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## Chamber **ADVOCACY**

# School Board Approves New Elementary School & New 20-Year Capital Plan

The West Chester Area School District School Board has approved a new 20-year capital plan for housing students and sustaining District facilities that will cost the average taxpayer an estimated \$7.02 annually, or \$140.30 over 20 years assuming an average residential assessment of \$189,850.

The board voted unanimously Monday night to approve the plan, which includes the construction of a new elementary school. The school will be located near the intersection of Pottstown Pike and Green Hill Road in West Goshen Township. The proposed construction for the new school is estimated at \$25.5 million dollars.

Additionally, roughly 66 percent of the plan's costs are earmarked for middle and

high school renovations to be completed near the end of the 20-year plan. The West Chester Area School District has seen a great deal of rapid and recently approved residential development in the school district, including about 2,800 new units that have been approved in the last 18 months.

"The board considered several options before deciding the best way to manage the expected growth in our district," said school board president Chris McCune. "A new elementary school will accommodate the influx of students expected over the next five years."

The approved plan also calls for additions and renovations to existing facilities within the District including five new classrooms at Exton Elementary, five new

classrooms at East Goshen Elementary, and two new classrooms at Penn Wood Elementary. Three modular classrooms will be added to Glen Acres Elementary to accommodate current enrollments while the school is renovated. The modular classrooms will then be removed once renovations are completed in 2024-25. Two classrooms will be added to Westtown-Thornbury Elementary School by 2023-24 which will replace the current modular classrooms at that school.

"It is critically important to our administration and school board that we protect class sizes," said Superintendent Jim Scanlon. "We need additional space to do that. Our current enrollment stands at 11,928 students and is projected to rise to 12,677

by the 2023-24 school year. While the increase in students is significant for our facilities, it should not have any significant or negative impact on our programs."

With the construction of the new school and addition of new classrooms at existing schools, some redistricting will take place, but Scanlon said that would not happen until space is available.

"We will do our very best to maintain feeder patterns so that students will not have to change middle and high schools."

Construction on the new elementary school is expected to begin in 2018-19 with a completion date in 2020-21.

## *House Passes Several Tax Reform Bills to Help Small Businesses*

The state House passed three PA Chamber-backed measures last week that would bring clarity to the state's tax structure, improve competition and help level the playing field for small businesses.

House Bill 331, which passed by a nearly unanimous vote, aims to allow for "like-kind" exchange of tax deferrals when a property is exchanged with a similar property. This would put the Commonwealth in line with every other state, removing a disadvantage that Pennsylvania's small businesses face when competing with businesses across state lines.

The House also passed H.B. 333, which would increase deductible amounts for qualifying small business equipment purchases. This move would bring Pennsylvania in line with the federal Internal Revenue Code, and with 33 other states that currently allow businesses to deduct the full purchase price of \$1 million per year. To put that in context, under current law, businesses in Pennsylvania may only claim \$25,000 for these purposes. "Pennsylvania is unique in being the only state that allows for full Section 179 expensing for larger businesses while not allowing small

businesses to do the same," PA Chamber Government Affairs Vice President Sam Denisco said in a memo to House lawmakers prior to the vote. "As we have all seen subsequent to the enactment of federal tax reform, employers are investing back into their companies, rewarding their employees, and hiring more workers. By coming into line with federal law, small businesses will have more resources and flexibility to grow and the PA Chamber asks for your support."

Another important tax reform bill that House lawmakers passed unanimously last week was H.B. 994, which aims to bring clarity to the Gross Receipts Tax statute regarding wireless services. Under current law, wireless services are subject to both of the Sales and Use Tax and GRT at 6 and 5 percent, respectively. However, while Pennsylvania follows clear and updated language under the federal Mobile Telecommunications Sourcing Act regarding the SUT on telecommunications, GRT definitions haven't been modernized. This has created confusion as to whether wireless series are included in that tax base, which H.B. 994 would remedy by in-

serting the clear definitions from the SUT statute into the GRT statute. "This would bring consistency between the application of the sales and use tax and gross receipts taxes," Denisco said in a memo to House members. "It would also eliminate confusion and uncertainty over which services were subject to taxation both now and in the future."

All three bills now await further consideration in the state Senate.

*Founded in 1916, the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry is the state's largest broad-based business association, with its membership comprising businesses of all sizes and across all industry sectors. The PA Chamber is The Statewide Voice of Business™.*

## Pa. legislature approves changes in worker's comp prescriptions

*By The Associated Press*

A change may be on the way concerning how drugs are dispensed under Pennsylvania's worker's compensation program.

