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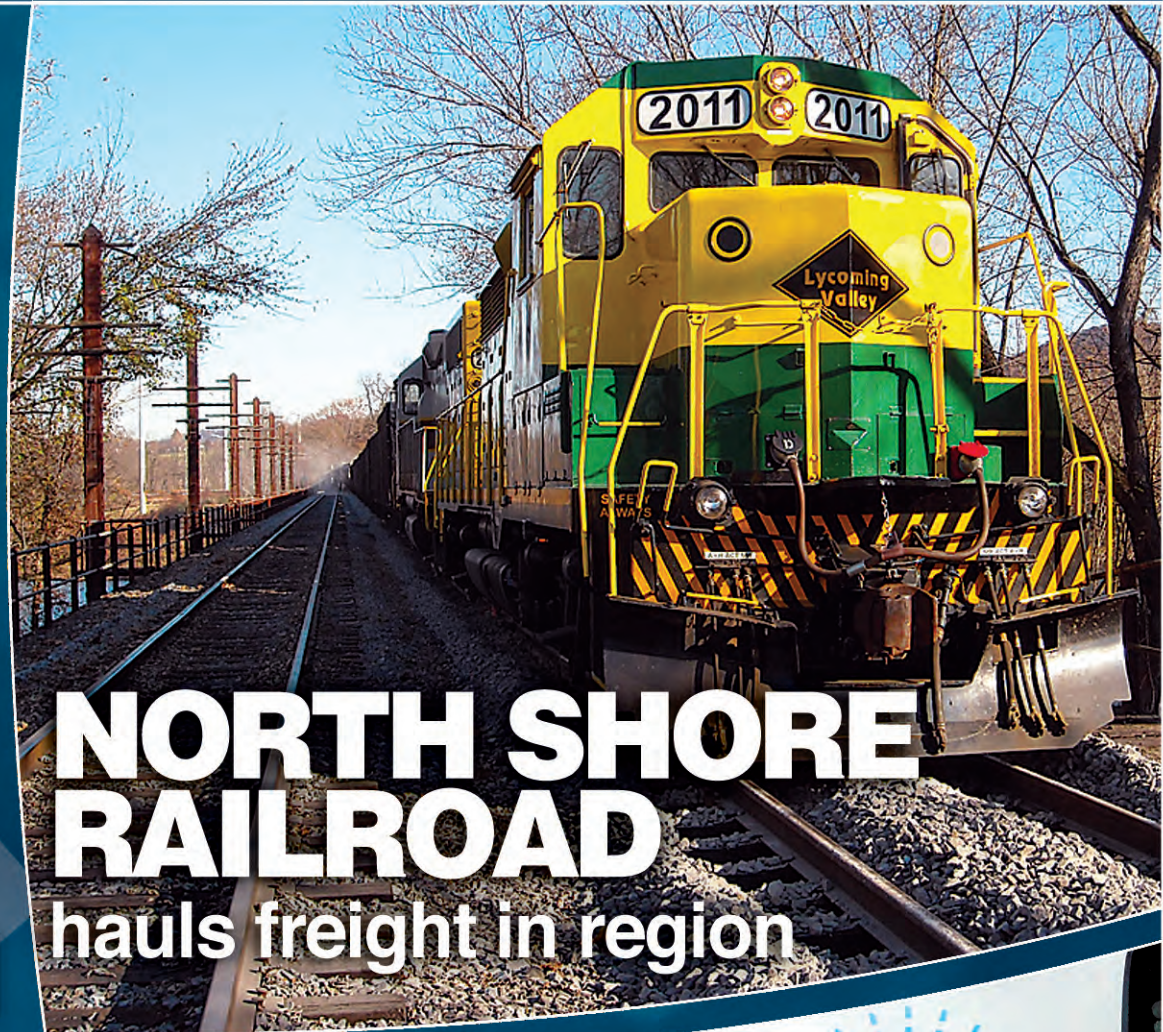
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hauls freight in region





# The Chamber View



Vincent J. Matteo, President/CEO

Happy New Year! Wow, it truly is hard to believe another year has passed and a new year is upon us. Time waits for no one. I hope your year ended on a high note and that 2018 will bring you health and happiness.

First columns of a New Year are always difficult. Do I write about the year just ended or do I write about the year ahead – or do I write a column that encompasses a little of both? I guess I will settle on the “both” option but with a definite slant towards 2018. First, for full disclosure, I am writing this on December 19th, so I will may be making some predictions here. If I do, please do not save this column so you can tell me how wrong I was next year!

2017 was a good year for the Chamber. We completed many projects and started on some exciting new ones. Our Economic & Community Growth Corporation saw a successful first year for The Emerson Project – its senior level mentoring program and it began looking at projects it might take on in the near future.

