

# THE REPORTER

A publication of the Southern Chester County Chamber of Commerce  
Community & Government Relations Committee

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## FROM THE DESK OF THE COMMUNITY & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

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Please read the article below from the Philadelphia Inquirer regarding Gov. Wolf's proposal to divert over \$200 million from the state's Horse Race Development Trust Fund to the Nellie Bly Scholarship Program. This could have crippling effects on our local economy and agricultural community. The Southern Chester County Chamber of Commerce, along with the Community and Government Relations Committee, are committed to keeping you informed and advocate for our members. To connect with your state legislators concerning this funding proposal, please visit [Voter Voice Action Center](#).

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### PA GOV. TOM WOLF AND THE HORSE INDUSTRY ARE CLASHING OVER HIS PLAN TO DIVERT MONEY FOR STUDENT LOAN RELIEF

**FEB 13, 2020** - Gov. Tom Wolf on Thursday touted [his scholarship proposal to curb student debt in Pennsylvania](#). But not everybody who showed up at West Chester University was happy about it.

During [his budget address last week](#) Wolf proposed funding scholarships by diverting \$204 million from the state's Horse Race Development Trust Fund, which is used for horse owners and breeders' winnings from races. The fund has about \$250 million, Wolf said.

"We can't solve one debt problem by creating another debt problem for the 20,000 people who work in the horse racing and breeding industry," said Pete Peterson, executive director of the Pennsylvania Equine Coalition, who joined a group of people in that industry at the governor's West Chester appearance.

Peterson said Wolf's proposal would have a ripple effect on the state's agricultural economy, damaging far more than those racing and breeding horses. It would affect everything else that depends on it, including alfalfa, hay, and mushroom farming, he said.

His scholarship program, he said, could help the state avoid such losses of talent in the future. That argument did little to quiet the equine industry representatives. The money from the purses allows them to care for horses and keep their industry going, they argued. For the complete article, please visit: [The Inquirer - Gov. Wolf To Divert Horse Industry Funds](#)

For more information from The Philadelphia Inquirer, please visit: [The Inquirer](#)

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**U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

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## THEY'RE STILL THERE: TARIFFS WEIGH HEAVILY ON U.S. ECONOMY

**FEB 24, 2020** - The United States has seen important steps forward on trade over the past couple of months, but the recent wave of tariffs continues to impose a heavy burden on many American businesses. The result is higher operating costs, reduced global competitiveness, and dampened investment.

The U.S. Chamber welcomed recent trade developments promising greater certainty for the U.S. economy, including approval of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) and the U.S.-China Economic and Trade Agreement. These pacts provide clarity that will help businesses to plan, hire, and build.

Yet amid change, some things remain the same: nearly all of the tariffs imposed over the past three years remain in place.

### Number to note: \$400 billion

That's the value of imports the U.S. has hit with new tariffs in the past three years.

A recent Congressional Budget Office [report](#) notes that these new tariffs cover nearly \$400 billion of U.S. imports, with goods from China, imports of steel and aluminum, and goods from the EU all in the mix. Many of these tariffs are set at levels that are considered prohibitive - that is, they shut out imported goods. For the complete article, please visit: [Tariffs Weigh Heavy on U.S. Economy](#)

### U.S. Imports Affected by Tariffs Recently Imposed by the United States

Billions of Dollars

Category of Goods	Value of Imports Affected by Tariffs								Share of Category Affected by Tariffs (Percent)
	Value of Imports in 2017	Tariff on Solar Panels	Tariff on Washing Machines	Tariff on Steel	Tariff on Aluminum	Tariffs on Chinese Goods	Tariffs on EU Goods	All Recent Tariffs	
Food, Feed, and Beverages	138	0	0	0	0	8	5	11	7.9
Industrial Supplies and Materials	507	0	0	14	9	59	0	72	14.2
Capital Goods, Except Automotive	641	6	*	2	*	179	5	181	28.3
Automotive Vehicles, Parts, and Engines	359	1	0	0	0	24	0	25	6.9
Consumer Goods	602	0	2	0	*	104	*	105	17.5
Other Goods	95	0	0	0	0	*	0	*	**
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,342</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>374</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>395</b>	16.8
Share of Total Imports (Percent)	100.0	0.3	0.1	0.7	0.4	16.0	0.4	16.8	n.a.

