

NEWSLETTER



SEPTEMBER 2026

UNDER THE DOME IN MERCER COUNTY



COMMISSIONERS UPDATE:

A Busy Month of Service, Progress and Community Engagement

The Mercer County Commissioners have had another busy, productive month, with activities ranging from celebrating our communities and supporting local youth to advancing important countywide projects and strengthening the County's financial position.

[READ MORE ON PAGE 7](#)

Annual Budget Cycle Officially Commences

Budget meetings are officially underway as the County begins work on the 2027 budget. With revenue-neutral tax years on the horizon for 2027 and 2028 and rising costs of mandated services, the Commissioners are working closely with department heads and elected row offices to control and reduce costs and seek other funding sources, such as grants, to balance the budget.

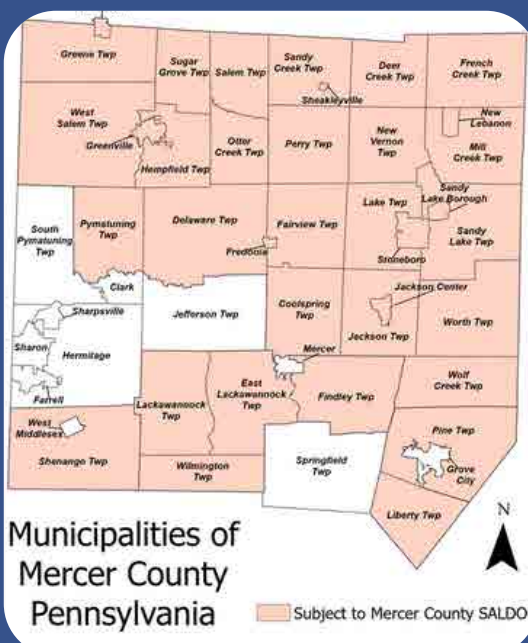


Mercer County Heard Residents' Concerns and Acted on Data Center Development

As interest in data center development continues to grow, Mercer County residents have raised important questions about potential impacts, including noise, water usage, setbacks, traffic, land use, and other concerns associated with large-scale industrial development.

The Mercer County Commissioners heard those concerns and took action. Working with residents, municipalities, and the Mercer County Regional Planning Commission (MCRPC), the County held two public hearings in June and July to receive public input on proposed amendments to the Mercer County Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO). Following that public process, the Commissioners formally adopted the amendments on July 30, 2026.

[READ MORE ON PAGE 8](#)



DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT: INSIDE COUNTY GOVERNMENT

The Intermediate Punishment Program (IPP) provides alternatives to traditional sentences of incarceration and probation for non-violent offenders who do not pose a threat to society. IPP allows offenders to remain in the community while serving their sentences and repaying their debt to society.

Some of the goals of the IPP program include providing

- Less restrictive and expensive sentencing options while maintaining public safety
- Community-based sanctions
- Alternative community-based programs in lieu of incarceration

The IPP Department administers many different programs. Some of the more well-known programs are House Arrest, Community Service, and IP Supervision. Mercer County is one of only two counties in Pennsylvania that does not have a county probation office. IP Supervision is an option that allows judges to have non-violent offenders serve their probation locally instead of with the PA Board of Probation and Parole.

IPP also oversees the very successful Treatment Court programs. Mercer County has three active Treatment Courts: Veterans Court, Drug Treatment Court, and Mental Health Court. These are diversionary courts for specific populations. Participants participate in very intensive treatment programs with their peers.



Tyler Shoaf is the director of the Intermediate Punishment Program. He has worked for Mercer County for 14 years.

MERCER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL RECOGNITION



Ginger Fenton, Distinguished Extension Educator, based in Mercer County, received the Distinguished Service Award in Denver in July 2026. The National Association of County Agricultural Agents (NACAA) presents the Distinguished Service Award to encourage and recognize excellence in the field of professional Extension for members with more than ten years of service. Recipients must demonstrate the development and implementation of an effective Extension program as well as professional improvement and service to Extension and the association.

In the picture: NACAA President JJ Jones presents the DSA award to Ginger Fenton.

