



## MAHONING VALLEY MARKET PULSE™

Issue #16 • Week of June 22, 2026

**FROM THE EDITOR:** Schwebel's, a Valley brand, employer, distribution network, and piece of Youngstown identity, is moving toward liquidation. The company's WARN filing lists 370 affected workers at its Youngstown facility and 673 affected employees across Ohio, with layoffs expected to begin the week of July 6 and continue through Labor Day weekend.

Elsewhere, Youngstown escalated the SOBE steam crisis, local governments kept writing their own data-center rules, New Castle landed a national critical-materials distinction, and Lordstown's income-tax drop showed how quickly employer stress becomes municipal stress.

All items sourced June 15–21 unless marked **[ONGOING]**. Capital Pipeline Tracker and Economic Indicators are cumulative reference tables updated weekly.

### ON DECK — JUNE 22–28

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- **Tue, June 23** — Trumbull County Commissioners workshop, 10:30 a.m.
- **Tue, June 23** — Ashtabula County Commissioners regular weekly schedule; confirm posted agenda.
- **Wed, June 24** — PUCO expected to consider staff-recommended emergency SOBE rates.
- **Wed, June 24** — Columbiana County Commissioners regular meeting, 9:00 a.m., Lisbon.
- **Wed, June 24** — Trumbull County Commissioners regular meeting, 10:30 a.m., Warren.
- **Thu, June 25** — Mahoning County Commissioners regular weekly schedule; confirm posted agenda.
- **Thu, June 25** — Mercer County Commissioners regular meeting, 3:00 p.m., Mercer.
- **Fri, June 26** — Graphite One annual general meeting; Conneaut / Ashtabula project watch item.

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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- **Mon, July 14** — ODOT public meeting on potential Youngstown bridge removal, 1–3 p.m., MYCAP Senior Center; exact bridge/project notice still pending primary confirmation. Sources: [WFMJ](#)

## LEAD STORY

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**Schwebel Baking Co. filed an Ohio WARN notice** for the permanent closing of its Youngstown facility at 920 and 965 E. Midlothian Blvd., listing 370 affected employees. Companywide Ohio WARN material identifies 673 affected employees, with layoffs expected to begin the week of July 6 and continue through Labor Day weekend unless circumstances change.

For the Valley, this is more than a bakery closure. Schwebel's has been a Youngstown brand and fixture since 1906, with a retail, distribution, supplier, and workforce footprint across the region. The company cited softer sales, rising costs, aging facilities, labor and pension obligations, and changing consumer demand after efforts to find a buyer or investor fell short.

Sources: [ODJFS WARN](#) · [BJD](#)

## STRATEGIC SIGNALS

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**Downtown steam emergency moves to PUCO.** Youngstown City Council voted 7-0 to declare a local energy and public utility emergency tied to SOBE Thermal and approved up to \$130,000 for a Roetzel & Andress viability study. PUCO is expected June 24 to consider staff-recommended emergency rates that would raise most SOBE customers' bills by 145% during heating season and 75% during the rest of the year. Sources:

[Vindicator](#) · [BJD](#) · [WKBN](#)

**Data-center rulebooks replacing pause-only approaches.** Lordstown extended its data-center moratorium another 180 days, Boardman brought in YSU economist Dr. AJ Sumell to brief its zoning commission, and McDonald and Hubbard officials discussed lessons from a Lake to River tour of New Albany's data-center model. Pennsylvania is moving in the same direction, with HB 2496 allowing municipal pauses and SB 1359 proposing a broader hyperscale moratorium. Sources: [Tribune](#) · [Vindicator](#) · [WKBN](#) · [PA House](#) · [PA Senate](#)

**New Castle becomes the only U.S. chrome-metal production site.** AMG Critical Materials opened a \$15 million New Castle facility with planned annual capacity of 6,500 tons, making AMG the sole U.S. producer of chrome metal. The plant ties Lawrence County to aerospace, defense, clean-energy, and critical-materials supply chains. Sources: [AMG](#) · [BJD](#) · [WKBN](#)

**Lordstown revenue decline shows employer stress hitting municipal budgets.** Lordstown reported income-tax collections down \$1.76 million for the first five months of the year, with Ultium Cells layoffs and the absence of Trumbull Energy Center construction activity cited as factors. A workforce delay has turned into a municipal finance signal. Sources: [Tribune](#)

## INFRASTRUCTURE & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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- **Champion bridge replacement tied to Mercy access.** ODOT awarded \$500,000 toward replacement of a bridge serving the \$30 million Mercy Health–Champion Emergency Center. Total bridge construction is estimated at \$843,000. Sources: [Tribune](#)

