A standout moment for Max and Diane was the keynote by Steve Weikal, Industry Chair of the Real Estate Transformation Lab at MIT and a leading voice on how technology is reshaping the built environment. His talk, "AI in Real Estate: Reshaping How We Develop, Operate, and Invest," explored how artificial intelligence can streamline workflows, assess site viability, and predict investment outcomes. His insights resonated strongly and sparked ideas for how Lawrence County can integrate these tools into our own redevelopment strategies.

Max and Diane returned both energized and inspired with fresh approaches to planning, new mapping techniques, and a new appreciation for deep-dish pizza.



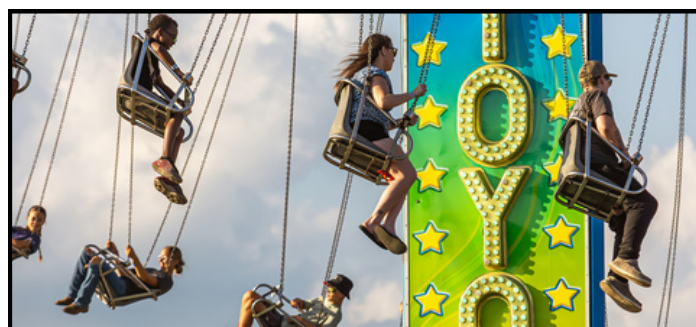




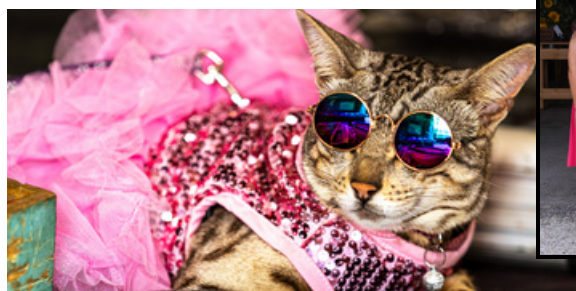
# 2025 LAWRENCE COUNTY FAIR

## WHAT A GREAT WEEK AT THE LAWRENCE COUNTY FAIR

Forward Lawrence was proud to have a booth at this year's Lawrence County Fair, and it gave us the perfect chance to connect with so many of our members and neighbors. Throughout the week, we stopped by local exhibits, watched families enjoy the rides, and saw firsthand the endless hard work that goes into showcasing the best of our county. From livestock displays and youth projects to local food vendors and small businesses, the fair is a reminder of what makes Lawrence County such a special place to live, work, and do business.



We were especially glad to see and support so many of our Chamber members who were involved whether as sponsors, volunteers, or participants. We love the fair, and we love Lawrence County!





# FIRST STEP: BUSINESS ESSENTIALS

What You'll Learn:

- Business Registration
- Insurance
- Funding
- Taxes
- Business Planning



**August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025**

10am - 12pm

Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce  
325 E Washington St  
New Castle, PA 16101



**Doug Harding**  
Senior Business Consultant

**\*This is an In-Person Workshop**



412-396-1633



[www.sbdc.duq.edu](http://www.sbdc.duq.edu)

Register Now

Pennsylvania  
**CareerLink™ Day**

JOIN THE WORKFORCE IN PA

## COMMUNITY RESOURCE FAIR

**Thursday, September 11 | 10 am - 2 pm**

- PA CareerLink® registration assistance
- Get information on local agencies and organizations
- Get help; find resources; get referrals!
- Learn about tuition assistance, youth programs, resume writing, career exploration and more!

**Lawrence County**  
101 S. Mercer St.  
New Castle  
**724-656-3165**

[tinyurl.com/jobfairSRC](https://tinyurl.com/jobfairSRC)

A proud partner of the **americanjobcenter** network



For more information about programs and funding,  
visit: <https://www.wjcp.org/resources/stevens/>

\*Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request  
to individuals with disabilities. The PA CareerLink® is  
an Equal Opportunity Employer/Program provider.

COMMUNITY  
RESOURCES

GIVEAWAYS

FOOD  
& FUN!

## LIVE UNITED

United Way of  
Lawrence County **100**  
*a century of service 1925-2025*

### 2025 "DAY OF CARING"

JOIN HANDS...OPEN YOUR HEART...LEND YOUR MUSCLE...

FIND YOUR VOICE

GIVE 10% GIVE 100% GIVE 110% GIVE AN HOUR

GIVE A DAY

THINK OF WE BEFORE ME...REACH OUT A HAND TO ONE...

INFLUENCE THE CONDITION OF ALL

GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER. LIVE UNITED!!!

~ Thursday, September 4, 2025 ~

8:00-9:15 am ~ Breakfast: Cascade Park Pavilion

9:30-4:00 pm ~ Community Projects

For more information contact United Way ~ 724-658-8528 or [www.uwlawcty.org](http://www.uwlawcty.org)

Scan here to register!