SPAGHETTI DINNER

at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish

Sunday, September 27, 2026
12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Theme Basket Raffle during the dinner

\$15
Adults

\$8
Children 5-12

Ticket Sales at the Door Only



REYNOLDS VFW

★ Reynolds ★
VFW POST 7599
 SEPTEMBER 11TH
ROAD RALLY

ALL VEHICLES WELCOME

High Mileage Live From
 Rock-n-Roll Party Band 6-9pm

12 SEPT 2026

\$20 Per Rider
 Doors open 10am, Last vehicle out at Noon, Last vehicle in 4pm
 Raffles, Side Guns, and some fun activities!!!
 Printed event apparel same day.
 Food Specials and Drinks available onsite.
 Poker Run Payouts based on attendance
 Reynolds VFW, 115 Edgewood Drive, Greenville, Pa. 16154

Buhl Day 2026



Promoted By: Buhl Day 2026

715 Hazen Rd, Hermitage, PA 16148, USA

September 07, 2026 All Day EDT



Details

Celebrate tradition and history at Buhl Day on Labor Day 2026! This year's event proudly commemorates America's 250th anniversary with a full day of Americana-themed fun for all ages. Enjoy live musical performances, classic pie-eating contests, and all your favorite food and festivities that make Buhl Day special. Don't miss your chance to grab a limited-edition commemorative t-shirt and join us as we celebrate Buhl Day on Labor Day—and 250 years of America!

PIEROGIFES

SEPTEMBER 19TH

12:00PM - 10:00PM \$1 ENTRY DONATION

A FULL DAY OF PIEROGIS, CRAFT DRINKS,
 LIVE MUSIC, AND FALL VIBES!

PIEROGI THEMED SPECIALS • LIVE MUSIC
 VENDORS • BONFIRES • AND MORE!

NOVA DESTINATIONS | 5181 ST RT 302, HARPERSFIELD, OH 44041 | NOVADESTINATIONS.COM

Thursday September 24th, 2026

HOSTED BY MERCER COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION
 AND THE MERCER COUNTY OVERDOSE PREVENTION WORKGROUP

MERCER COUNTY RECOVERY CELEBRATION

"SPOTLIGHT RECOVERY"

Buhl Farm Casino Ballroom
 715 Hazen Road, Hermitage, PA

Doors open at 5pm. Event starts promptly at 5:30pm. Registration is required.
 Limited Seating Available

Spotlight your talent again this year!
 Showcase details and sign-up are included in the registration form

Deadline to register is
 September 16th, 2026

Register by following the link:
<https://forms.office.com/r/NZeGH3TKhj>
 or scan the QR code

Contact Polina Sedatova
 for more information
 724-479-6445
polina.sedatova@mcchc.org

Kim Anglin
 Impact Award,
 Talent,
 Showcase,
 Door Prizes
 and more!





DOWNTOWN SHARON FARMER'S MARKET

2026 Season

JOIN US 8 AM - NOON
 WEDNESDAYS & SATURDAYS
 JULY THROUGH OCTOBER
 AT THE PAVILION NEXT
 TO QUAKER STEAK & LUBE,
 101 CHESTNUT AVE., SHARON

Fresh produce, bakery treats, homegrown flowers,
 and pop-up artisan vendors! Plus the Farmer Dollar
 program, kids activities, coloring pages with Mercer
 County Food Bank and a Book Cart from the
 Community Library of the Shenango Valley!

To be a vendor, email us at
downtownsharonfarmersmarket@gmail.com.
 Follow us on social:
facebook.com/SharonFarmersMkt
[Instagram @DowntownSharonFarmersMarket](https://instagram.com/DowntownSharonFarmersMarket)











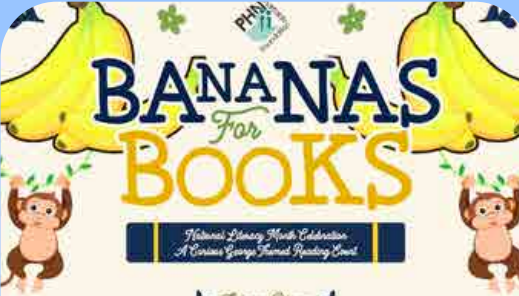



 Mercer County Commissioners |

Mercer County Town Hall Meeting

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH - 6:30 - 8:00 pm
Sheakleyville Community Volunteer Fire Department
3278 Perry Hwy, Sheakleyville

The County Commissioners invite you to attend an informal meeting that will update residents on current County projects. They will also answer any questions you might have of them.