Source: Congressional Budget Office, using information from the Census Bureau and the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative.

The values and shares of affected goods are measured relative to their amounts in 2017—the year before the tariffs were imposed.

n.a. = not applicable; \* = between zero and \$500 million; \*\* = between zero and 0.05 percent.

For more information from the US Chamber, please visit: [United State Chamber of Commerce](#)

## PENNSYLVANIA CHAMBER OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY

### PA CHAMBER: NEW STUDY REVEALS IMPACT INADEQUATE CHILDCARE OPTIONS HAVE ON PENNSYLVANIA'S WORKFORCE, ECONOMY

**HARRISBURG** - The U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation today released a report examining the impact of childcare issues on Pennsylvania's state economy. The report is part of a broader "[Untapped Potential](#)" study of four U.S. states - Idaho, Iowa, Mississippi, and Pennsylvania - that reveals the cost of childcare challenges in each state and provides opportunities to unlock economic potential for states

and employers.

The study found that Pennsylvania loses an estimated \$3.47 billion annually for the state's economy. This number includes an estimated \$591 million annual loss in tax revenue as well as an estimated annual loss to Pennsylvania employers of \$2.88 billion on absences and employee turnover as a result of childcare breakdowns.

"The lack of affordable, quality childcare is a critical component of the workforce issues plaguing Pennsylvania and states across the country," said Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry President and CEO Gene Barr. "This issue has acted as a barrier for many people to enter the workforce - leaving an entire segment of the population that is ready and able to work, out of career paths that pay family-sustaining incomes. As part of the Pennsylvania Chamber's workforce initiative, Start the Conversation Here, we are pleased to partner with the U.S. Chamber Foundation and elected officials across the Commonwealth and nation on solutions to address this workforce challenge."

Key study findings include:

- Childcare issues result in an estimated \$3.47 billion loss annually for Pennsylvania's economy.
- Pennsylvania loses an estimated \$591 million annually in tax revenue due to childcare issues.
- Absences and employee turnover cost Pennsylvania employers an estimated \$2.88 billion per year.
- At least 55 percent of parents in Pennsylvania reported missing work due to childcare issues in the past 3 months.
- Approximately four in 10 parents in Pennsylvania postponed school or a training program due to childcare issues.

The full reports, videos, report methodology, and other resources can be found on the U.S. Chamber Foundation's [website](#).

For more information from the PA Chamber, please visit: [PA Chamber of Business and Industry](#)

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## **FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF PHILADELPHIA ECONOMIC NEWS**

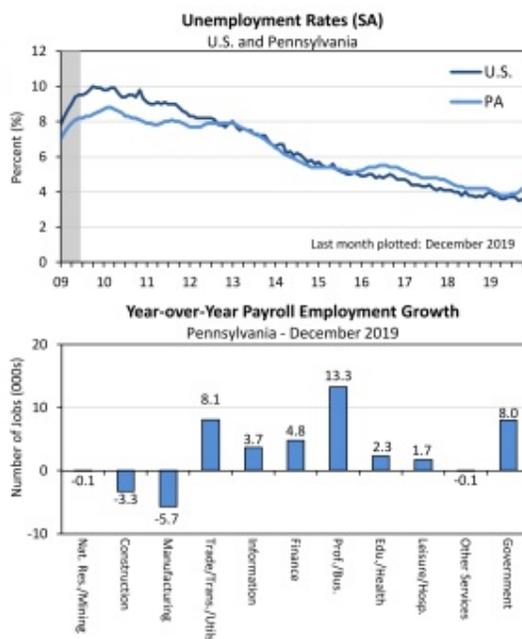
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**TRI-STATE TRACKING**