# UNITED WAY OF LAWRENCE COUNTY 100th ANNIVERSARY GALA CELEBRATION

*A Century of Service*  
1925-2025



UNITED WAY OF  
LAWRENCE COUNTY

**Monday, September 29, 2025**

**5:00-8:00 pm**

**Scottish Rite Cathedral  
110 E. Lincoln Ave.  
New Castle, PA**

**Individual Tickets - \$125  
Couples \$200**

**\*Proceeds benefit United Way of Lawrence County Endowment Fund\***

**Celebrate with us in your  
Roaring Twenties Fashion**

**RSVP by September 19, 2025**

**Make checks payable to: United Way of Lawrence County  
223 N. Mercer St., New Castle, PA 16101**

**Or click the DONATE button at: [www.uwlawcty.org](http://www.uwlawcty.org)**

**\_\_\_ Couple**

**Or Scan Here**



**\_\_\_ Single**

**Please mark your choice for entree:**

**\_\_\_ Chicken Francaise with Lemon**

**\_\_\_ Baked Grouper w/Wilted Spinach**

**\_\_\_ Eggplant Rollatini (Vegetarian)**



United Way of Lawrence County  
*a century of service*  
1925-2025

Great networking opportunity!

Featuring our local restaurants!

**2025 ANNUAL FUNDRAISER**

## TASTE OF THE TOWN

**Monday, October 20, 2025**

**5:00 ~ 7:30 pm**

**New Englander**

**3009 Wilmington Rd.  
New Castle, PA**



**Corporate/Family Reserved Table of 10 ~ \$435**

**Individual Tickets ~ \$45**

**Full Page Ad: \_\_\_\$100 1/2 Page Ad: \_\_\_\$50 1/4 Page Ad: \_\_\_\$25**

**Please send jpg to [mirathompson@uwlawcty.org](mailto:mirathompson@uwlawcty.org)**

**Over 20 area restaurants will serve samples of their fine cuisine.**

**Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Address: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Phone: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Please make checks payable to: United Way of Lawrence County**

**223 N. Mercer St**

**New Castle, PA 16101**

**Phone: 724-658-8528 ~ Fax: 724-658-6394**

**Website: [www.uwlawcty.org](http://www.uwlawcty.org)**

**VISA/MasterCard/Discover/American Express accepted!**



## BOBBY THOMPSON AND THE CHOSEN FEW

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 23 | 9PM-11PM**



*Golden Pickle*  
SPORTS BAR







## VALUE OF FARMLAND INCREASING RAPIDLY

Farmland real estate values continue to increase across the U.S. and rose to record levels in 2025, reaching \$5,330 per acre, a 4.7% increase, (+ \$260 per acre), from 2024.

Continuing a long-term trend, California and Northeastern states reported the highest average cropland values, followed by the Midwest and Florida. The Sunshine State increases are being driven by strong specialty crop production and residential development.

Pennsylvania mirrors national trends with the average farm real estate value rising to \$6,800 per acre in 2023, marking an 8.8% increase from the previous year. Cropland values rose by 7.9% to \$7,600 per acre, and pastureland increased by 9.1% to \$3,600 per acre. Acreage with road and utility access, developable terrain, and locations near growing cities and amenities tend to sell best. Forested mountain lands and remote barren sites have weaker demand.

Some of this growth in farmland values is also being fueled by renewed confidence following recent federal disaster assistance authorized under the 2025 American Relief Act. The legislation provides a combined \$30 billion in ad hoc aid, including approximately \$21 billion for 2023 – 2024 natural disaster losses and \$10 billion in Emergency Commodity Assistance Program payments tied to 2024 per-acre losses.

In addition, farm real estate continues to face upward pressure from competing land uses, including solar and energy development, lifestyle-driven demand fueled by expanded telework opportunities and continued interest from investors who view farmland as a stable, inflation-resilient asset class.

Changes in farmland values are geographically uneven, however, and are influenced by such variables as regional water constraints and shifting crop patterns. In some areas, recent federal disaster assistance may have tempered pressure to renegotiate downward.

Washington and Montana led the country in cropland cash rent growth, up 10.7% and 8.2%, respectively, followed by Alabama at 8.1%. Meanwhile, cropland rents in Hawaii, New Mexico, Wyoming, West Virginia and Massachusetts declined by more than 5%, likely due to a mix of stabilized drought conditions, changing land use priorities and rebalancing after years of sharp growth.

Yet, some warning signs are evident that increasing farmland values may soon slow. Economist Daniel Munch of Market Intel reports, "Much of the current support stems from ad-hoc federal disaster and economic aid, not stronger market fundamentals." He adds, "Land values remain strong, but long-term farm profitability is increasingly reliant on policy, not price."

