

Chamber CHATTER



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

1.2.25

6 West Strawberry Avenue, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055 (717) 796-0811 www.mechanicsburgchamber.org

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News, Events & more!

Seeking HOSTS for 2025 EVENTS

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

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

CHAMBER EVENTS

Watch for Weekly Updates!!

January

14 - Business Women's Networking Luncheon - Residence Inn Mechanicsburg, 2040 Technology Pkwy, Mechanicsburg. 11:30am - 1:00pm. FREE member event.

15 - Annual Dinner & General Membership Meeting, Penn Harris Hotel, 1150 Camp Hill Bypass, Camp Hill. 6:00pm - 9:00pm. \$45 per person. Sponsorships Available

20 - Office closed for holiday

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

RSVP to info@mechanicsburgchamber.org

For a full calendar of chamber and member events, visit www.mechanicsburgchamber.org/events

Thank You For Renewing Your Membership!

Bin There Dump That
GreenStar Solutions
Lions Club of Mechanicsburg PA
Mark Martin
Senior Helpers
Union Flats

Business Women's Networking Luncheon

~~Tuesday, October 8~~
~~Tuesday, November 12~~
Tuesday, January 14
11:30am - 1:00pm

Construction is finished and it is now OPEN!

Residence INN[®]

BY MARRIOTT

The new Residence Inn Mechanicsburg welcomes the Business Women's Networking Luncheon for January.

Come check out the area's newest all suite hotel and the fine accommodations that blend the perfect combination of comfort and convenience.

Introduce yourself and your business to familiar faces and hopefully some new ones, too. Come network with local business women and enjoy a light lunch.

Don't forget to bring your business cards to MIX & MINGLE.

Residence Inn Mechanicsburg
2040 Technology Parkway
Mechanicsburg

Reservations required.

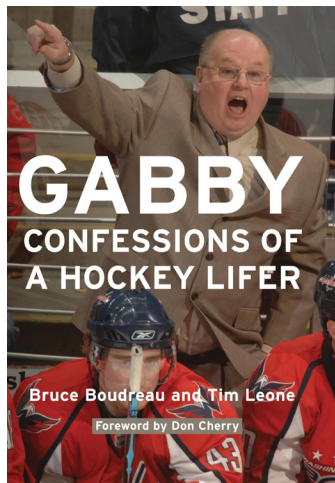
RSVP to info@mechanicsburgchamber.org

Chamber Annual Dinner & Meeting

Penn Harris Hotel, Trademark Collection by Wyndham
1150 Camp Hill Bypass, Camp Hill

January 15, 2025

6 - 9 p.m.



Mechanicsburg Chamber of Commerce invites all members to join us for the Annual General Membership Meeting

Our annual meeting brings members together to network in celebration of business, community and the achievements made.

Again this year - dinner will be a table served meal!

The special guest speaker for this year's event will be

Bruce Boudreau

former NHL Head Coach & Hershey Bears Head Coach, AHL Hall of Fame Class of 2009, Player, Analyst, Actor, Author, and Co-Owner of the Hershey Cubs of the USPHL.

Bruce will offer insights on the ups and downs of being a professional athlete and his transition to a leadership and eventually ownership position.

Sponsorships Available! Tickets are \$45.00 per person.
To purchase please contact the Chamber at 717-796-0811

Sponsored in part by:

AVON
Melissa Hiler



Seeking HOSTS for 2025 EVENTS

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

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

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



DeLozier Announces State Funding for Mechanicsburg Fire Station Improvements, Expansion

Rep. Sheryl M. DeLozier (R-Cumberland) joined members of the Mechanicsburg Fire Department, an all-volunteer fire department in the 88th District, to announce \$800,000 in state funding to expand and improve facilities at its Fire Station 2, "The Hill Station."

DeLozier, recognizing the hard work and dedication of the volunteer firefighters who serve the Borough of Mechanicsburg and its surrounding communities, advocated for these needed dollars. She remarked that improvements to The Hill Station will have a significant and long-lasting impact on public safety in the area.



"Firefighters and their fire stations are cornerstones of the community, and they need our help to continue thriving," said DeLozier. "By making this investment in the Mechanicsburg community, we can prolong and improve upon good public safety in the borough and its surrounding municipalities.