- **Youngstown sewer-diversion cost reduced.** City change orders reduced one phase of the sewer-diversion project by \$321,737.52. The two-phase project totaled about \$10.35 million and eliminated three overflows that discharged roughly 35.5 million gallons annually into the Mahoning River. Sources: [Vindicator](#)
- **East Palestine Train Depot contract awarded.** Columbiana County commissioners awarded an \$889,545 renovation contract to Dynamic Structures of New Waterford. The Port Authority is administering the project, with Black Diamond Brewery & Distillery planned as tenant. Sources: [Salem News](#)
- **ODOT bridge-removal meeting set for July.** ODOT will hold a July 14 public meeting on a potential Youngstown bridge removal. Exact project details still need primary confirmation before publication. Sources: [WFMJ](#)

## POWER, DATA & SITE READINESS

- **Lordstown extends data-center moratorium.** The village approved another 180-day extension, effective July 5, keeping the Bristolville 25 / Lordstown dispute frozen while standards are developed. Sources: [Tribune](#)
- **Boardman studies data-center impacts.** The zoning commission invited YSU economist Dr. AJ Sumell to discuss infrastructure, water, air quality, noise, and broader community effects. Sources: [WKBN](#)
- **McDonald and Hubbard study New Albany.** Officials from both communities reported lessons from a Lake to River visit focused on standards, water limits, sound controls, tax-base impact, and conditional-use zoning. Sources: [Vindicator](#) · [Tribune](#)
- **Pennsylvania adds state-level pressure.** HB 2496 would let municipalities pause data-center applications for up to 180 days while updating land-use rules; SB 1359 proposes a three-year hyperscale moratorium. Sources: [PA House](#) · [PA Senate](#)

For a closer look at the power, zoning, and economic considerations influencing data center projects in the Mahoning Valley, download our white paper: [The Data Center Dilemma →](#)

## DATA-CENTER GOVERNANCE ROSTER

| Jurisdiction           | County      | Term / Status        | Date / Update                                                                      |
|------------------------|-------------|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Lordstown Village      | Trumbull OH | 180 days + extension | Original moratorium approved January; extension approved June 15, effective July 5 |
| Hubbard City           | Trumbull OH | 12 months            | Approved June 1; New Albany lessons discussed June 20                              |
| Hubbard Township       | Trumbull OH | 12 months            | Approved Feb. 10                                                                   |
| Boardman Township      | Mahoning OH | 1 year               | Approved at April township meeting; zoning commission studying impacts             |
| Niles City             | Trumbull OH | 180 days             | Approved May 20                                                                    |
| Weathersfield Township | Trumbull OH | 6 months             | Effective April 30                                                                 |
| Vienna Township        | Trumbull OH | 180 days             | Approved week of Feb. 16; reported Feb. 21                                         |
| Bazetta Township       | Trumbull OH | 180 days             | Approved May 12                                                                    |
| Braceville Township    | Trumbull OH | 6 months             | Approved June 2, effective immediately                                             |

|                       |             |                        |                               |
|-----------------------|-------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Cortland City         | Trumbull OH | 1 year                 | Approved June 1               |
| Howland Township      | Trumbull OH | 6 months               | Approved June 10              |
| Warren City           | Trumbull OH | Permanent ban proposed | In process / watch            |
| Mahoning Township     | Lawrence PA | Zoning ordinance       | Enacted local zoning controls |
| North Beaver Township | Lawrence PA | Zoning ordinance       | Enacted local zoning controls |

## EMPLOYER WATCH

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- **Schwebel's** — see **Lead Story**. The Youngstown WARN notice lists 370 affected workers; Ohio-wide material lists 673 affected employees.
- **AMG Critical Materials** — see **Strategic Signal #3**. The New Castle chrome-metal facility gives Lawrence County a national critical-materials story.
- **Lordstown employer exposure** — see **Strategic Signal #4**. Ultium and energy-construction activity are now showing up in village income-tax performance.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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- **Forward Lawrence names interim CEO**. Frank Moses was named interim CEO after Albert “Chip” Abramovic’s short tenure ended. The transition matters as Lawrence County handles site-readiness, logistics, data-center, and critical-materials activity. Sources: [BJD](#)
- **Youngstown appraises Chill Can and Anthony’s parcels**. The Board of Control approved appraisals for two remaining Joseph-owned Chill Can parcels and the former Anthony’s on the River property. The Chill Can parcels support East Side site consolidation; Anthony’s relates to Marshall Street dam-removal access and staging. Sources: [BJD](#) · [Vindicator](#)