Despite having more than 650,000 acres of preserved farmland in Pennsylvania, these lands remain vulnerable to utility and infrastructure projects. Pennsylvania agriculture is a \$132.5 billion industry that provides more than 593,000 jobs to Pennsylvanians but faces a significant challenge as preserved farmland is not as protected from industrial and development projects as many believe.

The Pennsylvania Farm Bureau is advocating for legislation to provide farmers with more financial compensation when their land is taken by eminent domain and multiple bills are currently being proposed.

Republican Senators Cris Dush and Kristin Phillips-Hill have each introduced bills that would make it more expensive for agencies and organizations to seize land from farmers.

Senator Dush's measure SB 225 passed the Pennsylvania Senate unanimously in June. It would require seizing agencies to take "goodwill" into account when they pay for land taken through eminent domain. That means an agency will need to financially account for the impact a farm has on the community and ancillary costs that are incurred when relocating a farmer.

Upward pressure on farmland values will likely continue with increases driven by such factors as shrinking arable land, rising food demand, urban sprawl, population growth, and environmental degradation.

Even billionaires like Bill Gates and Jeff Bezos are quietly buying up vast amounts of farmland and recognize that farmland is low-volatility and an asset that preserves and grows generational wealth.

The Pennsylvania Farmland Preservation Association cites multiple reasons for preserving farmland including securing local food sources, maintaining local heritage and quality of life, stabilizing property taxes, boosting local economies, and ensuring a healthy environment.

Pennsylvania leads the nation in terms of permanently preserved farms and acreage. For farm families, farming is more than a business – it's their heritage and enables them to create a meaningful and enduring legacy for generations to come.

Sources:

[Career Exploration | Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Multiple efforts being made to protect PA preserved farmland from eminent domain YouTube / V12959 V2 Iteration on BP 16X9 https://www.fb.org/market-intel/real-estate-rising-farmland-values-hit-record-high The Soaring Price of American Farmland | OilPrice.com Why Preserve Farmland | PFFA | PA Farmland Preservation Assoc.](#)



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We are customer service-oriented and ready to adapt to the needs of your business.

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We are dedicated to exceeding industry standards to protect your digital assets.

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Our team can help you evaluate opportunities to save, scale, and secure your environment.

04



## IT ADVISORY

We tailor our services to provide a customized approach to compliance and security.

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**Stop in and support Echoes of Time, a new antique store in New Castle, PA!**

1401 E Washington St  
New Castle, PA 16101

Open Wednesday - Saturday  
10:00 - 4:00



Etsy



# START A BUSINESS, GROW YOUR BUSINESS!



The Duquesne University Small Business Development Center (SBDC) offers **no-cost, confidential consulting services and training workshops** in southwestern Pennsylvania to empower entrepreneurs and small business owners with the knowledge they need to start, grow, and prosper.



WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20TH : 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

## Get Your Website Reviewed (webinar)

In this session, Web design experts will look at each participants' website and help them improve their design and optimize their websites for search engines.

[Learn More](#) →



THURSDAY, AUGUST 21ST : 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

## Franchise Fundamentals: What Every Buyer Should Know (webinar)

Thinking about buying a franchise? Join our free webinar, Franchise Fundamentals, to learn how to evaluate opportunities, spot red flags, and choose the right

[Learn More](#) →



THURSDAY, AUGUST 21ST : 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

## First Step: Business Essentials (Lawrence) (in-person)

Taking the initial step can be scary, but the Duquesne SBDC will help you create a strong business plan!

[Learn More](#) →



THURSDAY, AUGUST 28TH : 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

## AI Small Business Essentials (in-person)

Supercharging Your Business's Productivity With Generative Artificial Intelligence

[Learn More](#) →



Small Business Development Center  
Duquesne University

*Helping businesses start, grow, and prosper.*

[Check out SBDC's Full Workshop Calendar](#)



Interested in

# EXPANDING YOUR BUSINESS

THROUGH GOVERNMENT  
CONTRACTING?

**WE CAN HELP!**

The APEX Accelerator (formerly known as PTAC) is THE government contracting program for northwest Pennsylvania. A service provided by the Northwest Commission, APEX Accelerator is a FREE resource offered to businesses interested in pursuing contracts in the government market.



Contact the APEX  
team today!



814-677-4800 ext 130



ApexAccelerator@northwestpa.org



northwestpa.org/government-contracting

## KEY SERVICES

RECEIVE **FREE** ASSISTANCE & CONFIDENTIAL  
ONE-ON-ONE COUNSELING TO:

- Determine government contracting potential & find new areas of opportunity
- Review solicitations and properly submit bids & proposals
- Understand regulations, registrations and certifications
- And so much more!!