"I was glad to work with the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) to reinvest these state tax dollars in the local community. This is a tangible way I can say 'thank you' for all the long hours they spend putting themselves in harm's way to protect the place they call home," DeLozier concluded.

"The fire department responded to a record 550 calls this year. It is a big undertaking for our all-volunteer department to handle the constantly growing number of emergency incidents, and aging facilities pose challenges to answering those critical, lifesaving calls," said Mechanicsburg Fire Department Chief Chris Bixler. "We are excited to announce this state funding; get the new firehouse project at Station 2 underway; and continue serving Mechanicsburg and its surrounding communities. We are also grateful to Rep. DeLozier for her work in securing this money and her continued advocacy for first responders."

The dollars for this award are derived from the DCED appropriation for public safety and public safety emergencies. The program provides state assistance to individuals, persons or political subdivisions directly affected by natural or manmade disasters, public safety emergencies and other situations that pose a public safety danger as determined by the department.

License Your Dog in 2025



The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture is reminding dog owners to license their pets for 2025.

All dogs three months of age and older are required to be licensed by Jan. 1 of each year. Dog owners may choose to purchase single year licenses or a lifetime license, if their dog has some form of permanent identification, such as a microchip or tattoo.

Single year licenses cost \$8.70, while lifetime licenses cost \$52.70. Senior citizens or people with disabilities may purchase a single year license for \$6.70 or a lifetime license for \$36.70.

Licenses are available for purchase through county treasurers. [For additional information, including links to forms and a list of treasurers and their contact information, click here.](#)

Celebrate Agriculture at 109th Pennsylvania Farm Show

The Pennsylvania Farm Show – the country’s largest indoor agricultural exposition under one roof – kicks off Saturday, Jan. 4, in Harrisburg. The show will run through Saturday, Jan. 11.

This year’s theme is “Powering Pennsylvania,” which aims to highlight the vital role agriculture plays in the Commonwealth’s economy.

As always, the show will feature hundreds of competitions and exhibits, as well as animals and products related to the state’s robust agriculture industry. The annual showcase is a family-friendly event with lots to see and do; and don’t forget to stop by the famous food court for a taste of some Pennsylvania cuisine.



Admission to the show is free, but parking is \$15 per vehicle. Shuttle service is provided.

For all the latest news about the Farm Show, [follow it on Facebook](#) or [click here](#).



GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Grief and Bereavement Support Group

1st Monday of each month

6:00 PM - 7:15 PM

Legend at Silver Creek
425 Lambs Gap Road
Mechanicsburg, PA

Join us for a FREE monthly support group, open to anyone who has experienced grief and loss.

Grief is the natural emotional response to the loss of someone close, such as a family member, friend, or pet. It can also occur as a result of a serious illness, divorce, or other significant loss.

This open group provides a safe space for community members to connect, share their experiences, learn new coping skills, and support one another. Everyone is welcome to join.

Brought to you by:

Musselman
Funeral Home & Cremation Services Inc.
Est. 1895
Supervisor: Cliff D. Forester, Sr.

LEGEND
PERSONAL CARE • MEMORY CARE
at Silver Creek



JAZZ ME BAND

KIRK WISE UPCOMING
SOLO, DUO & BAND
PUBLIC DATES

Sun. 1/5 – Masonic Homes Brunch,
Elizabethtown...Kirk solo 11-2

Sat. 1/11 – Reid's Wine & Cider House,
Gettysburg...Kirk Duo 7-10

Sat. 1/18 – Totem Pole Wine Farm/Ranch
Carlisle...Kirk solo 6:30-8:30

Sat. 1/25 – Captain Bob's Steamed Crabs,
Railroad/ Shrewsbury...Kirk solo 6-8

Fri. 1/31 – Celebration Villa, Dillsburg...
Kirk solo 3-4

Fri. 2/1 – Reid's Wine & Cider House,
Gettysburg...Kirk Duo 7-10

Fri. 2/7 – Hemauer Brewing,
Mechanicsburg...Kirk solo 7-9

Sat. 2/8 – Spring Gate Wine, Harrisburg...
Kirk solo/duo...5-8

Sat. 2/15 – Captain Bob's Steamed Crabs,
Railroad/ Shrewsbury...Kirk solo 6-8

For complete up-to-date
schedule, information,
and photos go to
www.jazzmeband.com