The state House on Monday voted 101 to 92 for a bill that was drawn up in response to reports in the Philadelphia Inquirer and Daily News about doctors and law firms specializing in worker's compensation that were operating their own pharmacies.

The bill would direct the Labor and Industry Department to adopt a drug formulary, a proposal strongly backed by the state's large business groups.

Opponents argue the legislation is too vague and that injured workers are in a special category so shouldn't be subject to the restrictions of a formulary.

Supporters say formularies are widely used and will provide drugs that are medically necessary.

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# The Dr. Edwin Cottrell Entrepreneurial Leadership Center at West Chester University Announces the Winners of the 2018 Business Idea Competition

This WCU Business Idea Pitch was held on Wednesday, April 25th at West Chester University. Seven finalists of the 6th Annual Business Idea Competition competed for cash prizes totaling \$7,500!

The 6th Annual Business Idea Competition is co-hosted by the Dr. Edwin Cottrell Entrepreneurial Leadership Center and the Keiretsu Forum Mid-Atlantic, the world's largest angel network. The Greater West Chester Chamber of Commerce sponsored this year's "Pitch" event and First Priority Bank was the dinner reception sponsor.

355 persons submitted 190 ideas across four divisions: Chester County Start Ups, WCU undergraduate students,



WCU graduate students, alumni, faculty & staff, and Chester County High School Students. Ideas were screened by business angels, entrepreneurs and business advisors who determined

the finalists that moved on to the WCU Business Idea Pitch.

*The finalists in each of the four divisions who competed for the Grand Prize are as follows:*

## Chester County Start Ups

Ram Pride Ride  
Sir Dangerhorse Skin Solutions

## West Chester University Undergraduate Students

TUS: Tutors for University  
U Ride: WCU Parking App



(L to R) Dr. Monica Zimmerman, Director, The Dr. Edwin Cottrell Entrepreneurial Leadership Center at West Chester University, Mark Yoder, President & CEO, Greater West Chester Chamber of Commerce, Anna Miller, Bradford Allan, Dr. Christopher Fiorentino, President, West Chester University and Professor Patricia Digin, Executive in Residence, The Dr. Edwin Cottrell Entrepreneurial Leadership Center at West Chester University.

## West Chester University Graduate Students, Alumni, Faculty and Staff

Innovative Solutions  
Wish Respect

## Chester County High

## School Students

1st Place: Speak Easy  
2nd Place: Steer Secure

*The Grand Prize winner of this year's WCU Business Idea Pitch and recipient of a \$2,500*

*cash prize is Speak Easy, a mobile app that translates sign language into written or spoken words created by Anna Miller and Bradford Allan of Great Valley High School.*

## CCBA and GWCCC Co-Host Golf League

After 15 years, the Chester County Bar Association (CCBA) is opening up their league to Greater West Chester Chamber members. The Bar Association is partnering with the GWCCC in order to get other local industries involved. Participants who are looking to have a good time and enjoy the game of golf are encouraged to sign up and attend. CCBA members, non-members, Chamber members and new participants with any skill level are welcome to join.

The league will meet each week on Tuesday nights beginning June 5th, 2018 at 5:45pm. The golf league is an excellent

opportunity for networking with other businesses in the community.

Teams will play at rotating locations; Broad Run, Penn Oaks, and Radley Run. The cost of nine holes with a cart, each week, will range from \$27 to \$42. The scoring format will be handicap Stableford.

The 2018 Chester County Bar Association Golf League registration form and \$30 fee are due before June 5th and can be mailed to the Golf League at 15 W. Gay Street, 2nd Floor, West Chester, PA 19380. Contact James Doyle for a registration form at [jdoyle@landissetzler.com](mailto:jdoyle@landissetzler.com).

## Golf Outing | Monday, June 4, 2018

at Concord Country Club

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# Spring events CALENDAR

See full details of Chamber events at [GreaterWestChester.com](http://GreaterWestChester.com)

## Friday, May 4, 2018

5:00pm – 9:00pm  
Spring Gallery Walk presented by Sunset Hill Jewelers & Fine Arts Gallery  
A popular Spring tradition! Stroll through West Chester for an evening of art, dining and shopping. Offering more than 30 stops including galleries and “one-night-only” show hosts on “First Friday”, bring a group of friends and make a night of it in downtown West Chester!

**30+ locations throughout Downtown West Chester**

**Free to attend, open to the public**  
**Visit [GreaterWestChester.com](http://GreaterWestChester.com) for a map of participants/locations**

## Thursday, May 10, 2018

7:45am – 9:00am  
Nonprofit Executive/Board Discussion Series  
“Legal Issues for Nonprofit Boards: How to Sleep Better at Night”  
Why would anyone dare serve on a nonprofit board of directors? So much risk and potential liability.  
Join our panelists for tips on minimizing liability so you can rest easier while doing good.