We assist with all levels of government including Federal, State and Local, as well as government subcontracting!

This APEX Accelerator is funded in-part through a cooperative agreement with the Department of Defense (DoD)

WESTMINSTER COLLEGE

# PROFESSIONAL NETWORKING SYMPOSIUM



**SAVE THE DATE!**

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2025**

Promote your business to hundreds of Westminster students who are searching for internships and careers. Contact Justin Gregorich at [gregorjr@westminster.edu](mailto:gregorjr@westminster.edu) for questions regarding the Career & Networking Fair or register to attend [here](#).



Met-Ed • Penelec • Penn Power • West Penn Power

## CUSTOM BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS ASSISTANCE

RECEIVE FINANCIAL INCENTIVES  
FOR YOUR ENERGY-EFFICIENT FACILITY

The Custom Building Improvements (CBI) Assistance Program offered by FirstEnergy's Pennsylvania utilities provides complimentary analysis and financial incentives to help offset the cost of implementing energy-efficient strategies for existing commercial, industrial, government, and institutional buildings. Our program provides you with the tools and incentives to improve your building's energy performance.



### COMPLIMENTARY ANALYSIS

Customized analysis shows the energy savings, cost savings, and incentives associated with your energy efficiency plans. Receive results that align with your implementation schedule.



### INCENTIVE<sup>1</sup>

Help lower the cost of implementing strategies. Incentives are based on annual electric savings as modeled and verified-as-installed by FirstEnergy's Pennsylvania electric companies.

### LIMITED TIME OFFER INCENTIVE STRUCTURE<sup>2</sup>

**\$0.15**  
per kWh saved

**\$300**  
per kW (average coincident) saved<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> To be eligible for incentives, all lighting must be DesignLights Consortium (DLC) or ENERGY STAR<sup>®</sup> listed, and all food service equipment and appliances must be ENERGY STAR rated. Incentives are paid upon construction completion.

<sup>2</sup> Incentive increase, effective December 1, 2024 through May 31, 2025. Conditions apply.

<sup>3</sup> Coincident peak window: June 1 – August 31, 2–6 pm, non-holiday weekdays

United Way of  
Lawrence County

a century of service 1925-2025



Sponsored by:



COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION  
OF WESTERN PA & EASTERN OH



PNC

**NALCO Water**  
An Ecolab Company

## Home Buyer Classes

\$50 Gift Card\*

Class Schedule:

Aug. 19, 2025

Aug. 26, 2025

Sept. 2, 2025

Sept. 9, 2025

Sept. 16, 2025

Class Topics Include

- Understanding Your Credit Report
- Setting Financial Goals
- Meet your local bankers
- Neighborhood Legal Services
- Utility Tips...and more

Time: 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Where: First Presbyterian Church  
125 N. Jefferson St, NC, PA



Please call the United Way office to apply. Spanish Translator will be available. Classes are limited. UWLC 724-658-8528

\*Gift Cards are given upon completion of all sessions







**ELLWOOD** Corporate Sponsor

## 2025 Day of Caring

"Together we are Stronger!"

- WHAT** "United Way Day of Caring" is the mobilization to perform community service work and respond to critical social problems in the community. On our last Day of Caring held in 2024 there were over 200 volunteers (individuals, and teams of employees from numerous local organizations) painted buildings, assisted the handicapped, repaired campgrounds and performed other tasks for community health and human service agencies.
- WHEN** THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2025
- WHERE** Non-profit organizations and community facilities throughout the Lawrence Co. area.
- AGENDA** Lawrence County Volunteer Mobilization Effort:  
8:00 am - 9:15am: Volunteers will meet at the Cascade Park Pavilion for breakfast and program located at Cascade Park (1928 E. Washington St., New Castle, PA 16101)  
9:30 am - 4:00 pm: Volunteers perform community service tasks at various sites  
**Speaker - "Pastor Jared Ballou, Keystone Baptist Church"**  
\*Day of Caring tee shirts will be available for pick up at the Cascade Park Pavilion
- WAYS TO HELP** In addition to participating in volunteer activities, individuals can take food, toys children's books to the Salvation Army, People in Need, Arise Crisis Shelter or the City Rescue Mission.
- BENEFITS** Volunteers see first-hand the needs in our community and how their volunteer tasks can make a positive impact on those need. Day of Caring will also give volunteers a look at the services non-profit organizations provide and how their contributions of time and money help people. **Day of Caring** gives the community a chance to mobilize for a common cause of helping others in need.
- MORE INFO** Contact the United Way of Lawrence County (724-658-8528) or visit [www.uwlawcty.org](http://www.uwlawcty.org)

"THANK YOU TO ALL THE 2025 SPONSORS"

Scan here to register!