**Pennsylvania Labor Conditions\***

PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT (SA) December 2019	Level (000s)	Y/Y Change (000s)	Y/Y Change (%)
<b>Pennsylvania - Total</b>	6,063.4	32.7	0.5
Natural Resources & Mining	29.2	-0.1	-0.3
Construction	256.8	-3.3	-1.3
Manufacturing	565.1	-5.7	-1.0
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	1,132.0	8.1	0.7
Information	88.2	3.7	4.4
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	332.5	4.8	1.5
Professional & Business Services	817.2	13.3	1.7
Educational & Health Services	1,295.0	2.3	0.2
Leisure & Hospitality	577.8	1.7	0.3
Other Services	260.2	-0.1	0.0
Government	709.4	8.0	1.1
<b>RESIDENT EMPLOYMENT (SA)</b>			
<b>Employed</b>	6,258.9	79.1	1.3
<b>Unemployed</b>	292.7	22.2	8.2
<b>Civilian Labor Force</b>	6,551.6	101.2	1.6
<b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>			
	4.5	0.3	
<b>Labor Force Participation Rate (%)</b>			
	63.6	0.9	

\* Monthly data. Source: [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#) via [Flower Analytics](#). Data are seasonally adjusted (SA).  
Note: The gray-shaded area in the charts is a period of business recession as defined by the [National Bureau of Economic Research \(NBER\)](#).



For more data, please visit: [Tri-State Tracking: Economic Data for Delaware, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania](#)

**PHILADELPHIA FED INTRODUCES NEW MEASURE OF INFLATION EXPECTATIONS**

Philadelphia, PA - The Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia's [Real-Time Data Research Center](#) today launched the [Aruoba Term Structure of Inflation Expectations \(ATSIX\)](#), a smooth, continuous curve of inflation expectations three to 120 months ahead.

"We think the ATSIX will be useful to policymakers, researchers, and business analysts for studying how inflation expectations and real interest rates evolve and respond to monetary policy," said Fatima Mboup, a senior research assistant in the Real-Time Data Research Center.

Inflation expectations are commonly gauged in two ways - from expected inflation rates implied in market interest rates and from surveys of economists or consumers. Measures of expected inflation based on surveys of economists have been found to be generally superior to market-based measures. However, because surveys ask respondents to forecast inflation rates for noncontiguous time horizons, the resulting data points are widely spaced. The ATSIX resolves these complications by creating a smooth curve of inflation expectations using a statistically optimal method to combine survey-based measures: the Philadelphia Fed's [Survey of Professional Forecasters](#), and the Blue Chip Economic Indicators and Blue Chip Financial Forecasts published by Wolters Kluwer Law & Business. For the full article, please visit: [Philadelphia Fed Introduces New Measure of Inflation Expectations](#)

For more information from the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, please visit: [Philadelphia Fed](#)

## BUDGET HEARINGS OFFER LEGISLATORS FIRST CRACK AT GOVERNOR'S SPENDING PLAN

Over the next month, Governor Tom Wolf's sixth annual tax-and-spending proposal will undergo the critical review of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees.

This year's budget hearings will inevitably resemble past ones: Republicans will make their case for rejecting the litany of new taxes, reallocating misdirected funds, and turning away some of the governor's FY 2020-21 Budget-related proposals.

"Like déjà vu all over again, Governor Wolf's budget proposal is strikingly similar to last year's," PMA President & CEO David N. Taylor said after the governor introduced the budget last Tuesday. "The Wolf plan does not prioritize competitiveness and doesn't do anything to make businesses want to locate, hire, or expand here in Pennsylvania rather than in one of our competitor states."

This year, the governor is proposing, yet again, to slap the energy industry with another new, additional tax, and he's still trying to resuscitate a wrongheaded corporate tax complication first introduced all the way back in Governor Ed Rendell's first term in the early 2000s. He's also pulling out his best Barack Obama "I've got a pen and a phone" impression by unilaterally entering Pennsylvania into a regional carbon tax scheme that stifles economic growth, and his administration has already imposed a costly overtime rule that far exceeds recently updated federal standards.

