



NEWSLETTER

FORWARD LAWRENCE

CHAMBER AND ECONOMIC ALLIANCE

CONNECT • MARKET • ADVOCATE • EDUCATE • ENHANCE

LEADERSHIP GRADUATION

JULY 18, 2025



Congratulations to the Leadership Lawrence County Class of 2025 Graduates

Brandon Cumberlege - ELLWOOD Specialty Metals, Jeff Davidson - Packer Thomas, Justin Gregorich - Westminster College, Anthony McCloskey - UPMC Jameson, Lauren Miller - UPMC Jameson, Grace Schmarewski - Arise, Rob Stillwagon - ELLWOOD Group INC., Christian Sumner - LARK Enterprises, John Green - The Huntington National Bank, Carissa Neary - New Castle Public Library, Craig Gailey - ELLWOOD Group INC., Jaclyn Thompson - Office of Representative Marla Brown

Congratulations Leadership Lawrence County Class of 25!

On Friday, July 18th, we celebrated the 2025 Leadership Lawrence County graduates and their impressive efforts throughout the program. This year's class raised an outstanding \$8,736.75 to support renovations to the historic Bank Barn - the oldest building at the Lawrence County Fairgrounds. Thanks to their efforts, the barn has a refreshed look and a renewed purpose.

Learning, Leading, and Connecting

With only a limited number of spots available, this program has become a sought-after way to connect with other professionals in multiple industries and enhance leadership skills. Over the past several months, a select group of local professionals has taken a deep dive into the topics that shape our region. Through site visits, guest speakers, and hands-on activities, they've seen how a variety of public and private organizations work here in Lawrence County. Along the way, they've faced local issues and built relationships that will continue to guide them as they grow in their leadership roles.

Celebrating Success

In recognition of their work, each graduate earned 3.6 continuing education units through Penn State. We're incredibly proud of this class and all they've accomplished, and we were thrilled to honor them at last week's ceremony. We can't wait to see what they do next!

Bank Barn UPDATES



01. Before

BARN HISTORY

Before the Bank Barn's renovation, it stood as the oldest building at the Lawrence County Fairground.

02. During

WORK IN PROGRESS

The barn getting a fresh update thanks in part to the efforts of the Leadership Lawrence County Class.



03. After

RENOVATION COMPLETE

The Bank Barn stands restored, and was the perfect venue for the 2024 - 2025 Leadership Lawrence County Graduation Ceremony.

FRESH START FOR THE BANK BARN

BEFORE & AFTER

SMOKIN' STEER EXPANDS

TO CREEKSIDE COMMONS



SMOKIN' STEER BBQ

334 WAMPUM AVENUE
ELLWOOD CITY, PA 16116

SMOKIN' STEER EXPANDS WITH LAWRENCE COUNTY'S SSBCI LOAN PROGRAM

There's a new chapter unfolding for one of Ellwood City's most delicious local businesses. Thanks to a combination of hard work, community banking support, and Lawrence County's State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI) Revolving Loan Fund, Dave and Ann Hunter, owners of Smokin' Steer BBQ, have purchased the building they once rented at Creekside Commons, cementing their roots and opening the door to even bigger plans.



"This is exactly the type of success story the SSBCI program was designed to support," said Art Clinger of FNB, who worked closely with the Hunters to secure financing. "We're eager to work with local entrepreneurs on expansion projects like this, whether they involve property purchases, equipment upgrades, or renovations. Together, we can finance projects up to \$1.5 million." Through SSBCI, businesses can apply for loans ranging from \$10,000 to \$500,000, typically structured as a 1:1 match with a partnering bank. A third round of funding from the SSBCI program is expected in 2026. Loans are offered at a fixed rate, generally Prime minus 2%, making this a flexible and affordable option for small businesses looking to grow.