Bookings: call Kirk at 717-979-0341 or
E-mail wisemotors@aol.com

Tour sponsors:
FARNHAM INSURANCE,
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LANDON WISE PHOTOGRAPHY



GFWC (General Federation of Women's Clubs) Mechanicsburg

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 14, 2025 at 7:00 PM at Buhrig's Gathering Place, 25 East Main Street, Mechanicsburg. The program will be a speaker from Carlisle Cares.

Would you like to know more about how we serve the community while helping Veterans, libraries and schools? Come for a visit to find out.

For more information, contact Sue at 717.243.9872 visit our website at <http://gfwcmech.tripod.com/>

Pink Hands of Hope Welcomes Veronica (Ronnie) Shaffer as Interim Board President

Pink Hands of Hope, a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting women fighting breast cancer, is pleased to announce Veronica (Ronnie) Shaffer as the Interim Board President.

The position became vacant following the untimely passing of former Board President Patrice Berkheimer. While we mourn Pat's passing, her legacy continues to inspire the mission and work of Pink Hands of Hope.

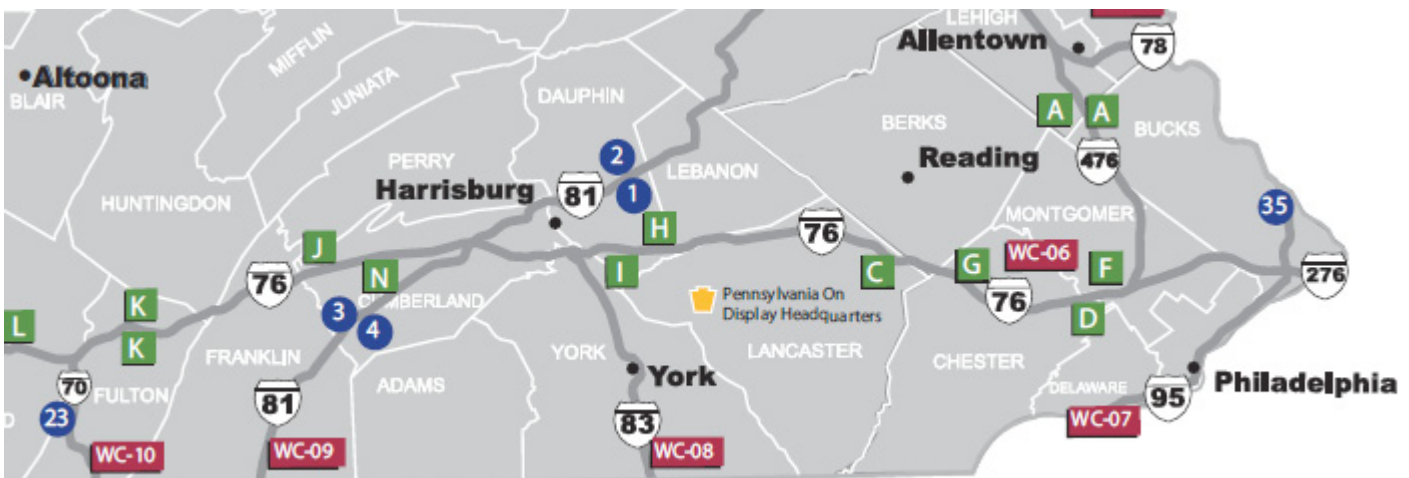
Ronnie brings a wealth of experience and dedication to her new role. She has served on the board of directors for two years and was a long-term volunteer with Pink Hands of Hope prior to her board service. Her extensive background in volunteerism includes contributions to numerous non-profit organizations, as well as professional experience with the American Cancer Society and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Education, where she retired.

"We are so happy to have someone with Ronnie's credentials, commitment, and enthusiasm help us pick up the pieces and guide us through this next year," said Debbie Smith, Board Treasurer. Ronnie will serve as Interim Board President until the position is up for election at the end of 2025.