 **BANANAS For BOOKS**

*National Library Week Celebration
A Curious George Themed Reading Event*

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH | 4:30-6:00 PM
SHENANGO VALLEY LIBRARY
11 NORTH SHARPSVILLE AVENUE | SHARON, PA

Stories to Enjoy | Fun Games for Kids | Snacks to be Served

ESVTS request: Please submit Curious George, 2023 Character Foundation Program Contribution, at 724-993-0030 by Wednesday September 20th. Recommended for kids ages 3 to 8 years old. Parent or Guardian must be present.

Thank You to Our Sponsors:
   

Special Collection Event
Appliances - Electronics - Household Hazardous Wastes - Tires

Jefferson Township Municipal Building
7407 Lamor Rd, Mercer, PA 16137
Saturday, September 19, 2026
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

*****BE SURE TO READ ALL OF THIS IMPORTANT INFORMATION*****

ELECTRONICS & HHW (Payment is via CREDIT CARD only)
REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR ELECTRONICS AND HHW AND LIMITED TO 100 VEHICLES
Please show up at your selected time to help keep the event running smoothly.
Register online: [www.jtccleanways.com](#) or scan the QR code
Or call Noddy Environmental at 412-963-6666

Household Hazardous Wastes - All types
Household Hazardous Wastes - All types \$1.60/pound
Batteries & Fluorescent Lights - All varieties \$1.65/pound
Propane Cylinders \$11 each

Appliances & TIRES (Payment is CHECK/CASH only. Registration IS NOT required)
To County CleanWays will accept payment in the form of CASH OR CHECK ONLY for these items:
Appliances - with Freon (refrigerators, air conditioners, dehumidifiers, etc.) \$25 per item
Appliances - All others (washers, dryers, microwaves, etc.) \$5 per item
Tires (Limit - 20 Tires per Person)
- Passenger Vehicle \$5 per tire
- Light Truck \$5 per tire
- Tractor Trailer \$25 per tire
- Tractor Trailer on Rims \$40 per tire
- PILT Tires on Rims \$10 per tire

Unfortunately we cannot accept any other types of tires.

All Item Acceptance and Pricing Subject to Change Without Notice.

Important Information about Payments
Because of the wide variety of donations that are being accepted there are two entities collecting payments:
Noddy Environmental AND Tri-County CleanWays.
Tires and/or appliances - cash or check only. Tri-County CleanWays CANNOT PROCESS CREDIT CARDS.
Electronics and household hazardous waste - Noddy Environmental will accept credit cards only.

please note accepted and not accepted items on next page

Jmicksy

Accepted Items

- ✓ Televisions
- ✓ Computers
- ✓ Laptops
- ✓ Printers
- ✓ Copiers
- ✓ Scanners
- ✓ Keyboards/Mice
- ✓ Speakers
- ✓ Cell Phones
- ✓ Stereos/CD Players
- ✓ VCR/DVD Players
- ✓ Video Game Consoles
- ✓ AC Units
- ✓ Dehumidifiers
- ✓ Gasoline
- ✓ Kerosene
- ✓ Diesel
- ✓ Motor Oil