Creekside Commons, located in Ellwood City, is home to Lori L's Salon, NovaCare Rehabilitation, Soother Tanning, and now the expanding Smokin' Steer BBQ. By purchasing the property, the Hunters gain long-term stability and the ability to grow their operations while keeping space available for these other valued tenants. Smokin' Steer will now occupy more than half of the building, while continuing to serve as a cornerstone destination for local barbecue fans. The purchase was made possible through a financing partnership between First National Bank (FNB) and the Lawrence County Economic Development Corporation (LCEDC). LCEDC's SSBCI loan program provides fixed, low-interest loans for building acquisition, renovations, equipment purchases, and expansion projects. These loans are designed to assist rurally disadvantaged businesses, a category that includes all of Lawrence County.

ROOTED IN COMMUNITY: BUILT FOR GROWTH



For Dave and Ann Hunter, this marks another milestone in a journey that started with Smokin' Daves BBQ, a dream of bringing flavorful, slow-cooked barbecue to the community. In addition to their restaurant, the Hunters also operate two semi-trailers, which allow them to bring Smokin' Steer to local events, cater special occasions, and even make regular appearances at places like the Pitt Raceway. Purchasing their building gives Smokin' Steer BBQ a solid foundation for future growth. It also helps ensure that Creekside Commons remains a vibrant hub of local services and businesses for years to come. If you're a small business owner in Lawrence County with plans to expand, renovate, or invest in equipment, the SSBCI Revolving Loan Fund might be the tool you need. For details, including a list of banking partners, contact the [Lawrence County Economic Development Corporation](#).

US DOJ OFFICE FOR SERVICES FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME – FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Grants.gov applications due August 15, 2025
JustGrants applications due August 20, 2025

This NOFO supports the development, expansion and strengthening of victim service programs for all victims of crime throughout the United States and its territories. Award recipients will increase the quality and quantity of victim services in the following categories:

Victim services may include, but are not limited to, emergency assistance, case management, shelter and housing, medical and dental care, victim advocacy, transportation, childcare, legal services, and employment assistance. Entities may only submit one application. Entities may only apply to one category in their application.

Category 1

Services to Child and Youth Victims (Anticipated Award Ceiling: \$500,000) Awards under this category will be made to entities to serve child and youth victims of crime. Child and youth victims are persons who were age 17 or younger when the victimization took place.

Category 2

Services to Victims of Elder Abuse, Fraud, and Exploitation (Anticipated Award Ceiling: \$500,000) Awards under this category will be made to entities to serve victims of elder fraud, abuse, and exploitation. For purposes of this NOFO, victims of elder fraud, abuse, and exploitation are persons who were age 55 or older when the victimization took place.

Category 3

Services to Other Crime Victims (Anticipated Award Ceiling: \$500,000) Awards under this category will be made to entities to serve other victims of crimes (not child or elder victimization), excluding human trafficking.

Types of Entities That are Eligible to Apply for Funding

Government Entities

- State Governments
- County Governments
- City/Township Governments
- Native American Tribal Governments (federally recognized or other than federally recognized)

Other

- Other Units of Local Government

Educational Organizations

- Independent School Districts
- Public and State-Controlled Institutions of higher ed.
- Private institutions of higher ed.

Public Housing Organizations

- Public Housing Authorities
- Indian Housing Authorities

Nonprofit Organizations

- Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), other than institutions of higher ed.
- Nonprofits that do not have a 501 (c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher ed.

APPLY NOW!

Contact

NEWSLETTER

DAIRY PROCESSOR Modernization Grant Program

Grant Overview

The Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center (NE-DBIC) announces the availability of funds through the Dairy Processor Modernization Grant program to address the significant need for investment in processing infrastructure in the Northeast. Funds will support dairy processors and dairy brands in modernizing their production to allow for increased processing of regional dairy, long-term business viability, and ability to meet consumer demands. Projects funded through this grant will focus primarily on acquiring specialized equipment for dairy processing that offers benefits such as increased capacity, higher efficiency, reduced energy usage, increased quality, or ability to produce new or higher-value products. Projects that benefit more than one dairy business and those that incorporate technical assistance may be more competitive. Grants are available to dairy processors and dairy brands working with co-packing processors in all Northeast states: Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont. Applicants will qualify into one of two award tiers based on their processing volume.