- \* Duty of loyalty, duty of care, conflicts of interest, private inurement
- \* Fundraisers with alcohol, gambling, outdoor parties, slip & falls
- \* Employment practices, employee grievances, wrongful termination, privacy issues
- \* Data security, cyber-security, licensing issues and more
- \* Policies and protocols, do you have the right things in place?

### Featured Panelists

*A. Duie Latta, Esq., Clarion Law*  
*Denise Antonelli, Esq., Gawthrop Greenwood, P.C.*

*Michael Louis, Esq., MacElree Harvey*  
**Penn Oaks Golf Club, 150 Penn Oaks Drive, West Chester**  
**Chamber members - \$30 | Chamber Member + Your Board Member - \$10 | Non-members - \$50**  
**RSVP required**

## Wednesday, May 16, 2018

11:30am – 1:00pm  
Education Series: Business Owners in the Know  
Featured Speaker: Joseph Awe, CEO – Techbldrs, Inc.  
“Cyber Security 2018, For the rest of us Humans”  
Many people feel that they don’t know “anything” about computers, yet they probably use one every day. Maybe it’s time that you take an hour to understand what threats are out there, and learn what you need to do to protect yourself. At one end, it could save your business reputation, at the other it could save your business, and in between your career.

**Location: West Chester Golf and Country Club, 111 W. Ashbridge Street, West Chester**  
**Chamber members - \$25 | Non-members - \$35**  
**RSVP is required**

## Saturday & Sunday, May 19 & 20, 2018

7:00pm – 10:00pm  
Volunteer Opportunity: Tough Mudder  
The Greater West Chester Chamber and friends are volunteering again at Tough Mudder in Coatesville. Work the beer tent for a few hours and enjoy FREE, ALL-ACCESS passes to watch the event! Several Shifts available.

**For more information visit [GreatWest-Chester.com](http://GreatWest-Chester.com)**

## Wednesday, May 23, 2018

5:30pm – 7:30pm  
Women’s Executive Roundtable sponsored by Krombolz-Sheets Insurance  
Featured Speaker: Kelly Kampf, Licensed Psychotherapist  
“Self-Care and Boundaries: An Experiential Workshop”

We often don’t know we are in need of self-care until it’s too late and our boundaries have been crossed. Or worse, we feel guilty for taking care of ourselves. In this experiential workshop, Kelly Kampf teaches you the secret meaning of guilt and helps you experience the benefits of self-care during the workshop. Walk away feeling grounded and invigorated!

**Location: TBD, wine and dinner pairing**  
**Chamber members - \$55 | Non-members - \$75**  
**RSVP is required**

## Wednesday, May 30, 2018

7:45am – 9:00am  
Business Idea Competition/State of the District & University  
Featuring presentations from Dr. Christopher Fiorentino, President of West

Chester University and Dr. James Scanlon, Superintendent of Schools - West Chester Area School District. Celebrate Chester County’s High School entrepreneurs and finalists of WCU Business Idea Pitch.  
**Location: Chester Valley Golf and Country Club, 430 Swedesford Road, Malvern**

**Chamber members - \$35 | Non-members - \$45**  
**RSVP is required**

## Monday, June 4, 2018

10:30am – 6:00pm  
“Quest for the Chamber Cup” Golf Outing presented by Bryn Mawr Trust  
The annual Quest for the Chamber Cup Golf Outing is an opportunity to play golf with area leaders and help support the Chamber’s Education Foundation Scholarship Program.

**Location: Concord Country Club, 1601 Wilmington Pike, West Chester**  
**Individual - \$215 | Foursome - \$860 | Additional sponsorship opportunities available**  
**Visit [GreaterWestChester.com](http://GreaterWestChester.com) for more information**



## TAKE ADVANTAGE OF GWCC’S EDUCATIONAL IMPROVEMENT TAX CREDIT (EITC) PROGRAM.

It’s easy for your business to receive generous state tax credits by participating in the Chamber’s Education Foundation EITC Program! Your company’s contribution will directly benefit students in need of financial assistance at seven Chamber member schools in the greater West Chester area. Make this valuable investment in your community.

Contact the Chamber office today!



# The 2018 edition of the Benchmark Twilight Cycling Classic announced



Two of the East Coast's premiere professional bicycle races have been announced to take place on Saturday, August 11, 2018 in the streets of downtown West Chester. As part of the Benchmark Twilight Cycling Classic, the Iron Hill Pro Men's Criterium and the Brumbaugh Wealth Management Pro Women's Criterium will feature some of the fastest men and women on two wheels as they go wheel-to-wheel in a brutal contest of endurance, strategy and speed.

