



Mission: Serve, Represent, & Enhance Business Growth & Success

Monday, August 31, 2026, at 9:00a.m.

The Chamber News Conference will include the following:

Gabe Taviano, Director of Marketing and Communications- Welcome

Cricket Rodriguez, Executive Director, Downtown Lima, Inc., will be present to talk about: Last Third Thursday of the Year! Crawlween is creepin' up. Announcement of the 2026 Facade Improvement Grant.

Anisha Hale, Gift Officer-Mercy Health Foundation Greater Lima, will be present to talk about upcoming events.

Pam Joseph, Communications Specialist, Ohio State University at Lima, will be present to talk about: Children's Garden celebrates 30th anniversary with butterfly release.

Jolene Highley, Director of Engagement & Public Affairs, Area Agency on Aging 3, will be present to talk about upcoming events.

Sierra Weltmer, Allen County Board of Developmental Disabilities, will be present to talk about the Board's upcoming 28th Annual Chicken BBQ as well as talk about Direct Support Professionals Week which takes place September 13th-19th.

Portia Smith, Executive Director, Big Brothers Big Sisters of West Central Ohio, will be present to talk about upcoming events.

Tim Fitzpatrick, Business Development/Regional Workforce Development, Allen Economic Development Group (AEDG), will be present to give an update on MAKERFEST 2026.

Chad Welker, Associate Director, Activate Allen County, will be present to give update on Community Garden.

Liz Davis, Director of Programs, Lima/Allen County Chamber of Commerce, will be present to talk about upcoming Chamber Programs.

Gabe Taviano, Director of Marketing and Communications, Lima/Allen County Chamber of Commerce will share information on upcoming chamber events.

Lima/Allen County Chamber Welcomes Liz Davis as New Program Director

LIMA, OH – August 31, 2026 – The Lima/Allen County Chamber of Commerce is pleased to welcome Liz Davis as its new Program Director.

Davis joins the Chamber after 19 years with the Wapakoneta Family YMCA, where she most recently served as Director of Member Engagement. During her time with the YMCA, she gained extensive experience in event planning, membership engagement, community outreach, fundraising and staff leadership. She helped grow membership through community engagement efforts, managed numerous community events and worked closely with local organizations to promote programs and initiatives.

“We’re very excited to welcome Liz to our Chamber team,” said Josh Unterbrink, President & CEO of the Lima/Allen County Chamber of Commerce. “Her experience in building relationships, creating successful events and engaging with the community is a great fit for the Chamber. I’m excited for our members to get to know Liz and for her to bring her energy and ideas to our programs.”

As Program Director, Davis will oversee the planning and coordination of Chamber programs and events while working closely with members, sponsors, volunteers and community partners. She will also help develop future programming and partnerships that strengthen the Chamber’s value to its members.

Davis is also actively involved in the community, including service with the Wapakoneta Lions Club, First on the Moon Organization and Noon Optimist Club of Wapakoneta.

“We have a busy fall ahead of us, so this is an exciting time for Liz to join the organization,” Unterbrink added. “We encourage our members and community partners to introduce themselves and help us welcome Liz to the Chamber family.”



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

South Jackson St. Community Block Party Hosted by Activate Allen County

Saturday, October 10, 2026, 11am-1pm

All are welcome to join Activate Allen County at our upcoming Fall Fest Community Block Party at our South Jackson Community Garden. This event is supported by the City of Lima and Cenovus Energy, along with multiple partnering community agencies. The block party is designed to strengthen neighborhood connections, promote health and wellness resources, and provide a joyful space for residents of all ages to come together- not just during the block party, but year-round.

This year, the event will feature a fall fest theme, with pumpkins available for painting, free food, local resources, raffles, a bounce house, games, and fun for the whole family. Additionally, we will be celebrating the grand opening of our newly installed pavilion, restrooms and children's play area. The event will kick off at 11am with an official ribbon cutting and all activities will be available until 1 pm. South Jackson Community Garden is located at 200 S. Jackson Street in Lima.