Grants will range from \$15,000 to \$250,000 with a 25% (cash or in-kind) match commitment required. At least 75% of grant funds must be used for eligible specialized equipment purchases.

Total funds available: \$1,000,000.

Eligibility

These grants are for projects that will directly benefit dairy processing in the Northeast region (Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont).

To be eligible for this grant, you must fall into at least one of the following groups:

1. Dairy Processors that
 - Transform raw fluid milk, dairy components, or dairy mix into an edible product meant for human consumption; and
 - Are headquartered or based in the Northeast; and source or produce milk or dairy components from within the Northeast; and
 - Manufacture products within the Northeast; and
 - Hold a license as a dairy processor that permits the sale of their dairy products across state lines, even if they are not currently selling interstate.

2. Dairy brands that market Northeast dairy products produced by a licensed dairy processor under a co-packing or other arrangement. For the purposes of this grant, a dairy brand is a business that develops and markets dairy products but may not operate its own processing facilities. Dairy brands own the rights to their products' recipes, branding, and distribution, but work with licensed dairy processors, such as co-packers, to produce their products. White-label retailers, who rebrand products developed and produced by another company but do not own exclusive rights to the product, are not eligible. Dairy brands are eligible if:

- The project primarily benefits at least one dairy product meant for human consumption that is produced by a Northeast processor that meets all eligibility requirements as defined above; and
- A Letter of Commitment from the partner processor is included in the application.



Special note for co-packing, processing partnerships, and dairy brands: If a grant project involves both a dairy brand and a processing partner, the primary applicant should be whichever entity will own the equipment or supplies purchased under the grant. For instance, if a dairy brand needs a specialized filler but their processing partner will own the equipment, the processing partner should be the grant applicant and the dairy brand would be listed as a project partner. Please contact the Grant Program Manager if you have questions about who the applicant should be.

Prior to award, we may confirm your compliance (or that of your processing partner, in the case of dairy brands) with applicable licensing standards.

Applicants will qualify in tiers outlined below based on how much milk or dairy mix they use on an average production day, regardless of the number of days per week they process. Volume may differ based on the product made and you should refer to the volume measurement for your specific product. For example, cheese producers measure pounds of milk while an ice cream manufacturer would likely purchase gallons of mix. Volume is a measurement of inputs, not finished products.



Tier	Volume of Milk/Components/Dairy Mix Utilized on an Average Production Day	Award Range	Total Funds Available for Tier
Tier 1	10,000+ units of volume	\$75,000 - \$250,000	Approximately \$500,000
Tier 2	1 - 9,999 units of volume	\$15,000 - \$150,000	Approximately \$500,000

Grant Program



HOW TO APPLY

1. Review the full **2025 Dairy Processor Modernization Request for Applications (RFA)** for the complete details on eligible projects/applicants and the full application process.
2. Register in **WebGrants** (may take up to two business days).
3. Complete your application in WebGrants using our **Application Guide**. **The application will be open until August 14, 2025 at 2:00 PM ET.**
4. Applicants who do not already have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) through SAM.gov are strongly encouraged to start this process during the application period to ensure a timely start to their grant, if awarded.

Have A Questions About This Grant?

Have a question? Contact Ben Edredge: ben.edredge@vermont.gov | (802) 522-9478, or [book an appointment](#) to talk.