As the ninth of the ten-city U.S.A. CRITS Championship Series, the West Chester races occupy an important position in the race calendar and promise to be a major build-up to the finals that will take place in Atlantic City on September 15, 2018.

"We are excited to bring professional bike racing back to the streets of downtown West Chester for the 13th consecutive year. The Benchmark Twilight

Cycling Classic is an incredibly special event for the borough and the region,"

said Mark Yoder, President of the Greater West Chester Chamber of Commerce, organizer of the event.

This will be the second of a five-year commitment for Benchmark Federal Credit Union as the



title sponsor for the event. "For many families, the Benchmark Twilight has become one of the highlights of their hometown summer fun," says Benchmark President and CEO David LaSala. "It's exciting to lend the Benchmark name to such an iconic event and ensure that Chester County families can enjoy it for years to come."

The Benchmark Twilight Cycling Classic offers a wide range of exciting racing events and family-focused festivities that include the Iron Hill Twilight Pro Men's Criterium, Brumbaugh Wealth Management Pro Women's Criterium, Rothman Institute Amateur Criterium, West Chester Dental Arts Kids' Race, the ever-popular Tolsdorf Trike Challenge, Community Festival and Kids' Zone.

"Every year our community welcomes more and more guests to West Chester for the Benchmark Twilight Cycling Classic," adds Yoder. "It's due to the support of community, the borough and businesses like the Benchmark Federal Credit Union that West Chester continues to grow into such a popular place to visit."

For more information on the day's events, go to [www.GreaterWestChester.com](http://www.GreaterWestChester.com).

#### About Benchmark Federal Credit Union:

Benchmark Federal Credit Union is a not-for-profit financial cooperative that is owned by its members and is the only federal credit union to exclusively serve Chester County. Benchmark FCU members enjoy a complete suite of financial services including free checking, home banking, mobile banking, and Benchmark Retirement & Investment Services. Anyone who lives, works, worships, or attends school in Chester County, PA is eligible to join Benchmark FCU. [www.BenchmarkFCU.org](http://www.BenchmarkFCU.org)



## DISCOVER WHAT THE CHAMBER CAN DO FOR YOU.

The Greater West Chester Chamber of Commerce, located in the heart of Chester County, PA is a membership based not-for-profit organization providing resources, advocacy and educational opportunities to help local businesses and entrepreneurs build relationships, promote their business, grow their network, address their most serious business challenges and become an integral part of the community.





## The 2018 Philly Tough Mudder is returning to Chester County on May 19th and 20th

### Competitors, Spectators & Volunteers invited

Get ready to test your stamina, strength, and mental toughness as the 2018 Philly Tough Mudder is returning to Chester County on the weekend of May 19th and 20th. Set in the heart of the Brandywine Valley, the 10-12 mile mud and obstacle course will feature over 20 different tasks to overcome, including new and familiar challenges. The two day event will take place on Plantation Field at 329 Apple Grove Road in Coatesville.

Enjoy a day of riveting spectating and community involvement. The Greater West Chester Chamber and friends are volunteering again at this year's event, which gives the chance to work the beer tent for a few hours (certain restrictions apply) and receive a free all access pass to watch the competitors battle it out in the mud. Visit GreaterWestChester.com for more information.

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# New Sponsor For West Chester Gallery Walk

*The Greater West Chester Chamber of Commerce Gallery Walk presented by Sunset Hill Jewelers & Fine Arts Gallery takes place May 4, 2018*

The Greater West Chester Chamber of Commerce will host its annual Spring Gallery Walk on "First Friday," May 4, 2018 from 5:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m.

The Chamber is pleased to announce that Sunset Hill Jewelers & Fine Arts Gallery is the new Presenting Sponsor of the bi-annual event that draws thousands of art enthusiasts to the heart of downtown West Chester, Pennsylvania.

Sandra Ripper, owner of Sunset Hill Jewelers & Fine Arts Gallery is one of the founders of the event now in its 28th year, that celebrates the thriving community of artists and galleries that make West Chester their home. Gallery Walk provides the perfect opportunity to experience the borough's intriguing blend of urban sophistication and small town ambiance.

Six prominent galleries combine



with dozens of additional "one-night-only" show hosts throughout the downtown business area. Brochures with walking maps (and the digital map available for download from the Chamber's website) will direct visitors to show locations. Look for signs that designate official Gallery Walk hosts and their status as Chamber of Commerce members.