With the support of the City of Lima, a new pavilion was constructed on site that has been serving as a great shelter area for residents to gather and for Activate to host community education sessions throughout the summer. Additionally, we partnered with Cenovus Energy to install a children's play area on the property. The location of the South Jackson Community Garden directly off the Riverwalk provides a great location for families to enjoy safe and easy access to recreational activities, close to home.

"This event is about more than food and fun—it's about lifting up our neighborhoods, celebrating unity and community partnerships, and helping connect our residents with the resources they need to thrive," said a representative from Activate Allen County. Supporting partners on hand will include: ArtSpace Lima, Mercy Health, Help Me Grow, the YWCA, Allen County Public Health, West Ohio Community Action Partnership, and more!

No registration required—just show up, grab a plate and a pumpkin and enjoy the celebration. We can not wait to see you on Saturday, October 10th from 11am-1pm for our South Jackson Community Garden Block Party! For more information on vendors and activities, please visit the event page on Activate Allen County's Facebook page. Questions? Contact Kayla Monfort-419-973-0516.



Friendly and fun competition is the focus of the annual consistently-sold-out Chamber Challenge event. Teams of four compete in five games for the title of The Chamber Champ. Attendees enjoy team-building, networking, collaboration, and unmatched enthusiasm.

REGISTER ONLINE



LIMACHAMBER.COM

Tuesday, September 15th
5:00-8:00 PM

Westgate Entertainment Center
721 N. Cable Rd.
Lima, OH 45805

\$100 for a 4-person Chamber member team
\$30 each additional Chamber member

\$150 for a 4-person future Chamber member team
\$40 each additional future Chamber member

REGISTER ONLINE



LIMACHAMBER.COM



Lima / Allen County
CHAMBER
of Commerce



The Lima News



charles river



BRP Manufacturing
High Quality Rubber Products



THURSDAY OCTOBER 1, 2026
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Join us for this special event, honoring the men and women who have served and continue to serve our country. The gathering brings together veterans, active-duty service members, families, and community supporters to recognize service, sacrifice, and dedication. Through connection, gratitude, and community engagement, we'll celebrate those who protect our freedoms and strengthen our community.

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

FIVE-STAR GENERAL	\$2,000	+ Time on agenda
PATRIOT	\$1,500	+ Promo throughout
SALUTE TO SERVICE AWARDS	\$1,000	+ Logo on 4 awards SOLD OUT
HOMETOWN HERO	\$500	Verbal, program, email, print & social media recognition

Call Josh Unterbrink at 419-222-6045 or
email junterbrink@limachamber.com

VETERANS MEMORIAL CIVIC AND CONVENTION CENTER
7 TOWN SQUARE, LIMA, OH 45801

Lima / Allen County
CHAMBER
of Commerce

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Lima / Allen County
CHAMBER
of Commerce

BIG



REGIONAL THOUGHT ROUNDTABLE LUNCHEON

FRI, SEPT 18
11:30AM-1:30PM

LOCATION:
MERCY HEALTH-ST. RITA'S GRADUATE
MEDICAL EDUCATION CENTER
751 W. MARKET ST.

**COST PER
TICKET**

\$20

REGISTER ONLINE AT LIMACHAMBER.COM



**Tim
Derickson**

Managing Director
- Food and
Agribusiness

JobsOhio



**Jared
Weiser**

Ohio State Director

NFIB in Ohio



**Alexandra
Denney**

VP of Government
Relations
& Communications

Ohio Business
Roundtable



**Rick
Carfagna**

SVP of
Government Affairs

Ohio Chamber
of Commerce



**Alex
Boehnke**

Vice President of
Legislative &
Cooperative Affairs

Ohio Council
of Retail
Merchants



**Brad
Bales**

Sr. Director of State
& National Policy

Ohio Farm
Bureau
Federation



**James
Lee**

Director of
Public Policy

Ohio
Manufacturers
Association

THIS EVENT BROUGHT TO YOU BY:



Sheakley



MERCYHEALTH
St. Rita's Medical Center



An **AEP** Company

Spectrum

**SPECTRUM
NEWS 1**

Nutrien
Feeding the Future™



THURSDAY OCTOBER 1, 2026
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

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VETERANS MEMORIAL CIVIC AND CONVENTION CENTER
7 TOWN SQUARE, LIMA, OH 45801

Lima / Allen County
CHAMBER
of Commerce





THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2026

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

**Veterans Memorial Civic and Convention Center
7 Town Square, Lima, Ohio 45801**

Military Appreciation Day is a special gathering for local Veterans, our Chamber, and the community to come together over lunch to honor the service, sacrifice, and dedication of our active-duty service members, veterans, and their families.

Spectrum

Google

The Lima News
limaohio.com

Sheakley

MSI
Utilities
Your Energy Partner

Raising Cane's
CHICKEN FINGERS

Social
HOUSE

Lima / Allen County
CHAMBER
of Commerce

scan to register



limachamber.com

Questions? Email junterbrink@limachamber.com or call 419-222-6045



Opportunities for
Ohioans with
Disabilities



West Central Ohio
Safety Council

SC Meeting: Accommodations for Ohioans with Disabilities

DATE: Tuesday, Sep 8, 2026

TIME: 7:30 AM - 9:00 AM

LOCATION:

Howard Johnson Grand Ballroom, Lima, OH

FEATURED SPEAKERS



Shelly Burkhardt
Accessible Ohio Specialist –
Northwest Ohio



Opportunities for
Ohioans with
Disabilities



Alanna Smith
Business Relations Specialist –
Northwest Ohio



Opportunities for
Ohioans with
Disabilities

EVENT SPONSOR:

EASTMAN & SMITH

2026 CHAMBER WORKSHOP SERIES

Is Your Website Costing You Revenue? A 10-Question Audit

Your website might look great — but is it costing you sales? In this interactive session, you'll run through a 10-question audit to uncover why your site may not be converting qualified visitors. Learn what buyers expect, what most sites get wrong, and which quick fixes deliver immediate ROI. You'll leave with a clear action plan to decide when to optimize and when to rebuild.

Tyler Louth
CEO, Marketing Essentials

marketing  essentials

OBJECTIVES

- Self-assessment framework for websites
- Understanding of why most websites fail to convert qualified traffic
- Critical questions every website must answer
- What buyers expect vs. what you're delivering
- Quick fixes that deliver immediate results
- When to optimize vs. when to rebuild

T U E S D A Y
22 SEPT
2026
8:00 - 9:30 AM

Location: Lima Chamber of Commerce, 144 S. Main Street, Suite 100, Lima, OH 45801
To register: call 419-222-6045, or email junterbrink@limachamber.com



The Children's Garden

The Place for Curious Kids

For immediate release
August 31, 2026
Contact: Pam Joseph at 419-302-0618

Children's Garden celebrates 30th anniversary with butterfly release

The Allen County Children's Garden will mark its 30th anniversary with a Butterfly Release from 1-3 p.m. on Sunday, September 13, 2026. The event is designed for children and open to everyone in the community.

Located between the Lima Public Library and the Allen County Museum, the event features a hands-on educational experience where young visitors receive a "butterfly passport" to track their progress through six interactive stations:

- The Ohio State Bugmobile
- Migration station game
- Let's read a book
- Butterfly life cycle
- Pollinator station
- Butterfly release

Children will have the opportunity to release Painted Lady butterflies. Please note that a limited number of butterflies are available and will be shared on a first-come, first-served basis.

In addition to the educational stations, the 30th-anniversary celebration will feature face painting and a pollinator store. The butterfly release is made possible through an Activate Allen County grant. Visit Greater Lima has provided anniversary cupcakes.

The Children's Garden is a project of the Ohio State Extension Master Gardeners of Allen County. The garden features several mini-themed gardens and art inspired by local children and provides a safe, enriching environment that fosters a child's spirit of discovery, love of learning, and joy of exploration through hands-on educational programs and community wide events and celebrations.