Overall, the governor is asking for a General Fund budget with a \$36.1 billion price tag, which would more than burn through all the healthy revenues being generated by the strong national economy. While the Wolf Administration has no interest in fiscal restraint, Pennsylvania's legislative leaders are urging caution. To read the full article, please visit: [PMA Bulletin](#)

## PMA PERSPECTIVE: CHINESE ECONOMIC WARFARE

PMA Perspective explores Chinese economic warfare against the United States and how we fight back. PMA's Carl Marrara interviews Scott Paul, President of the Alliance for American Manufacturing, about U.S.-China trade relations. David N. Taylor hosts a newsmaker interview with David Freed, United States Attorney for Pennsylvania's Middle District, to examine the U.S. Justice Department's "China Initiative" to fight industrial espionage. To watch the video, please visit: [PMA Perspective: Chinese Economic Warfare](#).

For more information from Pennsylvania Manufacturer's Association, please visit: [PMA](#)

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## TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION OF CHESTER COUNTY (TMACC)

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### PLANNING FOR TELECOMMUTING

**MAR 6, 2020** - The barrage of information on coronavirus (COVID-19) has, understandably, caused concern around the globe. As with any potential emergency, preparedness is key. And while you might not need it now, having guidelines in place that allow your employees to telecommute might be a good idea. If your work allows for it, of course.

Telecommuting (which sounds much more professional than saying, "working from home in my pajamas") gives employees the ability to work at a location other than an office. While this is

especially good for employees, often making them more productive and giving them the opportunity to better balance work-home life, it can quickly become a problem for employers if there is no policy in place. We've linked some articles and information below to help. Additional resources available here: [5 Issues Your Company's Telecommuting Policy Should Address](#) and [ThinkHR - Sample Policy](#)

## CHESTER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION UPDATES

Several highways restricted for utility improvements, please visit [Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Updates](#) for more information. Driving alone in a Single Occupant Vehicle? Experiencing construction or traffic delays along your commute? Public transportation and carpooling are two opportunities to help reduce congestion and improve Chester County's air quality. Even one day of sharing a ride reduces congestion. For DVRPC ride-share information, please visit: [DVRPC](#). For more information on Chesco public transportation, please visit: [Chester County Ride Guide](#)

For more information from Transportation Management Association of Chester County, please visit: [TMACC](#)

## THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR GREATER PHILADELPHIA

### GROW PA UPDATES: IFO KICKS OFF STATE HOUSE BUDGET HEARINGS

Earlier this month, hearings began in the Pennsylvania General Assembly to discuss the Governor's proposed \$36 billion budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021. Independent Fiscal Office (IFO) Director Matthew Knittel spoke to both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees about the state of the Commonwealth's economic strength. Knittel expressed confidence in Pennsylvania's overall economic growth, but cautioned members about Pennsylvania's aging workforce and the need to attract young workers. For a closer look at the state's demographics and economic outlook, see the IFO's full report [here](#).

In addition, members questioned Knittel about the Governor's proposal to lower the state's Corporate Net Income (CNI) tax in exchange for implementing combined reporting. The IFO and the Governor's Budget Office have competing estimates on how the proposed combined reporting requirement would expand the tax base. Governor Wolf estimates that the change to combined reporting would result in \$240 million more in taxes to the state. Combined reporting treats wholly-owned companies as a single entity for tax purposes. Proponents of combined reporting argue that businesses with operations in numerous states avoid paying taxes in Pennsylvania by shifting profits to states with low or no taxes.

Members also discussed a constitutional amendment to end the tactic of using supplemental state budgets to cover-up annual cost overruns. This year, it is projected Pennsylvania's supplemental appropriation will exceed \$800 million.

Budget hearings will continue through March. Find the full list of hearings [here](#).

For more information from Grow PA - Chamber of Commerce for Greater Philadelphia, please visit: [Grow PA](#)

## CHESTER COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

## CENSUS OUTREACH BROCHURES ARE NOW AVAILABLE

Are you interested in promoting the 2020 US Census in your community? The Planning Commission has been working with the Chester County Complete Count Committee to create informational brochures and posters designed to encourage county residents to fill out their US Census form in April of 2020. These materials, written in English and Spanish, are now available to be downloaded from the Planning Commission's [Population and Demographics web page](#).