**AARON BERNSTINE**

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

## GOLF OUTING

### GOLF

\$500/FOURSOME

18 holes including cart

Coffee and donut breakfast

Beer/pop/water on the course

Hot dogs/chips at turn

Steak dinner after golf

\$50/PERSON DINNER ONLY

### SPONSOR

\$100 HOLE SPONSOR

Tee sign

Public recognition at event

Social media promotion

MAIL PAYMENT TO:

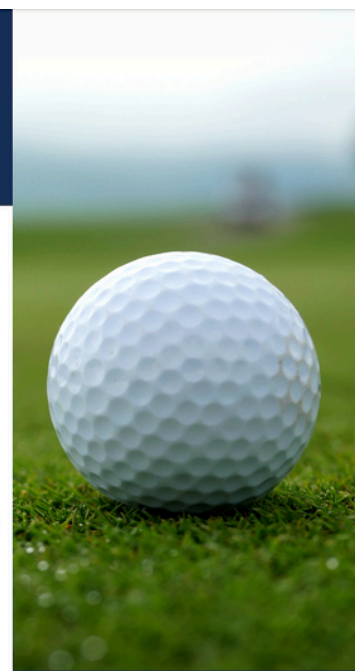
Friends of Aaron Bernstine

254 State Route 168

New Galilee, PA 16141

FOR MORE INFORMATION, EMAIL  
[INFO@AARONFORSTATEREPA.COM](mailto:info@aaronforstaterep.com)

PAID FOR BY FRIENDS OF AARON BERNSTINE



**FRIDAY, AUG. 29, 2025**

**CASTLE HILLS GOLF COURSE**

**110 W. OAKWOOD WAY**

**NEW CASTLE, PA 16105**

**7 A.M. REGISTRATION**

**8 A.M. SHOTGUN START**

LEARN MORE ABOUT  
CASA OF MIDWEST PA AT  
[WWW.CASAMIDWESTPA.ORG](http://WWW.CASAMIDWESTPA.ORG)

**CASA OF MIDWEST PA'S 1<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL**

# 5K FAMILY FUN RUN

**10:00 AM AUGUST 23, 2025**

SHARPSVILLE PLAZA, TROUT ISLAND TRAIL  
NORTH MERCER AVE SHARPSVILLE PA 16150

LACE UP YOUR SNEAKERS FOR A DAY OF FUN AND  
COMMUNITY SPIRIT! PROCEEDS DIRECTLY BENEFIT YOUR  
COMMUNITY, HELPING US ADVOCATE FOR CHILDREN WHO  
HAVE EXPERIENCED ABUSE OR NEGLECT. YOUR  
PARTICIPATION MAKES A REAL DIFFERENCE!

REGISTER TODAY

<http://getmeregistered.com/CASAofMidwestPARun>

# 250PA AMERICA

America250PA is proud of the men and women who serve our country, protecting our freedom and democracy. America250PA encourages nominations for our #PAProud Servicemember Spotlight Series. The servicemember nominees—active, retired or deceased—are featured on all of our social media channels to bring attention to their efforts and thank them for their service. This series was made possible by the generous support of Coterra Energy and Camp Freedom.

**NOMINATE A LAWRENCE  
COUNTY SERVICEMEMBER**





# HIGHLIGHTS

## Moraine State Park

### Summer Adventures Await

Get outside this summer at Moraine State Park! From stargazing and kayaking to trivia and wildlife exploration, Moraine offers activities for all ages and interests.

LEARN MORE



### Upcoming Events:

#### SWAMP RUN SUNSET PADDLE

**Tuesday, August 26 | 5-8 PM**

528 Boat Launch (Prospect Exit off 422)

Join us for a longer paddle exploring the Swamp Run area of Lake Arthur. You'll learn basic kayaking tips, spot wetland wildlife, and enjoy a peaceful evening on the water. Pre-registration required.

#### EAGLE AND OSPREY CRUISE

**Wednesday, August 27 | 6:00 AM – 7:30 PM**

Beside Owlet Gift Shop in McDanel's Area (North Shore)

Cruise aboard Preston's Pearl to spot eagles and ospreys soaring over Lake Arthur. Learn about their comeback and biology from a park naturalist. Binoculars provided. Pre-registration required

#### SUNSET WILD TEAS CRUISE

**Wednesday, September 3 | 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM**

It's tea time! Come take in the sunset while joining us for a program all about wild teas aboard the Preston's Pearl pontoon boat! We will discuss the history of tea and have various teas brewed from native plants to sample. Come learn the traditional uses of these teas and how to brew them yourself!