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AREA AGENCY ON AGING 3 S

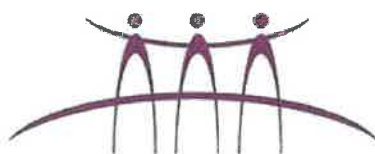
FALL PREVENTION AWARENESS DAY & HEALTH FAIR

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22 | 9-11 AM

2423 Allentown Rd. Lima, OH 45805

SAVE THE DATE

Join us to learn about fall risks and ways to prevent falls among older adults. Several community partners will be in attendance to educate, increase awareness, and help provide resources on falls and fall prevention for our older adults.



Area Agency on Aging 3
Integrity. Independence. Quality of Life.

Fall Mum Sale



at Area Agency on Aging 3

Pre-Order Now!

Choice of 5 colors: White, Yellow,
Bronze, Burgandy, or Purple

Drive-Thru Pick Up Date & Location:

Friday, Sept 18th at Area Agency on Aging 3 next to
Tom Ahl, across from Walmart on Allentown Road

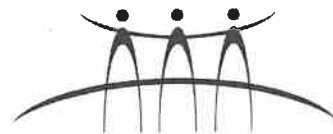
Mums are \$10
each and are
from Amherst
Greenhouse!



Order now at
<https://bit.ly/FallMumSale>
or scan the
QR Code!



Proceeds benefit Elder
Justice Programs at



Area Agency on Aging

Integrity. Independence. Quality of Life.



Hope in Every Step 5K Run/Walk ***or 0.5K walk for 10 million steps***



Awakenings

Saturday, September 5th
9:00 a.m. Start

**Ottawa Metro Park, Wyandot Shelter House,
2632 Ada Rd., Lima**

Those who pre-register will receive a t-shirt and goodie bag!

Pre-registration fee: \$20 Race Day Registration Fee: \$25

Check-In/Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. Age-group awards, finisher medals and snacks provided upon race completion!

Take it at your own pace! The course is fully paved, with some portions going across wooden bridges. Family-Friendly: Bring the whole family and enjoy the event together, helping raise awareness for a critical issue affecting many older adults in our community.

Scan the QR Code to register or go to:

<https://runsignup.com/Race/OH/Lima/HopeInEveryStep5K>



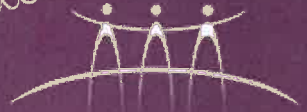
REGISTER HERE





LEARN & EARN

Hosted by



Area Agency on Aging 3
Integrity. Independence. Quality of Life.

Cultural Humility and Ethical Care for Diverse Aging
Populations and Burnout and Boundaries

Thursday, September 17, 2026

9 a.m. -12:30 p.m.

**in the Dr. Jeffery Allison Training Center at
Area Agency on Aging 3, 2423 Allentown Road, Lima**

Presenting

Jess Homan, MSW, LISW-S

Owner, Therapist, Educator - Roots with Resonance LLC

Jess Homan earned her BA in Sociology from Bowling Green State University and Master's in Social Work from The Ohio State University. She has built a career around holding space, building bridges, and creating affirming environments for healing, learning, and growth.

Approach

Jess's personality and style—both in therapy and in life—are grounded in warmth, humor, curiosity, and the belief that growth happens through authentic relationships. She brings in creativity, music, movement, embodiment practices, and just the right amount of chaos to meet people exactly where they are. She uses evidence-based tools like CBT, CPT, Motivational Interviewing, and mindfulness, but adapts them to honor each person's unique experience. She is guided by what makes each person feel seen, safe, and supported.

Eligible attendees will receive 3 Ethics CEU's by attending this Learn & Earn event.

\$40 registration
CEUs pending
Space is limited!

Register by
Friday, Sept 11th
12 noon.