FREE



WEBINAR



SUSTAINABLE
COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT
NETWORK
of Southwestern Pennsylvania

THURSDAY
7/8/2025

SCDN POLICY CONNECTION: STORMWATER MANAGEMENT AND HAZARD MITIGATION FOR MUNICIPALITIES



Event Overview

Join Sustainable Pittsburgh and guest speakers on Thursday, August 7, for Stormwater Management and Hazard Mitigation for Municipalities—a timely webinar on how Pennsylvania communities can strengthen stormwater systems and hazard response plans in the face of increasingly extreme weather.

Register today to explore how local governments can integrate stormwater management and hazard mitigation into long-term community resilience planning. Experts will share best practices, funding opportunities, and tools. We'll also highlight how these efforts support Sustainable PA certification and help to contribute to a stronger, more equitable future for all residents.

Background

Recent storms have overwhelmed parts of the state causing flash flooding, infrastructure damage, and public safety concerns. These recurring downpours are becoming more and more common in a changing climate. With annual precipitation up nearly 10% and extreme rain events on the rise, Pennsylvania faces growing risks from flooding, heat waves, windstorms, and freeze-thaw cycles.



Who Should Attend

- Local elected officials
- Municipal staff
- Sustainability professionals
- Other stakeholders

Featured Speakers



Richard Deal (he/him)

State Hazard Mitigation Officer
[PA Emergency Management Agency](#)



Sawyer Sidelinger (they/them)

Program Manager and
Systems Administrator
[Sustainable Pittsburgh](#)



Jason Singer (he/him)

Councilman-Ward 4
[Town of McCandless](#)



Beth Uhler

Pennsylvania Director
[Center for Watershed Protection](#)



John Ukenye J.D. (he/him)

Senior Director of Policy and
Strategic Initiatives
[Sustainable Pittsburgh](#)

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 or
email 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!



WANDER ELLWOOD returns for their 4th season offering Small Town charm with Big Living experience! Lawrence Ave blooms with over 80 vendors, including Food Trucks, Breweries, Wineries, and our local businesses, ensuring an array of choices for everyone. Enjoy community vibes at the Plaza, complemented by local band performances.

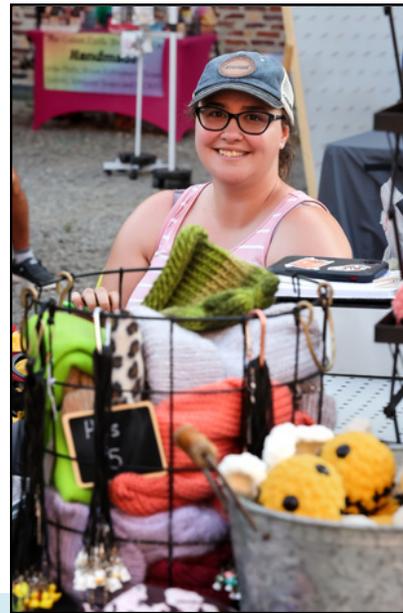



OPEN STREET NIGHTS ON
LAWRENCE AVENUE

JUNE	11 5 - 9 PM	ELMOZ FIRE
JULY	16 5 - 9 PM	MORGAN GRUBER
AUG	13 5 - 9 PM	288
SEPT	10 5 - 8 PM	TONY BARGE & THE HONKY TONK HEROES

Vendor registration is open now! → 

SPONSORED BY:  



THINK3

TECHNOLOGIES

01



HELP DESK

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

02



CYBERSECURITY

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

03



IT CONSULTING

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.

IT SERVICES, DONE RIGHT.

THINK3TECH.COM
+1 (724) 608-3140



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





Thanks to everyone who came out to Business After Hours at VentiSei Wine Bar & Pizzeria the other evening with the New Castle Rotary. Such a good night networking, catching up, meeting new people, and enjoying time together.

Join the Rotary



You Should Come - Explore Tuscany



FIND OUT MORE

Montecatini Terme, Lucca, Family-Owned Winery Experience, Florence, Pisa, Cooking Class, Siena, Cheese Farm, San Gimignano

For More Information Contact:
Lyndsey Overby: (724) 636-0496
or travel@lawrencecounty.com

LEARN MORE >>

WHAT'S FOR LUNCH



Elham's Middle Eastern Foods, Inc.

