



MAHONING VALLEY MARKET PULSE™

Issue #5 • Week of April 6, 2026

FROM THE EDITOR: ODOT just gave 137 million reasons to pay attention to Valley road infrastructure this year — I-680 reconstruction starts this month and won't finish until 2028. Meanwhile, the BLS surprised markets with 178,000 jobs in March, and a 96,000 SF Boardman shopping plaza hit the market at \$3.9 million.

All items sourced Mar 30–Apr 4 unless marked **[ONGOING]** for developing stories from prior weeks. Capital Pipeline Tracker and Economic Indicators are cumulative reference tables updated weekly.

ON DECK — APRIL 6 - APRIL 12

- **Tue, Apr. 7 — Trumbull County Commissioners Meeting (10:30 AM):** Regular session, county administration building. [Trumbull County](#)
- **Tue, Apr. 7 — Ashtabula County Commissioners Meeting (9:00 AM):** Regular session. [Ashtabula County](#)
- **Wed, Apr. 8 — Columbiana County Commissioners Meeting (9:00 AM):** Regular session. [Columbiana County](#)
- **Wed, Apr. 8 — Trumbull County Engineer Annual Meeting (6:00 PM):** DiLucia's Banquet & Catering Center. Road and bridge maintenance briefing for local officials. [Tribune Chronicle](#)
- **Thu, Apr. 9 — Board of Mahoning County Commissioners Meeting (10:00 AM):** Regular session. [Mahoning County](#)
- **Mark your calendar: Regional Chamber Annual Meeting, April 16 (7:30–9:30 AM):** Waypoint 4180, Canfield. Spirit of the Valley Award to Eric Ryan (JAC Management), Spirit of the Chamber to Samuel Miller (Trumbull Industries), keynote by Valley Champion Jan Prisby Bryson. [Regional Chamber](#)

INFRASTRUCTURE & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- **\$137M in ODOT Road Projects Kick Off (Apr 1).** ODOT District 4 announced the Valley's busiest construction season in years. The headline project is I-680 reconstruction from SR-193 to South Avenue, starting this month with northbound traffic detoured via US 62/US 422/SR-193 through August 2028. Additional projects include \$7.7M in Rt. 46/82 intersection improvements in Howland (diverging diamond, new turn lanes, signal changes) and a future roundabout at SR-46/New Road in Austintown. Eastgate COG's Jim Kinnick participated in the kickoff. [WFMJ · Vindicator](#)
- **Habitat for Humanity Breaks Ground in Warren (Apr 1).** New home construction at Burton and Willard streets, supported by Regional Chamber, Community Foundation of the Mahoning Valley, Youngstown Area Jewish Federation, and other partners. [Tribune Chronicle](#)
- **Trumbull Commissioners Approve Liberty Storm Drainage (\$317K CDBG).** Public hearing set for 5 PM Apr 14 at Liberty Township Administration Building. Also awarded \$71K for Sheriff's Office evidence room upgrade. [Tribune Chronicle](#)
- **[ONGOING] K-C Plant On Schedule; Pine Ave Closed.** The \$800M Kimberly-Clark manufacturing facility remains on pace for H1 2027 production. Pine Avenue permanently closed Mar 27 for construction access. [WKBN](#)
- **[ONGOING] EGCC Garage Demo Timeline Set.** Bid-opening targets July, demolition September through December — clearing the E. Federal Street footprint for the \$60M Mahoning County Government Center. [BJD, Mar 19](#)

ENERGY & UTICA SHALE

- **[ONGOING] Infinity Natural Resources \$1.2B Utica Acquisition.** Deal closing expected Q1 2026. Adds 71,000 net acres in Guernsey, Belmont, and Harrison counties plus midstream infrastructure. [YourRadioPlace](#)
- **[ONGOING] EOG Resources: 3 Rigs, Top-Tier Priority.** Utica now competes directly for capital with EOG's Delaware Basin and Eagle Ford assets. 16 wells drilled across six pads in 2026. [Oil Gas Leads](#)
- **[ONGOING] Strait of Hormuz Crisis Continues.** Two US military planes shot down in separate incidents this week, raising tensions further. Energy prices remain elevated; S&P 500 continues weekly losing streak. [WFMJ](#)

RETAIL & RESTAURANT BEAT

- **Mathews Square Listed for Sale at \$3.9M (Apr 2).** The 96,330 SF shopping plaza at South Avenue and Mathews Road in Boardman has been listed by Yajnik Properties, who purchased it in 2003 for \$2.645M. Tenants include Dollar General, Amish Marketplace, Youngstown Bakehouse, and Danalyn's Restaurant. Reason for sale undisclosed. [WFMJ](#)

- **Wegmans Supermarket Begins Construction in Cranberry Township.** The chain began construction this month on a 115,000 SF store in Cranberry Township — its first Pittsburgh-area location, with 400–500 jobs expected. The chain's Erie and Cranberry stores will bookend the Mahoning Valley, creating a natural infill opportunity that regional retail recruiters should be tracking. [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Mar 31](#)
- **[ONGOING] Dick's House of Sport Eyed for Former K-Mart, Boardman.** The experiential-format store — featuring rock walls, sports simulators, an ice rink, and a practice field — would bring 120 jobs to the long-vacant Route 224 site. Must pass two readings. [WFMJ, Jan 14](#)
- **[ONGOING] Dick's Sporting Goods Expanding to 72,000 SF at Eastwood Mall.** Construction continues in the former Dillard's space, up from 52,000 SF in Great East Plaza. Grand opening expected summer 2026. [WKBN, Dec 4 '25](#)
- **[ONGOING] Culver's Boardman — Application Expected.** First Mahoning Valley location planned for former Hot Dog Shoppe site on Route 224. [WFMJ, Mar 25](#)