## WORKFORCE & EDUCATION

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- **Technician Fast Track launches at YSU**. MVMC launched the one-year registered apprenticeship at YSU’s Excellence Training Center, combining 340 classroom hours with 1,500 on-the-job hours. The first cohort includes participants from five area companies. Sources: [OMA](#) · [BJD](#) · [WKBN](#)
- **YSU Truck Driving School gains traction at YNG**. The airport-based program has 25 completions, a reported 100% pass rate, and steady employer calls for CDL drivers. Sources: [BJD](#) · [YSU](#)
- **YNG Aviation Education Center awaits federal clearance**. WRPA awarded the \$6.98 million contract to B&B Contractors but is waiting on EDA and FAA notices to proceed. The project schedule is estimated at 14 months once approved. Sources: [BJD](#)

## MUNICIPAL & GOVERNMENT

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- **Lordstown income-tax collections fall.** See Strategic Signal #4. Sources: [Tribune](#)
- **Youngstown declares SOBE emergency.** See Strategic Signal #1. Sources: [WKBN](#) · [Vindicator](#)

## LEGISLATIVE & POLICY WATCH

- **SB 450 capital budget signed.** Gov. Mike DeWine signed the FY 2027-2028 capital budget, moving Valley line items from pending to enacted. The package includes over \$13 million for Mahoning County, led by roughly \$10.7 million for YSU's main campus, plus about \$3.02 million for Trumbull County projects and \$3.5 million for YSU-Steubenville. Sources: [Ohio Legislature](#) · [Tribune](#)
- **Utility submetering bill clears General Assembly.** Rep. David Thomas' bill would give PUCO oversight of submetering standards and awaits Gov. DeWine's signature. Sources: [Tribune](#)
- **PA HB 2496 advances.** The bill would allow municipalities to pause data-center applications for up to 180 days while updating local land-use rules. Sources: [PA House](#)
- **PA SB 1359 introduced.** The Senate proposal would create a three-year statewide moratorium on hyperscale data-center development and related power/transmission infrastructure. Sources: [PA Senate](#) · [Co-sponsorship memo](#)

## RETAIL & RESTAURANT BEAT

- **Cortland and Champion Sparkle Markets to become Golden Dawn stores.** The change affects two established Trumbull County grocery locations. Sources: [WFMJ](#)

## HEALTHCARE

- **Mercy Health-Champion access improves with bridge award.** See Infrastructure & Community Development. Sources: [Tribune](#)
- **Mercy Health hospitals earn stroke certifications.** Mercy Health Boardman and St. Joseph Warren earned Primary Stroke Center certifications. Sources: [BJD](#)

## ECONOMIC INDICATORS

| Indicator                        | Current    | Prior      | Source           |
|----------------------------------|------------|------------|------------------|
| Trumbull unemployment            | 4.7% (Apr) | 5.6% (Mar) | ODJFS / BLS-FRED |
| Mahoning unemployment            | 4.4% (Apr) | 5.3% (Mar) | ODJFS / BLS-FRED |
| Columbiana unemployment          | 3.4% (Apr) | 4.4% (Mar) | ODJFS / BLS-FRED |
| Ashtabula unemployment           | 3.0% (Apr) | 4.5% (Mar) | BLS-FRED         |
| Lawrence County, PA unemployment | 4.0% (Apr) | 5.1% (Mar) | BLS-FRED         |
| Mercer County, PA unemployment   | 4.0% (Apr) | 4.6% (Mar) | BLS-FRED         |

|                                |                            |                        |                             |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Ohio unemployment (SA)         | 3.7% (May)                 | 3.9% (Apr)             | <a href="#">ODJFS</a>       |
| Pennsylvania unemployment (SA) | 4.2% (May)                 | 4.2% (Apr)             | PA L&I                      |
| U.S. unemployment              | 4.3% (May)                 | 4.3% (Apr)             | <a href="#">BLS</a>         |
| U.S. nonfarm payrolls          | +172,000 (May)             | +179,000 revised (Apr) | <a href="#">BLS</a>         |
| Ohio initial jobless claims    | 5,572 (wk ending June 13)  | 7,719 prior            | <a href="#">ODJFS</a> / BJD |
| Ohio continued claims          | 43,673 (wk ending June 13) | 41,073 prior           | <a href="#">ODJFS</a> / BJD |

County figures are latest clean county-level data available during production. Statewide Ohio and Pennsylvania rates have May data; county-level LAUS releases lag statewide releases.