Prohibited Items

- ✗ Antifreeze
- ✗ Insecticides
- ✗ Pesticides
- ✗ Weed Killer
- ✗ Oil Based Paint
- ✗ Latex Paint
- ✗ Thinners
- ✗ Solvents
- ✗ Degreasers
- ✗ Pool Chemicals
- ✗ Over Cleaners
- ✗ Drain Cleaners
- ✗ Toilet Cleaners
- ✗ Tile Cleaners
- ✗ Bleach
- ✗ Aerosols
- ✗ Fluorescent Lights
- ✗ Batteries
- ✗ Smoke Detectors
- ✗ Fire Extinguishers
- ✗ Ammunition
- ✗ Explosive Materials
- ✗ Compressed Gas Cylinders
- ✗ Pharmaceuticals
- ✗ Syringes
- ✗ Medical Waste
- ✗ Elemental Mercury
- ✗ Mercury Containing Devices
- ✗ PCB Contaminated Items
- ✗ Containers > 5 Gallons

 **Suicide Prevention Resource Center**

SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH IDEAS FOR ACTION

SEPTEMBER 2026

- LEARN** about suicide prevention:
 - Access [information](#) about suicide.
 - Explore [SPRIC's Learning Center](#).
 - Sign up for the [Weekly Spark](#) newsletter.
- CENTER LIVED EXPERIENCE** in your prevention efforts:
 - Read about [lived experience](#).
 - Watch [The Foundations of Lived Experience](#) video to learn from pioneering leaders.
- PROMOTE HEALING** by sharing:
 - A [handbook](#) for recovery after a suicide attempt.
 - Resources for [tools](#) autopsies, including behavioral health providers who have lost a client to suicide.
- CREATE SAFE AND EFFECTIVE MESSAGES** using:
 - The [Framework for Successful Messaging](#).
 - [SAS Narrative Research](#).
- ENGAGE THE MEDIA** by promoting:
 - [Recommendations for Reporting on Suicide](#).
 - The [Mental Health Media Guide](#).
- JOIN** our field's collective messaging effort:
 - Use [#BeThere](#) and [#SPM26](#) on social media to spread the word about how to support those who are struggling.
 - Get [updates](#) from the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention ([Action Alliance](#)).
- ADVANCE PREVENTION EFFORTS** in communities, states, and Tribes:
 - Find tools for getting started in [community suicide prevention](#).
 - Incorporate prevention [experiences](#) people live, work, and play.
 - Follow our [recommendations](#) for establishing a strong state suicide prevention [infrastructure](#).
 - Learn how to support healthy grieving in [Native communities](#).
- REACH OUT FOR HELP** if you or someone you know is struggling:
 - Call or text 988 or [chat online](#) for free, caring, confidential support from the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline ([988 Lifeline](#)).
 - Text HOME to 741741 for free, confidential, nonjudgmental support from [Crisis Text Line](#).
- SPREAD THE WORD** about the 988 Lifeline:
 - Use the [988 Partner Toolkit](#) to tailor messages for your audiences.
 - Get involved in [988 Day](#) and use the toolkit and [#988Day](#) to spread the word.
 - [#BeThe1](#) to learn [5 steps](#) for helping someone who may be suicidal.
- SUPPORT** military service members, veterans, and their loved ones:
 - [Reach out](#) and share resources with them.
 - Encourage those in crisis to call 988 and press 1, text 838255, or [chat online](#) with the [Veterans Crisis Line](#).
- PROMOTE** Suicide Prevention Awareness Month using the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's ([SAMHSA](#)) [Digital Toolkit](#).
- ON SEPTEMBER 10, GET INVOLVED IN**
 - [World Suicide Prevention Day](#) using ideas from the International Association for Suicide Prevention ([IASP](#)).
 - [National American Indian/Alaska Native Hope for Life Day](#) using the Action Alliance toolkit.
- TAKE 5 STEPS** that could help save lives using [resources](#) from the National Council for Suicide Prevention ([NCSP](#)).
- PARTICIPATE** in an [Out of the Darkness Community Walk](#) hosted by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention ([AFSP](#)).
- SCAN THE QR CODE** to access these resources on your mobile device.



<https://sprc.org/online-library/suicide-prevention-month-ideas-for-action>

Pennsylvania
CareerLink Day
JOIN THE WORKFORCE IN PA
JOB FAIR

Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2026 | 10 am - 2 pm

- PA CareerLink® registration assistance
- 20+ employers and training providers!
- Learn about tuition assistance, youth programs, resume writing, career exploration and more!