#### FULL MOON PADDLE

**Saturday, September 6 | 8:00 PM – 10:30 PM**

Join us for a nighttime paddle as we explore the lake during the full moon. We will start the evening off by paddling into the sunset, then turn around and watch the moon rise, lighting up the night. Due to increased demand, sign-ups for using park kayaks at programs are limited to two per year. Kayak and gear provided or bring your own. Life jackets required to be worn. Ages 12 and up, under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Pre-registration required. Registration opens Sunday, August 31st. To register, call the Park Office at 724-368-8811 between 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM.

#### MUDDY CREEK OIL FIELD – LIVING HISTORY DEMONSTRATION

**Saturday, September 13 | 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM**

The Muddy Creek Oil Well is an award-winning restoration site of an antique oil well. The Bessemer Gas Engine and Marshall-Barr No. 19 oil well equipment is restored and open for visitors to hear and see the industry that powered this region. So come out and see the Bessemer engine pump some Pennsylvania crude! The well will operate from 11:00 AM until 4:00 PM one Saturday a month.





# Grant Opportunity

## J.W. COUCH FOUNDATION APPLICATION DUE SEPTEMBER 26, 2025

The J.W. Couch Foundation supports nonprofit organizations in the United States in the areas of preservation, education, and wellness.

For 2025, unsolicited grant applications are accepted in the following focus areas: animal well-being, including organizations that nurture compassion and respect for all living animals; early childhood education, with a focus on schools that provide young children with a creative and balanced approach to education; teachers, with a focus on teams helping teachers succeed in educating future generations; and getting outside, including organizations that facilitate and encourage more outdoor activities that help create healthier communities.

[Click Here for more info](#)

*the*  
**J.W. COUCH**  
**FOUNDATION**

First @ Home Program



### First @ Home Mortgage<sup>1</sup>

The right loan for the right home.  
No matter what your home-buying budget is.

- Conventional loan designed to assist borrowers who have limited cash for down payments and closing costs
- 30 year terms at a fixed rate<sup>2</sup>
- 1% down payment available
- No mortgage insurance required
- Income limits apply
- Closing cost assistance grants available from \$2,000-\$5,000
- Requires first-time homebuyer counseling conducted by First Commonwealth

<sup>1</sup> First-time homebuyer program (no primary residence ownership within the past three (3) years). Product and eligibility guidelines apply, including credit and household income requirements. Product may not be available for your situation. Escrow required. Reserves required: 3 months worth of principal, interest, taxes and insurance payments.

<sup>2</sup> Payment example: A \$100,000 mortgage loan with an Annual Percentage Rate (APR) of 4.25% would require 360 monthly payments of \$491.94. This payment amount does not include amounts for taxes and insurance premiums, and actual payments will be greater. The APR and payment example are based on an interest rate presently in effect. Offer of credit is subject to credit approval. Rates subject to change. Other fees and conditions may apply.



**Denise Baker**  
Senior Mortgage Loan Originator  
(330) 719-5217  
DBaker@fcbanking.com  
fcbanking.com/dbaker  
NMLS #288338



**FIRST**  
**Commonwealth**  
**MORTGAGE**

FCB NMLS #479240

January 2023  
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### Farm Vitality Grant

The Farm Vitality Planning Grant Program helps fund professional services. The grant will cover the costs of business planning, efficient transitions of ownership, strategic expansion, diversification of agricultural production, and building a team of financial and technical expertise as a resource for farmers.

#### GRANT DETAILS:

- ✓ Grant covers \$7,500, covering 75% of project costs
- ✓ This is a reimbursement grant
- ✓ In-kind support will not count as part of the applicant's contribution

**DEADLINE: APPLICATIONS ARE  
ACCEPTED YEAR-ROUND!**



Pennsylvania  
**Department of Agriculture**  
AG BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER



**SCAN BELOW TO  
LEARN MORE OR  
[CLICK HERE](#)**



For questions about the  
program, please contact  
Neil Imes  
Phone: 717-787-5539  
Email: [nimes@pa.gov](mailto:nimes@pa.gov)



**24hr**  
**EMERGENCY**  
**SERVICE**



# New Castle Lock & Key

For over 25 years, New Castle Lock & Key has been a regional leader in standard locksmith services, keyless entry systems, security & surveillance systems and more. We also offer sales and installation of security safes & gun safes. Contact us today to find out more!

(724) 333-0742



**UNLOCK VALUABLE INSIGHTS FOR YOUR BUSINESS**  
*ON US!*

RECEIVE A FREE MARKET ANALYSIS WITH ACTIONABLE INSIGHTS:



DEMOGRAPHIC  
BREAKDOWN



DIGITAL  
PRESENCE AUDIT



BUYER DATA  
& TRENDS



COMPETITIVE  
INTELLIGENCE



THIS ANALYSIS IS YOURS TO KEEP

***-NO STRINGS ATTACHED-***

WE BELIEVE IN HELPING BUSINESSES MAKE INFORMED DECISIONS,  
WHETHER YOU CHOOSE TO PARTNER WITH US OR NOT.