Enjoy the creative work of local, national and international artists featuring paintings in watercolor, acrylic and oil as well as sculpture, photography, jewelry, ceramics, textiles, film and more.

In addition to Presenting Sponsor, Sunset Hill Jewelers & Fine Arts Gallery, generous support for Gallery Walk is provided by The West Chester Business Improvement District (BID), Otto's MINI, Market Street Print & Copy, SERVPRO of West Chester, Chester Valley Golf Club, HealthMarkets, The Master's Baker, Element Risk Management and Giunta's Furniture.

"Make an evening of it" and bring together a group of friends to experience Gallery Walk! Dine, shop and explore everything downtown West Chester has to offer.



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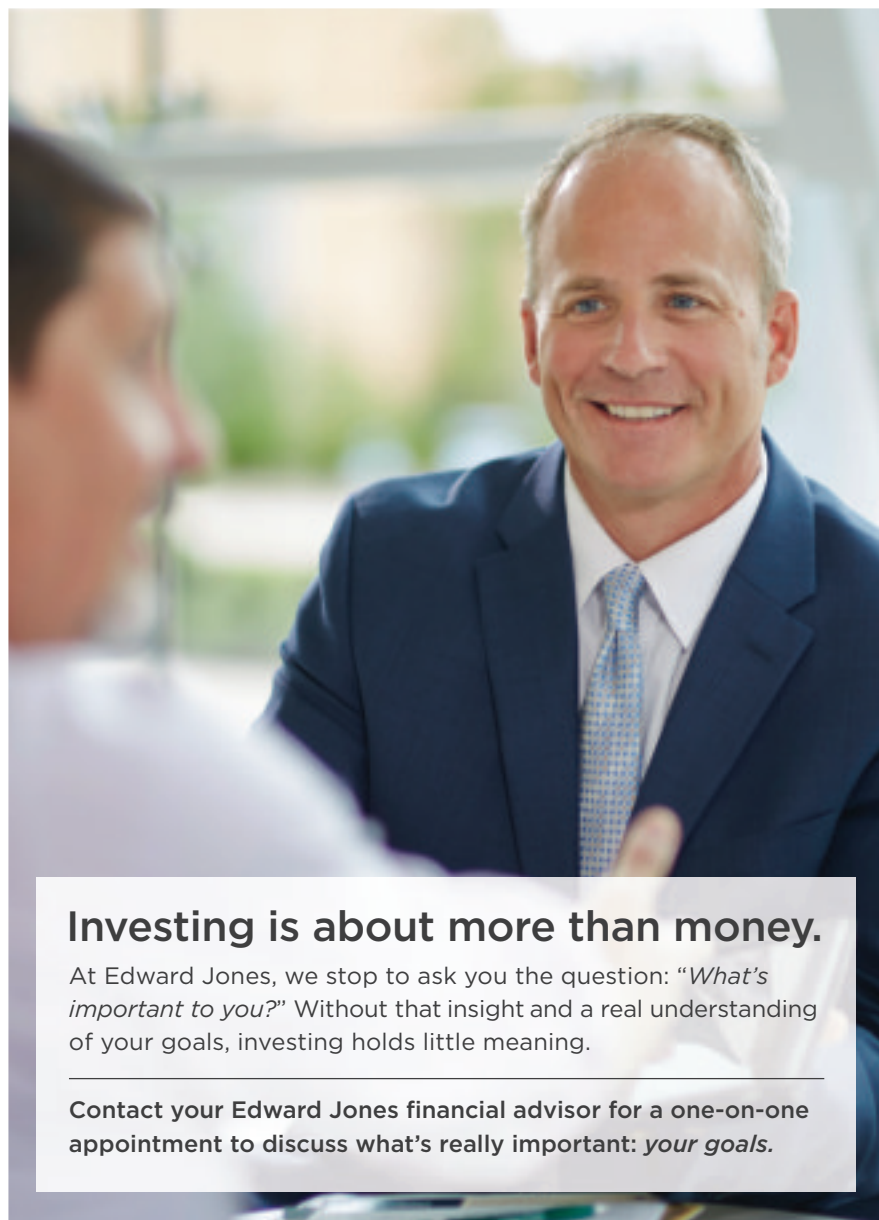
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FOR MORE INFORMATION: [www.WCDF.org](http://www.WCDF.org).  
For questions or tickets contact the Chester County Community Foundation at 610-696-0501.

The West Chester Downtown Foundation and Up on the Roof are charitable funds of the Chester County Community Foundation. A copy of the official registration and financial information for the Chester County Community Foundation may be obtained by calling the PA Dept of State at 1-800-732-0999 (toll-free in PA). Registration does not imply endorsement. EIN 23-2773822.



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