



YOUR ESSENTIAL SOURCE FOR UNION COUNTY BUSINESS INFORMATION



CITY OF ELIZABETH AWARDED \$5 MILLION FOR FERRY TERMINAL

Grant among 166 Projects to Modernize
Transportation Across the Country from
the U.S Department of Transportation



U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg announced that the Biden-Harris Administration has awarded more than \$2.2 billion from the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) program to help urban and rural communities move forward on projects that modernize roads, bridges, transit, rail, ports, and intermodal transportation and make our transportation systems safer, more accessible, more affordable, and more sustainable. The City of Elizabeth applied for this grant and was ultimately awarded. This planning grant will examine, identify and assess the feasibility of construction of a ferry terminal and incorporation of a ferry service from Elizabeth, NJ to Manhattan. The study will explore viable service locations at the municipality's waterfront, required infrastructure and supportive services, as well as include alternatives to promote energy efficiency and effectiveness. The benefits of this project include creating transportation choices for individuals by providing a direct over-water connection to New York City and New Jersey. The project seeks to incorporate electric vehicle infrastructure which will reduce emissions and ease congestion by providing a new transportation option.

For more information you may visit.
<https://www.transportation.gov/RAISEgrants>

*A Message
From Our*
Commissioner
Chair



Chair Rebecca Williams
Union County Board of Commissioners

Welcome to the Union County Means Business Newsletter!

Here you will find information about helpful programs and resources in our community and beyond, aimed at helping you grow your business.

Union County Means Business launched in 2012 to help our community connect with recovery funds and other assistance after the global financial crash. Our outreach has continued to expand through the years, including the administration of federal pandemic emergency funds for restaurants and small businesses.

In the coming months and years, we will continue to grow our network and reach out to help business owners, managers and aspiring entrepreneurs. We hope to see you at our next event!

Sincerely,

Rebecca Williams
Chair, Union County Board of County Commissioners

UNION COUNTY WELCOMES THE 2026 FIFA WORLD CUP



2026
FIFA WORLD CUP
UNITED STATES | CANADA | MÉXICO

Summer 2022 is when it was officially announced that the New York Metropolitan Area along with the City of Philadelphia made history as FIFA broke news that these regions will be 2 of 11 in North America selected to host its 2026 World Cup matches. That means incredible news for the Philadelphia and New York Metropolitan areas. Furthermore, as a result Union County will have a huge role to play in the 2026 World Cup. President of Kean University Dr. Lamont Repollet recently announced at the Union County Means Business Networking Breakfast that Kean University will host a number of participating nation's teams during the 2026 World Cup for their training sessions. Dr. Repollet stated that he anticipates that this will be a boon to our local economy with the games being local and the possibility that the teams and their support staff will be lodging, eating and visiting locations in the Union County Area. There is a bid to have MetLife Stadium hosting the final championship match which gives Union County a front row seat to the most watched global sporting event.

Economic Boom for Union County?



The Hilton Hotel located at 1170 Spring St, Elizabeth, NJ. Just 1 mile from Newark International Airport

With its proximity to Newark Liberty International Airport, Union County is uniquely placed in an area that will certainly see a new wave of tourism due to the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

"This will put New Jersey and New York on an international stage with one of the most popular sporting events in the world. It offers an opportunity to showcase the Garden State's attractions and attributes during a marquee soccer competition that will generate enormous economic activity for the bi-state region," said New Jersey Senate President Nick Scutari. "The host states of New Jersey and New York will work together to help make this the most successful World Cup ever."

In addition, Elizabeth ranks second to only Atlantic City in total hotel rooms in New Jersey. The Elizabeth hotels and others located in Union County are just within a few minutes of highly ranked restaurants along with world class shopping outlets. The FIFA announcement is great news not just for soccer (football) fans but for the countless hotels, restaurants and small businesses that call Union County home.