PA CareerLink® Mercer County
217 W. State St.
Sharon, PA 16146
724-347-9257

tinyurl.com/jobfairSRC

A proud partner of the americanjobcenter.org



For more information about programs and funding, visit: www.pa-careerlink.org

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

JOB FAIR!

GIVEAWAYS



75th Anniversary Warehouse Sales
SHARON, PA

Rockin' on the Rails
Sunday, Sept. 6

FREE CONCERT & 75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!
GATE OPENS AT 2 PM

FEATURING CHRIS HIGBEE

7 PM
FAMILY FRIENDLY RAIN OR SHINE

5 PM
CHANCE TO WIN UP TO 10 PRIZES INCLUDING CART VALUED AT \$1000

09.06.2026
GATE OPENS AT 2 PM
BEHIND WAREHOUSE SALES
200 W. SILVER ST., SHARON

FOOD & DRINK AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE BY

BRAVE ASTRONAUTS
5 PM

JUVENILE CHARACTERISTICS
5 PM

QUAKER STEAK & BLUES

THE GOOD SHEPHERD CENTER
Prince of Peace **AWESOME CLASS**
September 23, 2026
12:30PM-2:30PM

SELF CARE
Earn a \$25.00 Gift Card

Location: Good Shepherd Center
10 N. Water St.
Greenville, PA 16125

To Register:
Christine Loy 724-346-5777 Ext 160

FREE RABIES VACCINE CLINICS
September 2026
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY
Tails of Hope
TailsOfHopeWPA.org
724-346-4673

STRONGER TOGETHER

WORLD RABIES DAY
SEPTEMBER 20, 2026

For more information about programs and funding, visit: www.pa-careerlink.org

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

RECOVERY MONTH EVENTS 2026

AUG 29
SATURDAY 11-00AM

ROAR RECOVERY WALK

Join ROAR Center at 912 E State Street Sharon, PA for a Recovery Walk as well as food, games, music and vendor tables. Call 724-308-6222 for more information. Registration is required.

SEPT 5
SATURDAY 12-3PM

2ND ANNUAL COMMUNITY REUNION

Join Community Arts Experience at 75 Wheatland Ave. Wheatland, PA for food, fellowship, entertainment and more. Call 866-233-9916 for more information. Registration is required.



SEPT 9
WEDNESDAY 6-8 PM

MINDFULNESS IN RECOVERY EVENT

Join the Grove City Recovery Resource Center at Echo Pines Equine Center at 403 Airport Rd Grove City, PA. The evening will include a presentation, a tour and a cookout food. Call 724-992-9668 for more information. Registration is required.

SEPT 12
SATURDAY 11-3PM

LIFE CENTER CARNY GAME CHALLENGE

Join the Life Center at River of Life Campground at 131 Kidds Mills Rd Greenville, PA. The event will include food, fellowship and carnival-like games with prizes for highest scores! Games will start at 1pm. Call 814-282-9358 for more information. Registration is required.

SEPT 18
FRIDAY DOORS @ 6PM SHOW @ 7:15PM

"CAN'T STOP THE FEELING" DINNER THEATRE

Join Highway To Heaven Team Ministers at 201 Spruce Ave., Sharon, PA. The evening will include an original stage play written by Pastor Jeffrey Gordon which will focus on Opioid Awareness, Prevention and Recovery. Dinner will also be available. Call 724-979-4161 for more information and tickets. Tickets are required.

SEPT 20
SUNDAY 4:00 PM

RECOVERY & WELLNESS MINISTRY

Operation Lighthouse will be hosting a Recovery Wellness Ministry event at 201 Spruce Ave., Sharon, PA. The event will include wellness education, fellowship, testimonies, light refreshments and more. Call 724-308-6801 or 724-979-4161 for more information.

SEPT 22
TUESDAY 5-7 PM

HOPECAT OPEN HOUSE

HopeCat Center for Arts & Technology will be hosting an Open House event at 115 Anson Way, Sharon, PA. The event will include tours of the facility, art activities, information on the career programs offered and light refreshments. Call 724-308-5135 for more information.