SHRED ATHON



& CARFit Event

Friday, Sept 25th, 2026 9 - 11 a.m.

at Area Agency on Aging 3, 2423 Allentown Road, Lima
(across from Walmart next to Tom Ahl)

Open to the public. Anyone living in the community is invited to drive-thru and dispose of any personal documents, check stubs, credit card offers, receipts, or any other paper materials that might contain personal information.

Secure Onsite
Shredding Provided by:



WILTON KECK

→ INFORMATION DESTRUCTION

→ RECYCLING



CARFit  is a FREE educational program designed to provide a quick but comprehensive check of how well you and your vehicle work together.



Area Agency on Aging 
Integrity. Independence. Quality of Life.

28th Annual Allen County Board of Developmental Disabilities

CHICKEN BBQ



Thursday, October 1
2500 Ada Road
10am-6pm

\$13

PER PERSON

Meal Includes:

Romer's BBQ chicken, baked potato,
green beans, roll, butter and cookie

Cash or check made payable to Marimor Legacy Foundation

DELIVERIES

Business deliveries are available in
Allen County from 10am-1pm (5 dinner
minimum preferred)

DRIVE-THRU

Available at 2500 Ada Road from
10am-6pm

CALL TODAY!

419-221-1385, ext. 1247 or 1033

Proceeds will be used for the
Capital Restroom Project at
the Marimor Legacy All
Ability Playground



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:

Dr. Portia G. Smith, Executive Director
Big Brothers Big Sisters of West Central Ohio, Inc.
419-222-8500
portia@bbbswco.org
www.bbbswco.org

Big Brothers Big Sisters of West Central Ohio Launches 4 × 4 Challenge and \$100 Gift Card Giveaway

Four ways to support local mentoring during Big Brothers Big Sisters Month

LIMA, Ohio — August 31, 2026 — September is Big Brothers Big Sisters Month, and Big Brothers Big Sisters of West Central Ohio, Inc. is inviting individuals, businesses, and community organizations to celebrate the power of mentorship by participating in the agency's 4 × 4 Challenge.

The 4 × 4 Challenge provides four ways for community members to make a BIG difference during September:

1. Give \$4 every week in September.
2. Become a monthly donor.
3. Sign up to become a Big.
4. Share the campaign link with four people and have all four return as either a donor or a prospective Big.

Everyone who completes at least one of the four qualifying activities during September will be entered for an opportunity to win a \$100 gift card.

“The 4 × 4 Challenge demonstrates how small actions can grow into a BIG impact,” said Dr. Portia G. Smith, Executive Director of Big Brothers Big Sisters of West Central Ohio, Inc. “Whether someone gives \$4, becomes a monthly donor, signs up to mentor, or invites four additional people to support our mission, every action helps us reach more young people.”

Individuals who would like to make a one-time donation, become a monthly donor, or share the campaign with others can participate at:

<https://bit.ly/BBBS4X4Challenge>

Individuals interested in signing up to become a Big can get started at:

<https://bbbswco.org/get-involved>

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF WEST CENTRAL OHIO, INC.

\$4 FOR FOUR HOURS

Four hours a month can change a young person's future. Four dollars can help make that match possible.



THIS SEPTEMBER, TAKE THE 4 × 4 CHALLENGE.

4 WAYS TO ENTER TO WIN A \$100 GIFT CARD

1. Give \$4 every week in September
2. Become a monthly donor
3. Sign up to be a Big
4. Share the post with 4 people—and have all 4 return as either a donor or a Big

Complete any **one** of the 4 requirements during September to be entered to win a \$100 gift card!

LIVE DRAWING: Thursday, October 1, 2026 at noon
Facebook Live: facebook.com/bbbswco



GIVE • MONTHLY DONOR • SHARE
bit.ly/BBBS4X4Challenge



SIGN UP TO BE A BIG
bbbswco.org/get-involved

4 × 4

www.bbbswco.org

419-222-8500

Big Brothers Big Sisters of West Central Ohio, Inc.