LET'S START THE CONVERSATION!

JULIE L. RUDICH

JRUDICH@7MOUNTAINSMEDIA.COM | 724-699-1120



**Willie** *Featured*  
95.1 **Business**  
97.5 *of the* **Week**

Special discounted package pricing for Chamber Members including a spotlight as a FEATURED Business of the Week.

Package will include on-air and streaming advertising with a FREE Willie Business of the Week INTERVIEW!

Additional options available for  
ONLINE or ON LOCATION features.

Please contact Julie Rudich at  
724-699-1120 for more details.

**United  
Way**

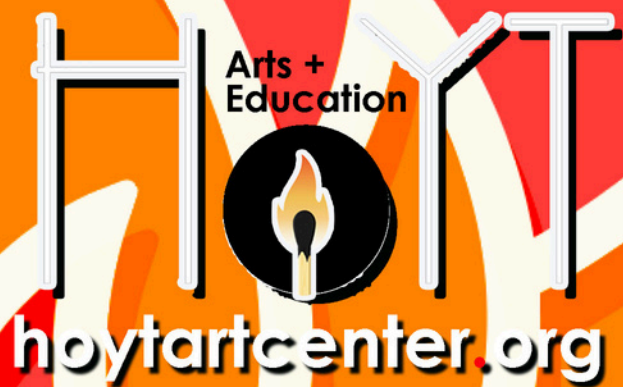


United Way Of Lawrence County  
Community Volunteer Info

UPMC | SCHOOLS  
OF NURSING

**UPMC Jameson  
School of Nursing  
Now Accepting Applications  
for  
Spring 2026**





# Tickets on sale now!



**\$25**  
GENERAL  
ADMISSION

**Rain or Shine**  
On-site burgers,  
hotdogs & beer.

## gnite

**September 20, 6-10 pm**

Furnace demonstrations in glass-blowing, metal casting, forging & horse hair pottery.

Workshops in raku, aluminum casting, plasma cutting, wood burning, alcohol inks & more.

DND One-Shot with ICG Hobbies & Games

Artists Market, Basket Raffle & Pyrotecnico displays!

## A FIRE-CENTRIC ARTS FESTIVAL

**LIVE EVENTS**

**Columbia Gas**

**WesBanco**



**HICKORY RUN  
ENERGY**



**KLAFTER'S inc.**

**THINK3  
TECHNOLOGIES**



**UPMC  
HORIZON JAMESON**



# Business Loans are available at GNC Community FCU!

GNC Community Federal Credit Union is a member of cuBIZloan, a collaboration of credit unions that processes business and commercial loans.

***For qualified members, we offer:***

- Commercial Mortgages
- Term Loans
- Lines of Credit
- Commercial Real Estate Secured Lines of Credit



## Get your loan pre-screened in three easy steps!

- 1 Submit the Loan Request Form** Your loan request will be matched to a lender in the cuBIZloan network, or SBA. Our lending team is available to discuss your loan request at (609) 362-3263.
- 2 Loan Introduction Call** A Loan Specialist will call you to conduct a thorough analysis of your loan request and is available to you throughout the process.
- 3 Full Service Loan Packaging** Your Loan Specialist will assist you to obtain the required documentation, complete the loan package and forward it to the appropriate lender or government agency.

*For more detailed information or to start your request, visit [cuBIZloan.com/gnc](http://cuBIZloan.com/gnc)*



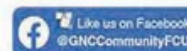
## Serving all of Lawrence County!

**BRANCH**  
2907 Wilmington Road  
New Castle, PA 16105  
**724-652-1431**

**MAIN OFFICE**  
201 South Jefferson Street  
New Castle, PA 16101  
**724-652-5783**

[www.gncfcu.com](http://www.gncfcu.com)

**VISA**







**MENU**

(724) 698-7259



## SUCCULENTS & SELF-CARE™

FORWARD LAWRENCE MEMBERS  
LET'S COLLABORATE



### Growing Wellness

Are you a business leader or group organizer who **prioritizes well-being and engagement?**



### Succulents & Self-Care™

Plants are an amazing way to bring people together—the stories, sharing and joy! We understand how busy you are. That's why our **mobile plant workshop comes to YOUR location** to deliver this 1-hour interactive experience! Check our website, read reviews from the growing **65+ businesses served in PA & OH.**



### Building Well-Being

Prioritizing self-care not only **boosts team morale and fosters creativity**; it shows individuals they are **valued and appreciated.**

Growing Wellness' Succulents & Self-Care™ Workshop is **customized** for each group.