Union County Means
BUSINESS

BUSINESS RESOURCES



A Non-Profit Economic Development Corporation

OUR BUSINESS IS HELPING SMALL BUSINESSES

UCEDC is a private, non-profit economic development corporation, dedicated to boosting local economies and strengthening communities through business development and job creation. Since 1977, we've been helping small business by making loans, training and mentoring business owners, helping businesses obtain government contracts, and providing accurate and relevant business information. UCEDC offers training and mentorship through our entrepreneurial training services. Free workshops and seminars on a variety of business and financial literacy topics are offered throughout the state to help you keep pace with the challenges of business ownership.

LOOK INTO OUR PRODUCTS

AND OTHER BUSINESS SUPPORT!

With a wide array of financing options, including SBA microloans, Community Advantage 7a loans, and 504 loans, UCEDC is often the answer for borrowers with little to no credit history, low-income borrowers, and women and minority entrepreneurs.

Don't miss the opportunity to pursue financing through **UCEDC's Microloan Program**, as it offers fixed-rate (between 5.25% – 8.25%) up to six-year loans with as little as 10% down for start-up and existing businesses in New Jersey, NYC and certain areas in NY and PA. Businesses in operation for less than two years can borrow a maximum of \$35,000; established business with a profitable operating history are eligible for up to \$50,000. There are no pre-payment penalties. Microloan funds can be used for a broad array of business purposes, including purchasing equipment, fixtures or inventory; working capital; or making renovations on privately owned commercial real estate.

In addition to UCEDC's Microloan program you may also checkout addition offers including the **UCEDC Rapid Response Loan Program** where you can borrow up to \$10,000, no collateral required, with a decision in two days or less! Learn more.

Prime Lock Loan Program: lock in your prime interest rate (currently 3.50%) for up to five years, no collateral required, up to \$25,000.

Your monthly payment may be more affordable than you think!

For more information on these loan and many other resources go to

www.ucedc.com.



New Jersey Business Action Center

NJBAC is here to help businesses thrive, grow, and succeed across New Jersey. The Business Action Center has a deep understanding of the current business landscape. The NJBAC is able to connect business with the appropriate experts to reach your goals. Their business advocates are available to work closely with you and find solutions for your unique business needs. The NJBAC can help get the answers businesses need from government and regulatory agencies at the local, state and federal level. Their experts can facilitate meetings and handle the follow-ups at no cost to business owners.

[Links to business resources:](#)

<https://nj.gov/state/bac/resources.shl>

<https://www.njeda.com/financing-and-incentives/>

<https://business.nj.gov/>

Be sure to visit the *Union County Means Business* website often for updates on new resources available to your company as well as information on upcoming events designed to help strengthen business in and around Union County.

NETWORKING BREAKFAST



Pictured left to right: Commissioner Sergio Granados, Commissioner Alexander Mirabella, Commissioner Chair Rebecca Williams, Kean University President Dr. Lamont Repollet, Deputy County Manager Amy C. Wagner, Commissioner Christopher Hudak

June 28, 2022 Union County Means Business held its networking breakfast event at Kean University's Donald R. Conklin Conference Center. This was a first in a series of Union County Means Business events scheduled for 2022. This event offered local businesses an opportunity to network with other business leaders and expand their customer base. The keynote speaker was Kean University President Lamont Repollet, Ed.D.

Union County Board of County Commissioners Chair Rebecca Williams welcomed event attendees and praised the leadership of President Dr. Repollet during the pandemic, citing the successful collaboration of the County and Kean University in establishing a Covid-19 Testing Lab on the Kean University Campus. Furthermore, Chair Williams revealed that The County of Union will be receiving recognition at the National Association of Counties (NACo) Convention with the 2022 NACo Achievement Award for Covid-19 Testing Lab Partnership. The event was well attended with over 70 individuals participating.

CHAMBER HIGHLIGHTS



Union Township
CHAMBER of COMMERCE
BUSINESSES BUILDING BUSINESSES SINCE 1956

The Chamber is an active and continuously growing group of businesses who know the value of networking and partnerships. Membership provides business owners with direct access to leaders of government, decision makers in the community and colleagues who share your desire for success in today's ever-changing business world.