SEPT 24
THURSDAY 5-8PM

RECOVERY CELEBRATION

Mercer County Behavioral Health Commission and the Mercer County Overdose Prevention Workgroup will be hosting the annual Recovery Celebration at Buht Park 715 Hazen Rd, Hermitage, PA. This event will include a talent show, dinner, vendor tables, giveaways and more. Call 724-662-2230 and ask for more information. Registration is required.

ACTS Sings: Duos & Duets



Promoted By: ACTS Performing Arts Center

40 S Irvine Ave, Sharon, PA 16146, USA

September 26, 2026 7:30 pm EDT

[Visit Website](#)

[Buy Tickets](#)



YOU'RE INVITED TO
'POP'toberfest at Cobblehaus at the Falls

6-9pm Tuesday, Oct. 6

\$65

TICKET PRICE INCLUDES BRATS & TOTS FOOD TRUCK - LIBATIONS - LIVE MUSIC

Benefitting Prince of Peace Center

Limited Tickets Available

Scan Here for Tickets

Silent Auction Raffles Door Prizes

1015 Leesburg Station Rd., Mercer, PA
Visit princeofpeacecenter.org for more details!

September 4, 2026



Business and Employers are invited to learn about the advantages of hiring employees with disabilities!



Fill Positions

People with disabilities represent an untapped talent pool. Only 22% of people with a disability are currently in the workforce.

Advantages by the Numbers



Retain Employees

Employees with disabilities have an 85% retention rate after 1 year of employment.



Increased Revenue

Businesses that prioritize including people with disabilities have on average 28% higher revenues and 30% higher profit margins.

Opportunities...

The Symposium will offer an opportunity to:

- ▼ Learn about Pennsylvania programs that support both businesses and employees. Including:
 - Tax incentives
 - Job supports
 - Accommodations
- ▼ Connect with local organizations and providers to explore how to expand and support your workforce.
- ▼ Hear from other businesses that are already successfully employing people with disabilities.

Register Here!

ODP Employment Symposium Registration

The Symposium is free and runs from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., including a complimentary lunch.

▼ Date
September 4, 2026

▼ Location
3190 William Pitt Way
Pittsburgh, PA 15238

▼ Questions
Jamie Bonser, ODP,
jbonser@pa.gov



Pennsylvania
Department of Human Services

The River Market Sharon, PA



Nonprofits



Live Music



Vendors



Fun!

Live Music; Vendor Market; Fire Pits - all set up by the Shenango River! Join us for the monthly River Market in downtown Sharon held the Last Friday of the month June - October from 5-9 PM. Plus QS&L will do a Dine to Donate for each featured nonprofit and a special collection of needed items for each one!

FEATURED NONPROFITS

SEPT. 25: STRAYHAVEN SHELTER

OCT. 30: VETERANS THROUGH SHARON
AMERICAN LEGION, POST #299

MUSIC

SEPT. 25: THE WRANGLER BAND

OCT. 30: DJ RICH



RIVERFRONT AT 101 CHESTNUT STREET, SHARON, PA



TO BE A VENDOR OR FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT
724.381.4782 OR EMAIL ORIGINALQSL@GMAIL.COM

QUAKER
STEAK
& LUBE



THE SMALL TOWN
STORYTELLER



Sharon's Riverfront Social
— SIP · SHOP · STROLL —



Looking for a way for you or your company to make a huge impact in our community? Look no further!

Mark your calendar to join

**MERCER COUNTY
FOOD BANK**
as we kick off the 3rd annual...



Ready... Set...

GO ORANGE!

Come lend a hand to help prepare the food bank for its busiest season!

**Fri. Sept. 11, 2026
9:00 AM - 9:00 PM**



HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

- **Volunteer** — sign up for a 2 hour shift.
- **Host a food drive in advance** — and drop off your donations at Myron's Meal Mobile.
- **Take a collection in advance** — and drop off at MCFB. For every \$1 donated, the food bank can provide 4 meals to those in our community that need it most!