At Elhams, each morning starting at 8am we bake our delicious Syrian bread, we roll fresh grape...

lawrencecounty.com



Riardo Bar & Grill / Faraone Brothers

Family-owned Italian-American restaurant in New Castle serving homemade pasta, steaks, seafood,...

lawrencecounty.com



Jersey Mike's

Freshly sliced subs, hot cheesesteaks, wraps, salads, and catering. Order in-store, online, or through our app for quality ingredients and fast, friendly service.

lawrencecounty.com



Le Resto

Le?Resto in downtown New Castle serves fresh sushi and Asian fusion dishes in a historic, elegant setting with dine-in, takeout, and private events.

lawrencecounty.com



Lindys Lunch

Lindys Lunch is a hot dog, burger, catering, breakfast & fast casual restaurant. Voted the best Lunch & Fries in Lawrence County!

lawrencecounty.com



Kelly's Side Door Tavern

Kelly's Side Door Tavern in New Castle offers casual dining, wings, burgers, cold drinks, trivia nights, and a friendly pub atmosphere. Open daily with late-night hours.

lawrencecounty.com

Are you a member and want to be featured in "What's For Lunch?" email perry@lawrencecounty.com

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.



TUESDAY, AUGUST 5TH : 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

The Formula for Social Media Success (webinar)

Our simple but comprehensive Social Media workshop will help you learn how to prioritize things and give you a clear formula to be successful on Social Media!

[Learn More →](#)



THURSDAY, AUGUST 7TH : 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Improving Your Sales by Better Managing Your Data (in-person and live-stream)

Learn how to better manage and utilize your own business information to maximize your sales and growth

[Learn More →](#)



THURSDAY, AUGUST 7TH : 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

First Step: Business Essentials (Butler) (in-person)

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

[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.



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)

Contact the APEX team today!

814-677-4800 ext 130

ApexAccelerator@northwestpa.org

northwestpa.org/government-contracting



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 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.



INCENTIVE¹

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 STRUCTURE²

\$0.15
per kWh saved

\$300
per kW (average coincident) saved³

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

² Incentive increase, effective December 1, 2024 through May 31, 2025. Conditions apply.

³ Coincident peak window: June 1 - August 31, 2-6 pm, non-holiday weekdays



a century of service 1925-2025

Sponsored by:



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





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

"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



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

PAID FOR BY FRIENDS OF AARON BERNSTINE

LEARN MORE ABOUT
CASA OF MIDWEST PA AT
WWW.CASAMIDWESTPA.ORG

CASA OF MIDWEST PA'S 1ST 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>

CASA OF MIDWEST PA IS SEEKING SPONSORS FOR THEIR

1ST ANNUAL 5K FAMILY FUN RUN FUNDRAISER

SPONSORSHIPS DUE BY AUGUST 1ST

\$500.00 INCLUDES: BUSINESS NAME AND LOGO ON RACE SHIRT, YARD SIGN VISIBLE ON RACE DAY, AND MENTION ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Proceeds directly benefit your community, helping us advocate for children who have experienced abuse or neglect. Your participation makes a real difference!

PAYMENTS CAN BE MADE AT CASAMIDWESTPA.ORG OR SENT TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS:
CASA OF MIDWEST PA ATTN KELSEY SCHNUR
430 COURT ST 1ST FLOOR
NEW CASTLE PA 16101



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:

MORAINES STATE PARK REGATTA

August 2-3 | South Shore

Celebrate the Regatta's 26 year with fireworks, races, vendors, and outdoor fun for the whole family!

HISTORIC BAKING CLASS

Saturday, August 7 | 1:00 – 4:00 PM

Pavilion 7, McDanel's Launch Area
Bake traditional Italian breads and flatbreads outdoors with the Gristmill Bakers. All materials provided. Free program, reservations required.