For more information visit:

[www.https://unionchamber.com/](https://unionchamber.com/)



The Greater Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce (GWACC) is a networking organization, established over 70 years ago, serving businesses and non-profit organizations and supporting local economies in Scotch Plains, Fanwood, Garwood, Mountainside, and Westfield. We help businesses and non-profits discover new opportunities. We strive to make a difference by making connections that build successful relationships. The chamber includes more than 480 member businesses and organizations. Join us and together we can build a stronger community!

For more information visit:

<https://www.gwaccnj.com/>

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Commission to Review the Impact of COVID-19 on Small Businesses.

Senate Joint Resolution No. 66

Introduced in the New Jersey State Senate and referred to the Senate Commerce Committee during the March 3, 2022 session. A Joint Resolution establishing the "Commission to Review the Impact of COVID-19 on Small Businesses." Small business in the resolution is defined as "small business" means a business which has its principal place of business in the State, is independently owned and operated, and has 100 or fewer full-time employees.

Annual Sales Tax Holiday

Assembly Bill 1522 (Status: Passed June 30, 2022)

This bill establishes an annual sales tax holiday for retail sales of computers, school computer supplies, school art supplies, school instructional materials and sport or recreational equipment. The Annual Sales Tax Holiday is set to take place immediately. All covered by this act is as follows (1) computers with a sales price of less than \$3,000 per item; (2) school computer supplies with a sales price of less than \$1,000 per item; (3) school supplies (4) school art supplies; (5) school instructional materials; and (6) sport or recreational equipment.

Expands working hours for minors; updates process for obtaining working papers for minors.

Assembly Bill 4222 (Status: Passed June 7, 2022)

Set to take effect on June 1, 2023 teenagers in New Jersey will be able to work longer hours during the summertime.

The new regulations make permanent the 2021 law which expanded summer working hours for residents between 16 and 18 years old to up to 50 hours per week.

14- to 15-year-olds can work up to 40 hours per week during the summer and other non-school weeks, up to three hours on a school day, up to eight hours on a non-school day, and up to 18 hours during a school week.

New Jersey's Minimum Wage Increases to \$13/Hour for Most Employees as of January 2022

New Jersey's statewide minimum wage increased by \$1 to \$13 per hour for most employees, effective January 1, 2022.

The increase is part of legislation signed by Governor Murphy in February 2019 that gradually raises the minimum wage to \$15 per hour by 2024 for most employees. When Governor Murphy took office in 2018, the state's minimum wage was \$8.60 per hour; he and the Legislature immediately identified increasing the minimum wage as a legislative priority.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

WEDNESDAY
21



will be hosting the 7th Annual Lindabury, McCormick, Estabrook & Cooper, P.C. Nine, Wine & Dine Golf Outing In conjunction with The GWACC taking place at the Shackamaxon Country Club, 100 Tillinghast Turn, Scotch Plains, New Jersey, 07076 visit gwaccnj.org for more details.

THURSDAY
29



Union County Means

BUSINESS

will be hosting the "Strategic Resilience" panel where business leaders will provide their best practices along with our elected officials. The Lunch & Learn will come with a \$10 entrance fee. The event will be held at the Donald R. Conklin Conference Center at Kean University's STEM Building at 1075 Morris Ave. Union, NJ from 12-1:30pm.

OCTOBER

TUESDAY
18



Union Township
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
BUSINESSES BUILDING BUSINESSES SINCE 1956

Save the date for Multi Chamber Networking Event hosted by the Union Township Chamber of Commerce. Registration will be open this August. The event will be limited to 275 attendees from 6:00 – 8:00PM and will be taking place at the Galloping Hill Caterers 1085 Galloping Hill Rd. Union, NJ

TUESDAY
25



Union County WOMEN Mean

BUSINESS

will host its Union County WOMEN Mean Business Summit to be held on at Galloping Hill Golf Course in Kenilworth, NJ from 9-2. The event features a networking breakfast, informative break-out seminars, and luncheon at which door prizes that are awarded to attendees by raffle.



THE UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



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UNION COUNTY
We're Connected to You!



www.ucnj.org
   