



# Blue Valley Times

FREE

VOL. 35 NO. 3

SERVING THE SLATE BELT, SOUTHERN POCONOS & NORTHERN N.J.  
DAILY ONLINE AT [WWW.BLUEVALLEYTIMES.COM](http://WWW.BLUEVALLEYTIMES.COM) AND FACEBOOK

JANUARY 20, 2026



## January is National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month: We're Fighting Back



By Rep. Joe Emrick

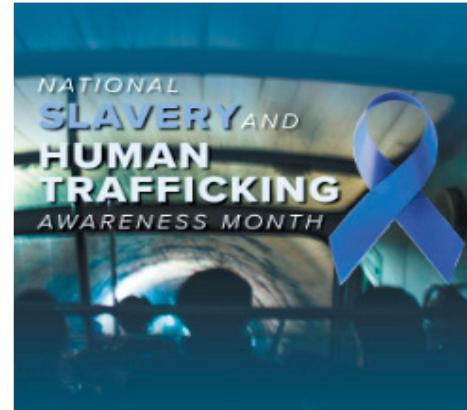
NAZARETH - Human trafficking is one of the fastest growing crimes in the nation. According to the National Human Trafficking Hotline, Pennsylvania consistently ranks among the top states in reported trafficking cases.

To help fight this horrific crime, I recently joined fellow legislators in supporting House Bill 1286, which would establish training requirements for employees of public lodging establishments who have contact with guests or access to guest rooms, and for operators of short-term rentals. To help save lives we need to ensure people who may have the opportunity to intervene on behalf of a victim know what to look for. This bill is now awaiting consideration by the Senate Judiciary Committee.

People of all ages and demographics can become victims of human trafficking. Children are especially vulnerable to traffickers reaching them through various online platforms. If you are a victim of human trafficking in need of help, or you suspect someone else is a victim:

- Call 911 if you are in immediate danger.
- Call the National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline at 1-888-373-7888.
- Text HELP or INFO to BeFree (233733) to reach the National Human Trafficking Resource Center.

Click here to learn more [https://links.pahousenews.com/q/SEEBBuAN7t0X9eerpKyTN5SHgAN5tPiqyCZcOJYnZ0aW1lc0ByY24uY29tw4g4KZArVPye6iOL\\_YPmgeWTB-ehSA](https://links.pahousenews.com/q/SEEBBuAN7t0X9eerpKyTN5SHgAN5tPiqyCZcOJYnZ0aW1lc0ByY24uY29tw4g4KZArVPye6iOL_YPmgeWTB-ehSA).



## LVEDC Releases Latest Lehigh Valley Hot Careers Dashboard and Guide

By Paul Muschick

LEHIGH VALLEY - The Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corporation (LVEDC) has released the latest edition of its award-winning Hot Careers Dashboard and Guide, highlighting the region's most in-demand jobs.

Both tools identify growing careers in the region's strongest industries, the salaries that can be earned in those occupations, and the education or training needed to obtain those jobs. The dashboard also offers insights into which local institutions offer programs to prepare for those careers.

"From students exploring what's possible to mid-career professionals ready for a change, Lehigh Valley residents now have updated tools to help them plan their next steps right here at home," said Karianne Gelinas, LVEDC's Vice President of Talent Strategies. "These easy-to-use resources are built with regional data and employer insights, providing a clear and up-to-date look at the opportunities the Lehigh Valley has to offer people of all skill and education levels."

The occupations listed are the most common to appear in Lehigh Valley job postings; employ at least 95 people in the region; and/or were suggested for inclusion by local employers.

The information is vetted by regional industry leaders for accuracy.

The guide, now in its seventh edition, is distributed to the region's 17 public school districts, as well as charter and parochial schools. At least seven school districts are using the tools as a resource for career exploration.

"I use the Hot Careers Dashboard as part of many conversations at the high school level. It is invaluable to show students and parents real-time data regarding potential employment," said Jason Wichenbach, Guidance Counselor at Northampton Area School District.

Career counselors at the university level use the tools with students as well, and employers can use the Hot Career Guide and Dashboard with their employees to help them understand opportunities for advancement in their field.

Continued on page



www.bluevalleytimes.com



Debbie Pettinari, Agent

106 S Broadway  
Wind Gap, PA 18091  
610-881-4433

Debbie.pettinari.wz73@statefarm.com