## CAPITAL PIPELINE TRACKER

Cumulative reference table, cleaned this week to emphasize active strategic pipeline items. \* = updated this issue; NEW = added this issue.

| Project                              | Invest.                  | Jobs                      | Status                                                      | County          |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| SoftBank/Stargate — Lordstown        | \$3B+                    | TBD                       | Site work continues; online 2026-27                         | Trumbull        |
| * Ultium Cells — Lordstown           | \$2.3B                   | ~1,500 pk                 | August callback target; income-tax impact now visible       | Trumbull        |
| Graphite One — Conneaut              | \$1.4B                   | Ph1 150+                  | FAST-41 Sept. 29; AGM June 26                               | Ashtabula       |
| Kimberly-Clark — Warren Mfg          | \$800M                   | ~500                      | Construction active; 1.2M SF on 560 acres                   | Trumbull        |
| K-C Distribution Center              | \$160M                   | 65                        | Board decision pending                                      | Trumbull        |
| Keel Data Center — Sharon            | \$5B                     | 134                       | Zoning approved with conditions; Mercer Co. RPC review      | Mercer PA       |
| FirstEnergy Grid — Trumbull          | \$24M                    | —                         | 138-kV rebuild; Energize365 reliability work                | Trumbull        |
| Warren Steel Site                    | \$15M loan               | —                         | Foreclosure; 360-acre industrial site                       | Trumbull        |
| Everest Aluminum — Warren            | \$19.5-33M               | 70                        | Tax abatement approved; site decision pending               | Trumbull        |
| Innovation Hub — A&D                 | \$62M                    | 450 by 2029               | Renovation start expected summer 2026                       | Mahoning        |
| * Mercy Health — Champion ER         | \$30M ER + \$843K bridge | 75 prior estimate         | \$500K ODOT bridge award tied to ER access                  | Trumbull        |
| Vallourec — Premium Thread           | \$48M                    | 40                        | Commissioning Q1 2027                                       | Mahoning        |
| EOG/Encino — Utica Drilling          | \$6.5B                   | 1,000s                    | Regional upstream priority                                  | Regional        |
| McDonald Steel Site                  | \$3.25M                  | —                         | 51.8 acres cleared; sale window Jul-Oct 2026                | Trumbull        |
| Youngstown REDD Infill               | \$2.5M                   | 220 units                 | Awarded March 6                                             | Mahoning        |
| Warren Peninsula Project             | \$851K                   | 306 units                 | Awarded March 6                                             | Trumbull        |
| Mahoning National Bank Bldg          | \$18.5M                  | 71 units                  | Renovation active                                           | Mahoning        |
| Mahoning Co. Gov't Center            | \$60M                    | 400+                      | WRPA design / demolition path; construction 2027            | Mahoning        |
| NEW Schwebel Baking Co. closure      | TBD                      | 370 Youngstown / 673 Ohio | WARN filed; layoffs July 6-Labor Day; permanent closure     | Mahoning / Ohio |
| * SOBE Thermal — downtown Youngstown | TBD                      | —                         | City emergency declared; \$130K study; PUCO June 24         | Mahoning        |
| * Bristolville 25 / Lordstown        | \$3.6B                   | 120 projected             | Lordstown moratorium extended 180 days effective July 5     | Trumbull        |
| Zuharis / Project Astralus           | TBD                      | 2,000-5,000               | 510-acre DC + power plant + water; Q3 2027 target           | Columbiana      |
| NEW AMG Chrome — New Castle          | \$15M                    | TBD                       | Opened; sole U.S. chrome-metal producer; 6,500-ton capacity | Lawrence PA     |
|                                      | \$6.98M                  | —                         |                                                             | Trumbull        |

|                                           |                           |      |                                                                       |            |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------|------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| * YNG Aviation Education Center           |                           |      | Contract awarded; awaiting EDA / FAA notice to proceed                |            |
| * Youngstown river / sewer infrastructure | \$10.35M sewer + dam work | —    | Sewer overflow work finalized; Anthony's appraisal tied to dam access | Mahoning   |
| NEW East Palestine Train Depot            | \$889,545 contract        | TBD  | Renovation contract awarded; work expected early July                 | Columbiana |
| * SB 450 Valley line items                | Multi                     | —    | Capital budget signed; local line items enacted                       | Multi      |
| Amazon Bazetta DC                         | \$30M                     | ~120 | Under construction; opening date pending                              | Trumbull   |

**Green** = construction / active   **Yellow** = planning   **Blue** = awarded / funded   **Purple** = renovation   **Red** = paused / distressed

### Mahoning Valley Market Pulse™

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