Founded in 2009, Pink Hands of Hope enhances the lives of women fighting breast cancer by providing products and services to ease their journey. Funding for these efforts is made possible, in part, by the organization's retail thrift store located at 5325 East Trindle Road, Mechanicsburg, and through generous corporate and private donations.

For more information about Pink Hands of Hope or to learn how you can support the organization, please visit www.pinkhandsofhope.org, or contact Debra Donadee, debra@pinkhandsofhope.org, 717-887-1769.

Would you like to reach more potential customers via the PA Turnpike, Interstate Rest Areas or PA Welcome Centers?



Travelers can find out about your business at highly traveled Turnpike Service Plazas and/or Interstate Rest Areas for only \$28 per month per location with a FREE pocket for 4x9 print brochures or rack cards. Non-profit organizations and B&Bs are only \$16 per month per location.

We are also the sole distributors for the FREE PA Welcome Center Program that offers tourism information to all 14 official PA welcome centers around the perimeter of the state! Your tax dollars pay for this free program! Please contact me with any questions or interest in any of our programs!

Teresa Crawford, Account Representative
Getaways On Display
717-653-8070 x208
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www.GetawaysOnDisplay.com



IMPORTANT: Update on the Corporate Transparency Act

On December 23, 2024, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals lifted the nationwide injunction on the Corporate Transparency Act (CTA) Beneficial Ownership Information (BOI), allowing its enforcement to proceed. This ruling means that businesses must now comply with the CTA's [requirements](#), which include registering BOI with the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN), by updated deadlines.

Key Implications for Your Business:

- Compliance Deadline: Updated deadlines have been established for reporting companies to comply with registering their BOI with the FinCEN.
[Click here](#) to review the updated guidelines.
- Required Information: The CTA mandates that businesses provide detailed information, including the full legal name, business address, state of formation, taxpayer identification number, and identity documents of beneficial owners.
- Penalties for Non-Compliance: Failure to comply with the CTA can result in significant penalties, including fines up to \$10,000.
- Purpose of the CTA: The act aims to combat financial crimes such as money laundering and terrorism financing by increasing transparency around business ownership.

This ruling may require immediate action from many of our members. We encourage you to review your compliance status and ensure that all necessary information is submitted to FinCEN by the

deadline.

For further details and assistance, please refer to the resources provided by FinCEN on its [website](#).

Second Update on the Corporate Transparency Act

This past Thursday, December 26, shortly after we sent the update below, a different panel within the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals reversed the previous ruling and reinstated the national injunction against the enforcement of the Corporate Transparency Act.

While the ultimate outcome of the CTA remains in limbo, neither the original filing deadlines nor the extended filing deadlines announced Dec. 23 are in effect.

Stay tuned for further developments.



Beneficial Ownership Information Reporting Requirements Update

December 23rd, the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals reinstated the Beneficial Ownership Information (BOI) reporting requirements. We've outlined the most recent updates on filing deadlines and compliance obligations below to ensure your business is prepared.

Key Deadline Changes

The Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) has adjusted the filing deadlines as follows:

- For entities formed before January 1, 2024: The new deadline to file is January 13, 2025.
- For entities formed in 2024: Companies have 90 days from their formation date to file.
- Special deadlines for recent formations:
 - o Companies formed on or after September 4, 2024, with filing deadlines between December 3 and December 23, 2024, now have until January 13, 2025, to comply.
 - o Companies created between December 3 and December 23, 2024, have an additional 21 days beyond their standard filing deadline to comply.

What This Means for You

- If you previously filed a BOI report, no additional action is required unless your information has changed.

- If your business has not yet filed, we recommend promptly preparing your filing to meet the revised deadlines.

Legal and Legislative Developments

While the Corporate Transparency Act (CTA) and its associated rules face multiple legal challenges, including potential review by the U.S. Supreme Court, the reinstated requirements remain enforceable. Additionally, advocacy groups like the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) are lobbying Congress to repeal the BOI reporting requirements, adding further uncertainty to the regulatory landscape.