FULL MOON PADDLE

Friday, August 8 | 8:00 – 10:30 PM

Old 422 Launch (Prospect Exit)
Paddle into the sunset and watch the full moon rise over the lake. Ages 12+, life jackets required. Limited park kayak use. Pre-registration required

MUDDY CREEK OIL FIELD DEMO

Saturday, August 9 | 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Near 195 Park Road, Prospect, PA (follow signs)
See a restored antique oil well in action at this living history site. Weather/volunteer dependent.

NIGHT HIKE

Thursday, August 14 | 8:00 – 10:00 PM

Pavilion 7, McDanel's Launch Area
Join a park naturalist to explore the wonders of the night, from owls to night vision. Bring a flashlight if you have one!

WETLANDS AND WILDLIFE PADDLE

Friday, August 15 | 9:00 – 11:30 AM

Old 422 Launch by Region 2 Office (Prospect Exit)
Discover the mystery and beauty of wetlands on this guided paddle. Learn about the wildlife that call them home.. Pre-registration opens August 3

Tuesday, August 19 | 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Enjoy a calm paddle on Lake Arthur with a park naturalist and learn about local wildlife. Gear provided or bring your own. Ages 12+, life jackets required. Pre-registration opens August 10.

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

PRESTON'S PEARL BOAT TOURS

Ongoing | McDanel's Launch Area

Enjoy a scenic ride on the park's enclosed pontoon boat. Visit:
<https://www.morainepreservationfund.org/activities/boat-tours-cruises/>



First @ Home Mortgage¹

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 rate²
- 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

¹ 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.
² 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
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NMLS #288338



FCB NMLS #479240 January 2023
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First Front Door and Keys to Equity Programs

First Commonwealth Bank understands the excitement of being a new homeowner, and that is why we are pleased to partner with the Federal Home Loan Bank to offer a pair of First Time Homebuyer Grant Programs - *First Front Door and Keys to Equity*.

First Front Door (FFD) assists first-time homebuyers by providing a maximum down payment and closing costs assistance grant of \$15,000 grant when eligible homebuyers contribute a minimum of \$1,500. The

The Keys to Equity fund (Keys) was developed to expand access to homeownership opportunities for Minority and First-Generation first-time homebuyers. By contributing a minimum of \$1,000 toward down payments and closing costs, homebuyers are eligible for a maximum Keys grant of \$20,000.

	First Front Door (FFD) Eligibility Requirements	Keys to Equity (Keys) Eligibility Requirements
Open Date	Fund opens April 22, 2025. <i>Funds are limited, so contact us today!</i>	Fund opens March 18, 2025. <i>Funds are limited, so contact us today!</i>
First Time Homebuyer	A first-time homebuyer is: • A person who has not owned an eligible property used as their primary residence in the last three years. • This also includes, if purchasing jointly with other individuals, at least one person has not owned an eligible property used as a primary residence in the last three years. • This also includes any person that has owned an eligible property jointly with another individual and is now independently purchasing an eligible property. • If an investment property is owned, the person has not lived there and has not owned an eligible property used as a primary residence in the last three years.	Same as FFD, plus the homebuyer must complete a Self-Certification Form demonstrating that they are a member of a Minority group or are a First-Generation homebuyer.
Income	The household income must be no more than 80% of the area median income as defined by HUD.	The household income must be no more than 120% of the area median income as defined by HUD.
Homebuyer Contribution	Minimum \$1,500 in homebuyer funds toward down payment and closing costs.	Minimum \$1,000 in homebuyer funds toward down payment and closing costs.
Counseling	Complete four hours of approved homeownership counseling.	
Home Purchase	The home must be purchased as a primary residence.	
Retention	A five-year FFD Real Estate Retention Agreement must be secured.	No FFD Real Estate Retention Agreement required.