**EMAIL US TO LEARN MORE. WE TAKE THE STRESS & HASSLE OUT OF PLANNING FOR YOU!**



724-992-5949



GrowingWellnessConsulting@gmail.com



www.GrowingWellnessConsulting.com



Serving Western PA and Eastern OH  
Member of Forward Lawrence



WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27 AT 8:00 PM

**SPICE UP YOUR LIFE**

A 90S MOVIES & MUSIC TRIVIA EVENT

**KINGTRIVIA.COM**

\*King Trivia will provide appropriate services, whenever necessary to ensure effective communication with members of the public who have hearing, sight, or speech impairments, unless to do so would result in fundamental alteration of its programs or undue administrative or financial burden. A person requiring an accommodation or an auxiliary aid or service to participate in a King Trivia event should call 818-808-0008 ext 8 as far in advance as possible but no later than 72 hours before the scheduled event.

THE CLASSIEST



GAME IN TOWN

**GROCERY  
OUTLET**  
bargain market

SEE THIS WEEK'S AD →



# Penn-Northwest

## DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

### Affordable Solutions For Corporate Expansion

Looking to sharpen your startup skills this summer? Brian Slawin and Ben Franklin Technology Partners of Central and Northern PA is back with a dynamic series designed to give **entrepreneurs, innovators, and visionaries** the practical tools they need to move their ideas forward.

Whether you're refining your pitch or building your business foundation, these sessions are packed with real-world insights and actionable takeaways. Head to [Penn-northwest.com/events](https://penn-northwest.com/events) to sign up for virtual or in-person classes.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

# SCHEDULE

### ATTENTION ENTREPERNEURS

FREE



**16**  
JULY

**DON'T QUIT YOUR DAYDREAM**  
Taking action from Dreams to Reality and balancing passion and practicality.



**20**  
AUGUST

**GROWTH THROUGH INNOVATION**  
Insights and guidance on how innovation is used, and can be leveraged, to help a company go from good to great!



**17**  
SEPT

**MY DAD STOLE MY STARTUP MONEY**  
Based on a true story, learn the reasons entrepreneurs should think twice about pursuing outside investment.



**ALL EVENTS HELD AT:**  
**MERCER COUNTY  
ADULT EDUCATION CENTER**  
223 George Junior Road Grove City, PA

ALSO ON  
ZOOM

FREE

REGISTER FOR THE ENTIRE SERIES  
[WWW.PENN-NORTHWEST/EVENTS](https://www.penn-northwest.com/events)

SPONSORED BY:



Penn-Northwest  
Affordable Solutions For Corporate Expansion









# LAWRENCE COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT GRANT FUNDS AVAILABLE

Property owners in Lawrence County have an opportunity to receive no-cost Phase I and/or Phase II environmental site assessments for properties that may have experienced past industrial or commercial use. These assessments are often necessary for property transfer, redevelopment, or reuse, and can otherwise be costly if pursued independently. Through grant funding, the Lawrence County Economic Development Corporation (LCEDC) is able to offer this service at no expense to the property owner. Those interested in preparing their site for future use or improving its marketability are encouraged to contact LCEDC to learn more about eligibility and program details.

## **WHO CAN BENEFIT:**

- Property owners seeking to sell, transfer, redevelop, or repurpose underutilized sites.
- Developers interested in revitalizing properties with potential contamination concerns.
- Municipalities and community organizations aiming to support economic development.

Maxwell Frederick  
(724) 658-1488  
[frederick@lawrencecounty.com](mailto:frederick@lawrencecounty.com)  
325 East Washington Street  
New Castle, PA 16101  
[www.lawrencecounty.com](http://www.lawrencecounty.com)

★ If you're just starting out or have been in business for years, our networking events are a chance to meet people, make connections, and keep growing.

[Visit our Event Calendar](#)



## MEMBER PAGES ARE GETTING AN UPGRADE!

You may have gotten a call recently from our awesome summer intern, Ella. She's been reaching out to help us update your business info for our member directory. That's just the first step.

Next, we're working on making your member directory page even better. Think SEO keywords to boost your visibility on Google, richer descriptions to showcase what you do, and helpful links and details to drive customers your way. This is one of the big ways Forward Lawrence supports our members, by actively referring business and helping you connect with others in our network. A strong business community is built on relationships, and when one of us grows, we all benefit.

## ARE YOU HIRING?

Members can post job listings through the member portal or by emailing [perry@lawrencecounty.com](mailto:perry@lawrencecounty.com)



## THINKING ABOUT ADVERTISING IN OUR NEWSLETTER?

Email [newsletter@lawrencecounty.com](mailto:newsletter@lawrencecounty.com) to find out more!