We are closely monitoring this evolving situation and will keep you informed of any updates. If you have any questions or would like assistance determining the best course of action for your business, please contact our team of trusted advisors.

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WALTERS & GALLOWAY, PLLC

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

By Attorney Jacquelyn M. Yeakle

Beneficial Ownership Information Report to the U.S. Financial Crimes Enforcement Network

In 2021, Congress passed the Corporate Transparency Act (CTA), which created a new beneficial ownership information (BOI) reporting requirement as part of the U.S. government's efforts to make it harder for bad actors to hide or benefit from their ill-gotten gains through shell companies or other opaque ownership structures. Under the CTA, many businesses were required to file a report to FinCEN by January 1, 2025. This report includes the name, address, birth date, and driver's license copy of at least one beneficial owner of the business. A "beneficial owner" is defined as an individual who either directly or indirectly: (1) exercises substantial control over the reporting company, or (2) owns or controls at least 25% of the reporting company's ownership interests.

However, on December 3, 2024, a U.S. District Court judge in Texas issued a nationwide preliminary injunction that temporarily prohibited the enforcement of the CTA, which included the filing of the BOI reports. As a result of this order, the filing of the reports became voluntary. The Department of Justice appealed the Court's ruling on December 5, 2024. On December 23, 2024, the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals granted a stay of the District Court's order pending the appeal, meaning the reporting requirement was reinstated, but then a mere three days later, the Court of Appeals vacated

its order granting the stay, which made the reporting requirement voluntary again. At this time, the matter will be argued before the court en banc on March 25, 2025, but uncertainty remains due to all the recent back and forth on the status of the reporting requirement. As a result, business owners who have not filed the report yet and may be required to do so should continue to monitor this case closely.

Overtime and Minimum Wage Requirements under the Fair Labor Standards Act

Under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), the general rule is an employee is entitled to at least minimum wage and overtime pay at time and a half for all hours worked over 40 hours per week. Some employees are specifically exempt from the FLSA's minimum wage and overtime protections, including bona fide executive, administrative or professional employees. This exemption, typically referred to as the "EAP" exemption, applies when:

1. An employee is paid a salary;
2. The salary is not less than a minimum salary threshold amount; and
3. The employee primarily performs executive, administrative or professional duties.

On April 23, 2024, the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) released a final rule updating the FLSA's overtime pay requirements. Most salaried workers earning less than \$35,568/year (\$684/week) were eligible for overtime pay, but on July 1, 2024, the final rule increased the minimum salary threshold to \$43,888/year (\$844/week), and then another increase was to take effect on January 1, 2025 to \$58,656/year (\$1,128/week).

However, on November 15, 2024, a U.S. District Court judge in Texas struck down the DOL's final rule that raised the minimum salary thresholds. As a result, most salaried workers earning less than \$35,568/year (\$684/week) are currently eligible for overtime pay. The increase on July 1, 2024 is reversed and the increase on January 1, 2025 will no longer occur. An appeal has been filed and two other lawsuits regarding the DOL's 2024 final rule are currently pending in other federal district courts.

Fraud Alert for Businesses

There is a new scam targeting business owners in an attempt to collect money by mailing business owners a form from the "US Business Regulations Department". This form states there is a reporting issue or a registration requirement and requests business owners to complete and return the form by a certain due date and to include a filing fee. There is no US Business Regulations Department. If you receive a letter from the US Business Regulations Department, it is a scam. The Department of Defense, Office of Small Business Programs, has more information on this scam that can be found here: business.defense.gov/Resources/Scam-Alerts/.

[Please feel free to contact our office if you have any questions on these recent court case rulings or the fraud alert.](#)

For more blogs and articles, visit our [website](#).

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Thrive in the Digital Era with Solid Cybersecurity Foundations

ADOBE

(408) 753-5826

cit46532@adobe.com

<https://www.adobe.com/acrobat/online>

In an era where digital threats loom large, fortifying your business against cyber attacks is not just a necessity but a strategic imperative. As technology evolves, so do the tactics of cybercriminals, making it crucial for businesses to stay ahead of potential threats. Whether you're launching a startup or managing an established enterprise, a robust understanding of cybersecurity can safeguard your data and uphold client trust. Implementing effective security measures is not merely about compliance; it's about ensuring the longevity and resilience of your business in a landscape fraught with risks.