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Come Join Our SCHOOLS OF NURSING Event!

Information Sessions

July 31st 4:00 - 5:00 pm
August 19th 4:00 - 5:00 pm

UPMC Jameson School of Nursing

2414 Wilmington Rd
New Castle, PA 16105

RSVP to UPMCJAMSON@UPMC.EDU



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



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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!

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UNLOCK VALUABLE INSIGHTS FOR YOUR BUSINESS
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PRESENCE AUDIT



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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 Business of the Week*
95.1 97.5

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 Of Lawrence County
Community Volunteer Info

UPMC SCHOOLS OF NURSING

UPMC Jameson
School of Nursing
Now Accepting Applications
for
Spring 2026



LAWRENCE COUNTY FAIR

August 11 – August 16, 2025



FAIR QUEEN Entry Deadline Extended

The Lawrence County Fair Queen Program has been a proud tradition for generations, celebrating leadership, service, and agriculture. This year's program continues that legacy with the support of local partners and a renewed sense of purpose.

The red, white, and blue theme reflects the pride and strength of Lawrence County. With help from Eric Benninghoff, Tracy MacKay, and Katie Stivers, we're proud to share the official mission:

The mission of the Lawrence County Fair Queen Program is to empower young women through leadership, community involvement, and personal growth. We aim to uphold the proud agricultural traditions of Lawrence County while encouraging confidence, communication skills, and a lifelong spirit of service.

Thank you for helping us uplift young women and keep this tradition alive! Special thanks to the Lawrence County Fair Board for their hard work, support, and belief in the Fair Queen Program. Their dedication behind the scenes has been essential to bringing this tradition back to life, we're truly grateful.

What's Ahead 2025

- Fair Queen Pageant: Sunday, August 10
- Queen Duties: Represent the fair year-round and compete at the state level
- Scholarship Awarded

PROGRAM UPDATES

- Deadline Extended: Apply by August 1 for Queen or Little Miss LCF Princess (ages 5-7)
- 5K Fundraiser: August 2 - Join us for a fun run to support the program!

SUPPORT THE PROGRAMS

- Interested in donating or sponsoring? Contact:
- [✉ tmackay5252@gmail.com](mailto:tmackay5252@gmail.com)
- [✉ stivers06@windstream.net](mailto:stivers06@windstream.net)

VENDORS WELCOME

The Lawrence County Fair welcomes any new vendor to the fair. If you are interested in being a vendor or have any questions with regards to commercial space, concession or vendor fees and rules, please contact the Fair Office at 724-654-7745.

The Commercial Committee must approve all new vendors and items being sold on the fairgrounds. The Committee and Board of Directors reserve the right to deny any vendor application.

[**VENDOR APPLICATION**](#)

[**BECOME A SPONSOR**](#)

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



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

VISA





MENU

(724) 698-7259



7th Annual
Kids Summer Art Camp

We modify projects based on skill level

Hosted by
Casey K Creations

Week 3 - Aug. 11th-14th

CASEYKCREATIONS.COM

Acrylic painting, water color painting, drawing lessons, pottery painting, mixed media, wood painting and so much more! And don't forget the Art Shows!

Each camp week has different projects

\$100 Deposit - Remainder due first day of camp.

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



SUMMER ART CAMP WEEK 3, AUGUST 11TH-15TH



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 to sign up for virtual or in-person classes.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FREE

SCHEDULE

ATTENTION ENTREPRENEURS

2023



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

SPONSORED BY:



Penn-Northwest
Affordable Solutions For Corporate Expansion



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Alex Restoration and Masonry Repairs

Clark's Studio

Cabin Creek Electric Inc



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



**THINKING ABOUT
ADVERTISING IN OUR NEWSLETTER?**

Email newsletter@lawrencecounty.com to find out more!



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
325 East Washington Street
New Castle, PA 16101
www.lawrencecounty.com