SEPTEMBER IS BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS MONTH

4 HOURS. ONE FRIENDSHIP. BIG POSSIBILITIES.

Celebrate mentorship. Support local youth.
Help ignite potential across West Central Ohio.



THE 4×4 \$100 GIFT CARD GIVEAWAY

— 4 WAYS TO MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE —

- 1  Give \$4 every week in September
- 2  Become a monthly donor
- 3  Sign up to be a Big
- 4  Share the post with 4 people—and have all 4 return as either a donor or a Big



Complete any one of the 4 requirements during September to be entered to win a \$100 gift card!

LIVE DRAWING: Thursday, October 1, 2026 at noon
Facebook Live: facebook.com/bbbswco



GIVE • MONTHLY DONOR • SHARE
bit.ly/BBBS4X4Challenge



SIGN UP TO BE A BIG
bbbswco.org/get-involved



Learn more:
www.bbbswco.org



419-222-8500



MERCYHEALTH

2ND ANNUAL

Women's HEALTH Dinner

SEPTEMBER 15TH

Fellowship

STARTING AT 5 PM

Dinner

AT 6 PM

Hosted at

SOCIAL HOUSE

205 South Central Ave
Lima, OH
45801

REGISTER AT

tinyurl.com/mhwh2026



Tickets
are

\$100
PER PERSON

CONNECTION • ENCOURAGEMENT • CELEBRATION



WOMEN'S HEALTH FALL *Symposium*

"Women's Health Matters: Empower Yourself Through Knowledge"

Join us for an enriching day dedicated to your health, your well-being, and your future.
This symposium brings together expert speakers and practical strategies
to support and empower women at every stage of life.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER DR. MALAIKA WOODS, MD, MPH

Dr. Woods is passionate about empowering women with evidence-based information to make informed decisions about their health.

EXPERT INSIGHTS

Learn from leading healthcare professionals on the topics that matter most.

PRACTICAL STRATEGIES

Gain tools and tips you can use to take action in your daily life.

SUPPORT & CONNECTION

Connect with other women and build a stronger, healthier community.

EMPOWER YOUR HEALTH

Feel informed, inspired, and empowered to take charge of your health.

Topics Include:

- Benefits of Hormone Therapy
- Managing Unrealistic Expectations & Building Self Confidence
- **It's Hormones, Not Willpower:**
How Estrogen, Progesterone, and Testosterone Impact Weight, Muscle, and Metabolism in the Perimenopausal Woman
- Menopause & Me:
Reclaiming Identity and Intimacy
- **Cardiovascular Disease in Women:**
The Least Feared, But the Most Deadly
- And more!



\$20 TICKETS

To view continuing education credit information and additional event details, please visit the Eeds event page:
eeds.com/live/620430.

SCAN HERE
TO REGISTER



FRIDAY,
SEPTEMBER 11, 2026



8:00 AM – 2:00 PM



MERCY HEALTH ST. RITA'S
GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION CENTER
751 W. Market Street, Lima, OH 45801



Invest in yourself. Empower your future.





Buckeye
COMMUNITY SCHOOL
Powered by New Leaf Organization



Lima

Buckeye Community School is an alternative to traditional high school, offering 1:1 learning pathways, competency-based courses, career tech, and flexible credit recovery options for every high school student who enrolls with us.



What We Offer:



**CAREER TECHNICAL
EDUCATION**



**FINE & PERFORMING
ARTS PROGRAMS**



**FREE BREAKFAST
AND LUNCH**



**MONTHLY
PRODUCE MARKETS**



**CAREER BASED
INSTRUCTION**

Our Vision:

- meet the needs of the whole student
- have a safe, productive, orderly, nurturing environment
- assist students to graduate & succeed
- quality instructional leadership & effective communication
- high expectations for achievement & success
- constant monitoring & recording of student progress
- positive home to school & school to community relationship



Our Mission:

To create an educational experience through positive relationships that empowers every person the opportunity to overcome personal challenges and pursue one's unique goals

“ We want to help every student who has a desire to earn a diploma - no matter what obstacles are in the way. ”