Enhancing Document Security with Password-Protected PDFs

Password-protected PDFs are an excellent way to safeguard sensitive files, as they add an extra layer of encryption that prevents unauthorized access. By requiring a password, these files can only be opened by individuals with the correct credentials, reducing the risk of cyber attacks. If you need to make a document accessible to multiple users, you can remove the password requirement from PDFs by updating the security settings on it. When doing so, following [best practices for a PDF password remover](#) ensures that the process is secure and maintains the integrity of the document.

Understanding Cybersecurity Trends to Safeguard Your Business

Staying informed about the latest cybersecurity trends is crucial for anticipating potential risks to your business. With cybercrime costs projected to exceed \$24 trillion by 2027, understanding emerging threats such as social engineering, ransomware, and AI-driven attacks is more important than ever. By keeping abreast of these developments, you can better prepare your defenses against increasingly sophisticated cyberattacks. Recognizing the persistent cybersecurity skills shortage can also help you prioritize training and hiring strategies to bolster your organization's resilience.

Legal and Compliance Standards in Data Protection

Understanding the legal requirements and compliance standards for data protection in your industry is crucial for safeguarding sensitive information and avoiding costly penalties. For example, in healthcare, organizations must adhere to regulations like the GDPR for EU citizens' data and the CCPA for California residents, ensuring patient privacy and data security. Similarly, businesses operating online should stay updated with evolving laws such as the [Artificial Intelligence Act](#), which aims to regulate AI systems by 2024. Conducting regular audits and establishing a robust data governance framework can help you maintain compliance and operational integrity.

Tackling Common Vulnerabilities in Data Management

Understanding and addressing common vulnerabilities in data management is crucial for maintaining the integrity and security of your systems. One prevalent threat is SQL Injection (SQLi), which allows attackers to manipulate your database, potentially leading to unauthorized access or data corruption. To combat this, employing prepared statements and parameterized queries ensures that user inputs are treated as data rather than executable code. Additionally, Cross-Site Scripting (XSS) poses a risk

by enabling malicious scripts, which can be mitigated through input validation and output encoding.

Perform Regular Network Security Audits

Conducting regular network security audits is crucial for identifying and mitigating potential vulnerabilities in your business's digital infrastructure. These audits serve as a comprehensive examination of your network's defenses, helping you pinpoint weaknesses before they can be exploited by cyber-criminals. By systematically evaluating your security posture, you can implement necessary improvements, such as updating outdated software or enhancing access controls, to fortify your defenses.

Spotting Phishing Emails: Key Indicators to Watch For

Recognizing phishing emails is crucial for safeguarding your business from cyber threats. These deceptive emails often feature generic greetings, such as "Dear Customer," which lack the personal touch of legitimate communications. Additionally, they frequently contain spelling and grammatical errors, a telltale sign of hastily crafted messages by cybercriminals. Be wary of emails with suspicious links or attachments, as these can lead to malicious websites or download harmful software onto your device.

Selecting the Perfect Antivirus for Your Business Needs

Selecting antivirus software for a business requires assessing network weaknesses, budget limits, and device compatibility. As malware evolves at an alarming rate, effective protection must balance security with maintaining system efficiency. Small businesses face significant risk, making real-time detection and efficient resource management essential. Tailored solutions help safeguard sensitive data without overburdening operations. Thoughtful choices ensure security measures align seamlessly with business needs.

Incorporating these cybersecurity strategies into your business operations is essential for safeguarding sensitive information and ensuring operational continuity. By staying vigilant and informed, you not only protect your assets but also strengthen your standing as a reliable and secure entity in the digital marketplace.

Discover how the Mechanicsburg Chamber of Commerce can help you thrive by connecting you with local businesses and community events!

Chamber Chatter is published on-line every Thursday.

We encourage member businesses to send us information on sales, promotions, news and events. It is a great way to promote your business or organization.

Chamber Chatter advertisements will remain for up to 4 weeks, or as space permits.

If you have something to share, please submit it by Wednesday at noon to
info@mechanicsburgchamber.org.

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