LEGISLATIVE & POLICY WATCH

- **Data Center Regulation Update.** Ohio's HB 646 (study commission) passed the House and awaits Senate action. Separately, HB 710 would ban all government incentives for data centers and prohibit siting on prime farmland. Speaker Huffman says the tax exemption override vote may come in May or June. In PA, the data center regulation bill also passed the House this week. [Farm and Dairy](#) · [Ohio Capital Journal](#)
- **[ONGOING] Sen. Husted on Senate Appropriations Committee.** First Ohioan in 15+ years on the spending panel; potential federal funding implications for Valley military and infrastructure projects. [Tribune Chronicle](#)
- **[ONGOING] Southern Park Mall Taxes Delinquent (\$338K).** Kohan Group behind again just three months after December 2025 payoff. [NewsBreak](#)

WATCH

Ohio gas severance tax proposal: House Democrats introduced a bill raising Ohio's natural gas severance tax from 2.5% to 7%. If enacted, this would directly affect Utica Shale economics across the Valley's six-county footprint, where EOG, Infinity, and dozens of smaller operators are scaling production. Watch for industry reaction and Ohio Farm Bureau positioning. [Ohio Capital Journal, Apr 2](#)

HOUSING & WORKFORCE

- **[ONGOING] \$3.35M in REDD Grants Advancing.** \$2.5M to Youngstown (220 infill units) and \$851K to Warren's Peninsula Project (306 units). [BJD](#)
- **[ONGOING] Land Bank Shifts from Demolition to Development.** 17 houses built in 2025, eight more nearing completion. [BJD](#)
- **[ONGOING] Mercer County Housing Gap.** 1,100 Make My Move applicants, fewer than 50 quality homes available. Developer expected to break ground within six months at LindenPointe in Hermitage. [BJD, Mar 27](#)

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Indicator	Value	Trend / Notes
US Unemployment	4.3%	↓ from 4.4%; +178K jobs in Mar; 3-mo avg 68K (BLS, Apr 3)
Mahoning Co. Unemp.	4.5%	↓ from 4.7% (Oct '25); measured Nov 2025 (Ohio LMI)
Trumbull Co. Unemp.	4.8%	↓ from 5.1% (Oct '25); still above OH state avg (4.0%)
Columbiana Co. Unemp.	4.3%	↓ from 4.5% (Oct '25); Valley's lowest county rate
City of Youngstown	5.7%	↓ from 6.0% (Oct '25); measured Nov 2025
City of Warren	6.1%	↓ from 6.7% (Oct '25); measured Nov 2025
Regional Wage Trend	Rising	"More jobs than people" — WRPA Dir. Trevena (Q1 2026)
Ultium Cells Layoffs	1,334	Eff. Jan 5, 2026: 484 indef. / 850 temp; upgrades underway
YSU Spring Enrollment	11,804	↑ 2.2% vs. Spring 2025 (14th-day census, Jan 2026)
Starter Home Rank	#4 US	House Buyers of America 2026; avg sale \$162,557 (pub. Mar 18)

Data source: Ohio LMI (ohiolmi.com), Nov 2025 release. National data: BLS Employment Situation, Apr 3 2026. Jan 2026 county-level data delayed due to federal BLS staffing disruptions. Next release est. Apr 2026.

CAPITAL PIPELINE TRACKER

Cumulative reference table updated weekly. Color key below.

Project	Invest.	Jobs	Status	County
SoftBank/Stargate — Lordstown AI Hub	\$3B	TBD	Active Construction	Trumbull
Kimberly-Clark — Warren Mfg	\$800M	491+	On Sched; Pine Ave closed	Trumbull
K-C Distribution Center	\$160M	65	Board Decision Pending	Trumbull
Innovation Hub — A&D	\$62M	450 by '29	Reno Start Summer '26	Mahoning
Graphite One — Weathersfield	\$435M+	TBD	Permitting Phase	Trumbull
Mercy Health — Champion ER	\$50M	75	Steel Rising; Q4 '26	Trumbull
Vallourec — Premium Thread	\$48M	40	Commissioning Q1 '27	Mahoning
EOG/Encino — Utica Drilling	\$6.5B	1,000s	3 rigs; top-tier priority	Regional
Ultium Cells (Lordstown)	\$2.3B	~900	Reduced Ops / Upgrades	Trumbull
Youngstown REDD Infill	\$2.5M	220 units	Awarded Mar 6	Mahoning
Warren Peninsula Project	\$851K	306 units	Awarded Mar 6	Trumbull
Mahoning Nat'l Bank Bldg	\$18.5M	71 units	Crane placed; reno active	Mahoning
Mahoning Co. Gov't Center	\$60M	400+	Demo Spring '26	Mahoning
EGCC Garage Demo	\$2.5-3.5M	—	Bids July '26	Mahoning
L2R Undisclosed Pipeline	\$3B+ (est.)	TBD	Multiple stages	Regional

Green = construction **Yellow** = planning **Blue** = awarded **Purple** = renovation **Red** = paused

Mahoning Valley Market Pulse™

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