If you represent an organization that would like to promote the census, please contact Jake Michael at [jmichael@chesco.org](mailto:jmichael@chesco.org) or 610-344-6285.

## PLANNING COMMISSION RELEASES 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

**FEB 24, 2020** - The Chester County Planning Commission released its 2019 Annual Report, which provides a recap of projects and accomplishments. Notably, the report highlights steps we took to begin implementing Landscapes3, Chester County's comprehensive plan. This plan serves as a road map for the next 10 years, and it seeks to balance preservation and growth across the county's landscapes through six goal areas: Preserve, Protect, Appreciate, Live, Prosper, and Connect. During the year, the Planning Commission worked on resource preservation, urban and suburban center revitalization, housing diversity, transportation choices, collaboration, and resiliency. The annual report highlights examples of Landscapes3 implementation and upcoming initiatives toward further implementation of the plan. [View the Annual Report](#).

## URBAN CENTER DESIGN GUIDE RELEASED

As part of Chester County's commitment to design quality in its built environment, the Planning Commission issued a new design guide for the county's Urban Center Landscapes. As designated on the county's Landscapes map, Urban Center Landscapes encompass the county's 15 boroughs, the City of Coatesville, and portions of neighboring townships that have Urban Center Landscape characteristics.

The purpose of this guide is to:

- Foster new development that is compatible with community and historic character;
- Protect residential neighborhoods from adverse impacts;
- Encourage walkability and alternative modes of transportation;
- Improve the environment; and
- Guide appropriate development.

To view the guide, please visit [Chesco Planning - Municipal Corner Planning Guides](#)

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For more information from the Chester County Planning Commission, please visit: [Chesco Planning](#)

## CHESTER COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

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### EXPERTS UPDATE LOCAL BUSINESS ON KEY ENERGY TRENDS FOR 2020

Key players in the region's energy industry gathered for the Chester County Economic Development Council's 8th Annual Energy Briefing Tuesday.

Held by CCEDC's Smart Energy Initiative (SEI), the briefing provides business and community leaders with valuable insights regarding 2020 energy markets, policies and opportunities in Pennsylvania and at the national level. Among them:

- Guidelines are being created for a cap and trade program in Pennsylvania that will help power producers reduce their carbon footprint and create a fund that could devote as much as \$450 million dollars a year to energy efficiency-related projects.
- Large solar projects, as well as other alternative energy initiatives like geothermal, are proving to be cost effective in Pennsylvania.
- At the national level, a report from the U.S. Energy Information Administration is projecting that the country's production of renewable energy and natural gas will continue to grow.

For the full article, please visit: [CCEDC Key Energy Trends 2020](#)

For more information from Chester County Economic Development Council, please visit their website: [CCEDC](#)

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## WORLD TRADE CENTER OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA

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### PHILADELPHIA INTERNATIONAL MEDICINE, THE WORLD TRADE CENTER SYDNEY, AND THE WORLD TRADE CENTER GREATER PHILADELPHIA ANNOUNCE COLLABORATION

PHILADELPHIA, PA., USA: Philadelphia International Medicine, the World Trade Center Sydney, and the World Trade Center Greater Philadelphia have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to build a health gateway linking the organizations in collaborative efforts. PIM, WTC Sydney, and WTC Greater Philadelphia agreed to a collaborative relationship that will allow for the sharing of knowledge in the areas of continuing medical education, training in hospital administration, innovative uses of medical technology, exchange of physicians, and coordinated comprehensive patient care and other opportunities for all partners including infrastructure development. Under the terms of this agreement, all parties will work together to facilitate learning and relationship building between the WTC Sydney's health network and members to provide a better understanding of each party's culture, communities, and norms. PIM agreed to lay the foundation by identifying specific opportunities and initiatives involving cooperative programs in research, education, training, clinical referrals, marketing, and administration. To read the full article, please visit: [Philadelphia International Medicine Collaboration](#)

For more information from the World Trade Center of Greater Philadelphia, please visit: [WTCGP](#)

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## U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

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### SBA ANNOUNCES FUNDING COMPETITION TO ORGANIZATIONS PROVIDING TRAINING TO WOMEN VETERAN ENTREPRENEURS

The [U.S. Small Business Administration](#) today announced that nonprofit organizations, state and local agencies, and institutions of higher learning are eligible to compete for funding of up to \$300,000 to deliver entrepreneurship training to women service members, women veterans and women military spouses.