Take action this **HUNGER ACTION MONTH** and sign up today for **Ready...Set...GO ORANGE!**

TIME SLOTS ARE FILLING FAST!
Call Patty today and get on the schedule: 724-981-0353x103



**COMMUNITY FOOD
ASSISTANCE**

Food Pantry Distribution

September 24, 2026

9:30 AM - 1:30 PM



Soup Kitchen

**DINE-IN OR GRAB-N-GO
EVERY MONDAY &
WEDNESDAY
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM**



MERCER COUNTY
FOOD BANK

**502 DARR AVE
FARRELL, PA 16127**

COMMISSIONERS MONTHLY UPDATE (con't)

One of the highlights of the month was participating in the 4-H Round-Up, where the Commissioners Ann Coleman, Bill Finley, and Tim McGonigle had the opportunity to judge an animal and kid costume contest, meet with young people, and see firsthand the tremendous effort, creativity, and dedication demonstrated by Mercer County's 4-H members. Supporting programs like 4-H is an investment in the next generation of leaders and helps young people develop responsibility, confidence, and valuable life skills.

The Commissioners also had the privilege of joining the City of Farrell and the Borough of Fredonia to celebrate significant community anniversaries. Farrell celebrated their 125th anniversary and Fredonia celebrated their 150th anniversary. These celebrations provide an opportunity to recognize the history, traditions, organizations, businesses, and residents that have helped make Mercer County a great place to live.

At the same time, work continues behind the scenes on several important county initiatives. The Commissioners are continuing to advance the County's radio project, an important effort focused on improving communications and strengthening public safety capabilities throughout Mercer County. Reliable communications are essential for our first responders, emergency personnel, and the residents they serve. Work is underway on the tower sites and decisions are being made regarding how the new radio channels will be organized.

The County is also examining ways to improve energy efficiency in its courthouse buildings. The goal is to identify opportunities to reduce energy consumption and operating costs while maintaining safe, comfortable, and functional facilities. Responsible stewardship means looking not only at what a project costs today, but also at its potential long-term savings and benefits to taxpayers.

Financial stewardship remains another important priority. The Commissioners are actively negotiating better rates and returns on County investments, seeking to maximize the income generated from available County funds while maintaining appropriate security and liquidity. Even small improvements in investment returns can make a meaningful difference to the County's bottom line over time.

These activities reflect the broad scope of the Commissioners' responsibilities. Some of the work is highly visible—such as attending community celebrations and supporting our 4-H youth—while other efforts involve careful planning, negotiations, and long-term decision-making.

Whether investing in our young people, celebrating the communities that make Mercer County special, improving public safety communications, reducing operating costs, or protecting taxpayer resources, the Commissioners remain focused on serving our residents today while planning responsibly for Mercer County's future.

Data Center Development Con't:

The County SALDO applies in 36 municipalities and establishes minimum standards for land development projects within its jurisdiction. In municipalities that do not have their own zoning ordinance, the County SALDO is the only tool for ensuring that land development is subject to established standards. Not every municipality will choose to adopt its own zoning ordinance, making the County SALDO an important baseline for responsible land development and community protection.

While the County SALDO establishes minimum development standards, municipalities with their own zoning ordinances have additional authority to determine where specific types of land uses are permitted and to establish local zoning requirements. Of Mercer County's 47 municipalities, 29 have their own zoning ordinances, and seven are currently reviewing or updating their regulations to address land-use districts and appropriate locations for emerging types of development.

The City of Sharon has its own zoning and land-development regulations and served as the approving authority for the Keel Data Center project. The MCRPC reviewed the proposal and provided comments as part of its planning and review responsibilities.

The Commissioners' actions demonstrate their commitment to listening to residents, responding to legitimate community concerns, and planning responsibly for future development. Mercer County recognizes that economic development can provide important opportunities for jobs and investment, while also recognizing the importance of protecting the character, quality of life, and long-term interests of our communities.

For more information about the County SALDO amendments or local planning and zoning, contact the Mercer County Regional Planning Commission at www.mcrpc.com.
