

CareerQuest Connects Job Seekers with Local Employers and Career Opportunities

By Debbie Harrison

TANNERSVILLE - CareerQuest is set to bring together job seekers, local employers, and workforce development partners for an engaging and opportunity-filled event designed to connect talent with opportunity. Hosted by PA CareerLink Monroe County and Northampton Community College Pocono Campus, the event will take place on April 15, 2026, at Northampton Community College Pocono Campus in Pocono Hall from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and is open to job seekers of all experience levels. Attendees will have the opportunity to meet directly with hiring employers, explore training programs, and learn about career pathways in high-demand industries. CareerQuest aims to strengthen the local workforce by providing direct access to employment opportunities, professional development resources, and career guidance. Participating employers will represent industries such as healthcare, manufacturing, hospitality, transportation, education, customer service, and more. Many employers will be actively hiring and prepared to conduct on-the-spot interviews.

In addition to employer recruitment, attendees can access:

- Resume assistance
- Information on workforce training programs
- Unemployment and reemployment support
- Career counseling resources
- Networking opportunities with workforce professionals
- Outfits For Opportunities Job seekers are encouraged to bring multiple copies of their resume and dress professionally. Employers can register by contacting the office at 570-620-2850.

Northampton County Council Votes “Yes” on Non-Discrimination Ordinance and Plans to Establish a Human Relations Commission

By Kelly Prentice

[Northampton County, PA] – Northampton County Council voted “yes” on a non-discrimination ordinance that promotes the rights and opportunities of all persons to participate in the social, cultural, recreational, and economic life of the County. In order to provide stronger protections for more classes of people, the Ordinance provides for the formation of a County Human Relations Commission similar to the Human Relations Commission of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The Commission will receive and investigate claims of discrimination occurring in Northampton County and enforce non-discrimination requirements.

“The County has a vested interest in protecting the rights of all of its residents,” said County Executive Tara Zrinski. “Our strength as a county comes from the diversity of our residents, and we are committed to ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to live, work, and participate in community life without fear of discrimination.”

The protected classes as defined in the ordinance include the following: actual or perceived race, ethnicity, color, religion, creed, national origin, ancestry, sex (including pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding, and related medical conditions), gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, genetic information, marital status, familial status, GED rather than high school diploma, or mental disability, relationship or association with a disabled person, source of income, age, height, weight, veteran status, use of guide or support animals and/or mechanical aids, or domestic or sexual violence victim status.

The Human Relations Commission is authorized under Pennsylvania state law. Several nearby counties, including Lehigh County and Delaware County, have non-discrimination ordinances. The Commission consists of consists of seven members appointed by the County Executive, subject to County Council approval. Members will reflect the diversity of protected classes. If the Commission finds following an investigation that a complaint of discrimination is substantiated, it can fine the offender up to \$600.

The legislation will add safeguards for those with physical and mental disabilities, who often struggle to find jobs and housing. “Under this Ordinance, an employer can evaluate whether an applicant can perform the duties of the job,” said County Commissioner Jason Boulette. “But they can’t refuse to hire someone because of a disability. And this will ensure that reasonable modifications can be made in housing when it’s needed for someone with a disability.”

The Ordinance had support from members of the public, including Lehigh Valley Justice Initiative’s Joe Welsh. He encouraged the creation of a human relations commission, noting that federal and state agencies that oversee discrimination complaints are overwhelmed and it can take over a year for those agencies to investigate and resolve complaints.

“This will not only protect Northampton County residents in regards to employment, housing, and education, but it will also send a message that everyone belongs and no one will be discriminated against here,” said Corrine Goodwin, a founding member of Keystone Equality and Executive Director of Eastern PA Trans Equity Project.



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Well Water Quality and Your Family

By Janel Gist

SLATE BELT - Do you know what’s in your water? If you have public water, you should receive a yearly report and most likely can drink your water with confidence. However, if you have a private well like many people in this area, it’s your responsibility to monitor and maintain it.

Many homeowners with well water either skip drinking it completely or choose to stay ignorant of the quality of their water. Relying on bottled water can be costly and creates unnecessary plastic waste, but many homeowners with wells choose to buy water. Reasons for not utilizing their wells range from not liking the taste, not trusting the quality of the water or believing it’s unsafe because of the color or odor. Homeowners can take the guess work out of well water safety by having their water tested for common contaminants.

Getting your well water tested will give you peace of mind and save money from buying bottled water. There is a plethora of things you can test in well water, which can make deciding what to test difficult. Depending on where you get it tested you can choose from a basic package that may test for a few things, up to comprehensive testing that will do a whole panel of tests. With all these different options for testing it can be overwhelming and difficult to tell how in depth to go. Luckily the EPA has guidelines for what well owners should be testing yearly.

The EPA recommends testing well water once a year for Total Coliform, pH, Nitrate and Total Solid. These tests are considered water quality indicators. These water quality indicators can help give well owners a better idea of what’s going on in their well. If the results of these tests are all good, it’s a good sign of the quality of your water. Test failures indicate the well may be compromised and more in-depth testing is needed.

Wells change year to year, which is why yearly testing is needed. One of the most common ways for wells to get contaminated is if they are exposed to runoff or are affected by flooding. It’s also a good idea to test if any work has been done on any part of the well system, as contaminants are more likely to be introduced then. Another sign that it’s time to test your well water is if you have any sudden changes in the taste, odor or appearance of your water.

For well-owners regular testing will provide them with the information they need to be confident in the quality and safety of their water. Add well testing to your to-do list today to ensure your families health and hydration year after year.

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