Up to six awardees will receive a total of \$300,000 in grants administered by [SBA's Office of Veterans Business Development](#) to participate in the Women Veteran Entrepreneurship Training Program. The funds will be used to cover the costs of educating women service members and veterans, as well as women military spouses who are interested in starting or currently own a small business.

"Women veteran entrepreneurs have contributed in a major way to the growth of the U.S. economy, bringing in \$10 billion in receipts over a five-year period," said Larry Stubblefield, Associate Administrator for SBA's Office of Veterans Business Development. "The SBA is committed to supporting women veterans with the training and resources they need to start, grow

or expand a small business."

Eligible organizations should submit applications for the Women Veteran Entrepreneurship Training Program funding opportunity ([WVETP-2020-01](#)) through [Grants.gov](#). Applications not submitted via Grants.gov will not be evaluated. The submission deadline is Thursday, March 19 at 11:59 p.m. EDT.

The SBA will host a conference call on Wednesday, February 26 at 2 p.m. EST to answer questions related to the Women Veteran Entrepreneurship Training Program grant announcement.

- Submit questions to Jerry Godwin at [jerry.godwin@sba.gov](mailto:jerry.godwin@sba.gov) ([link sends e-mail](#)) no later than 4 p.m. EST on Monday, February 24.
- Call in at (202) 765-1264; Conference ID: 214972520.

A transcript of the webinar will be posted on [grants.gov](#) and [www.sba.gov/ovbd](#) once it is available.

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For more information from the U.S. Small Business Administration, please visit: [US SBA](#)

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**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF CHESTER COUNTY**

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## “Area 10 Rotarians & Friends” Habitat for Humanity Service Day!

**When: April 25<sup>th</sup> & May 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Where: 297 Willow Street, West Grove (across the street)**

**From: 8:30am to 12:30pm & 12:30pm to 4:30pm**

**Needed: 15 volunteers for each shift on each day**

The Reporter is a pro-business publication developed by the Business and Community Development Relations Committee (CGRC) of the Southern Chester County Chamber of Commerce (SCCCC)

**“Friends” include neighbors, relatives, and other service club members—spread the word!**

The CGRC collaborates with business leaders, industry professionals and government officials on relevant topics that are important to our members' bottom line, serve to keep members informed on emerging issues at the local, state and federal levels, and benefit the broader business community. All information contained in this e-publication is for informational purposes only and the CGRC and/or the SCCC does not necessarily endorse or recommend any of the opinions or positions expressed therein.

**Volunteers should be age 16 or older. Lunch and water will be provided.**

**What to Bring & Wear**

• **Tools are provided. You may bring your own, but Habitat is not responsible for lost or damaged items.**

• **You must wear closed-toe shoes and weather-appropriate clothes you don't mind getting dirty.**

Although every reasonable effort is made to present current and accurate information, the CGRC and the SCCC makes no guarantees of any kind with respect to the information provided. We look forward to providing newsworthy and timely pro-business facts, figures and information to our readers. Questions can be directed to the Chamber at 610-444-0774 or CGRC Chairman, Doug Doerfler (Genesis).

**Work Involved:**

- Hanging and taping drywall
- Spackling and painting
- Light carpentry



Please contact Mike Moyer at [mike@moyeragency.com](mailto:mike@moyeragency.com) or call 484-356-6254 for registration or other details.



For more information, please visit: [Habitat for Humanity of Chester County](http://Habitat for Humanity of Chester County)