Perhaps the highlight of the year for our economic development efforts was our first ever site selectors FAM tour of Lycoming County. Operated in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Department of Community

and Economic Development with grant assistance from the Lycoming Economic Development Foundation and the FCFP, we were successful in bringing in professional site selectors. Starting a new organization, especially a 501c3, is something you want to do with careful oversight and we are doing that with the ECGC – our newest affiliate. This type of program along with our Emerson Project are two small examples of the important role the ECGC is going to play in our future work.

Much of what we do at the Chamber is paid for by sponsors as well as our memberships. Both the Site Selector tour and The Emerson Project are two examples. This column space does not permit me to list them all, but they are thanked in other articles throughout the year.

The Chamber's Visitors Bureau may have had one of its best years in a while. While we maintained our regular programs, we were aggressive in seeking new opportunities to bring people into our county to stay in our hotels, eat in our restaurants and visit our attractions. In my opinion, the biggest success for the Visitors Bureau in 2017 was being successful in having Williamsport and Lycoming County selected as the site for the Drum Corps Associates World Championships for Labor Day Weekend in 2018 and 2019. It was quite a coup and the result of some really dedicated work of our volunteers and

staff.

The Chamber ended the year by announcing a new policy for how it operates the Visitors Bureau. The Board of the Chamber voted to change the Visitors Bureau from a membership based organization to a fee for services operation. We are now one of only eight designated tourist promotion agencies out of 49 in Pennsylvania that does not require membership to participate in its promotions. For more information, please contact the Chamber.

There is much more I could report on for 2017 but we will do that at our 132nd Annual Meeting on January 25th at the Genetti Hotel and Suites, so let's move on to 2018 and some thoughts I have on where our organization will go as well as some thoughts about Pennsylvania and the nation.

For those of you who are not familiar with how the Chamber and its affiliates operate, let me give you a very brief overview. The Chamber and all its affiliates operate under a three-year Strategic Plan. This Plan sets out longer range goals for our organization. Now, each year, we adopt an Annual Plan of Action – that is “chamber-speak” for a work plan. The Plan of Action sets our short term programs designed to meet the objectives laid out in the Strategic Plan. Each item in the Annual Plan of Action is tied directly to at least one long term goal set forth in the Strategic Plan. The only reason I explained

that is because 2018 is a year when the Chamber will update, and in many instances, rewrite our long term Strategic Plan. This will be done with input from volunteers who sit on every Board or Committee we have that is affiliated with the organization. The entire process will take about four months with the final recommended Strategic Plan for the next three years being presented to the Board of Directors for approval in September. It is a very important process that we take very seriously.

Well, 2017 was pretty boring when it came to elections in Pennsylvania. 2018 promises to be just the opposite. We will be electing a Governor, a United State Senator, the entire Pennsylvania House of Representatives and 1/3 of the State Senate and the same for the U.S. House and the U.S. Senate. I have a feeling we will be inundated with ads – which in some cases have already started. This election will be very important for Pennsylvania

and the United States.

I am confident as we approach 2018 that the Chamber and all our affiliates will continue to work hard to play an important role in Lycoming County's future. I believe the new year will see strong economic growth with the tax cuts passed by Congress and signed by the President. The stock market has reacted in a positive way to the relaxing of unnecessary regulations and on lessening the tax burden on all Americans including the job creators – business, both small and large.

2018 will bring many new things, some we can foresee, others we cannot. For you and your families I wish nothing but health, happiness and prosperity. And that's the Chamber View.

## Happy New Year!

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# 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Denim & Diamonds



February 3, 2018  
Holiday Inn Downtown  
6:00 pm — 11:00 pm

**Reservations and Sponsorships  
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Enjoy an evening with your Chamber friends, multiple food stations and a variety of awesome desserts to satisfy all dessert connoisseurs. Back again this year; Daddy-O and the Sax Maniax. Watch your mailing for more information.

Call the Chamber at 570-326-1971 for more information or visit [www.williamsport.org](http://www.williamsport.org) to register online.

## Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce 132nd Annual Meeting & Awards Banquet



Thursday, January 25, 2018

11:45AM - 1:30PM

Genetti Hotel

Registration Opens at 11:15AM

**Join us as we review the accomplishments of 2017 and look ahead to developing an even better Lycoming County in 2018.**

*Awards to be presented*

**Phillips/Plankenhorn Small Business of the Year award**

Sponsors:

**Large Business of the Year Award**

Sponsor:

**Emerging Business Award**

Sponsor:

**President's Award**

For more information or to make a reservation, call the Chamber at 570-326-1971 or register online at [www.williamsport.org](http://www.williamsport.org).

## Lycoming County Visitors Bureau Reminder - 2018 Travel and Tourism Grant Applications Due this Month

The Lycoming County Visitors Bureau would like to remind non-profit organizations that the grant applications are due to the Lycoming County Visitors Bureau by 4:00pm on January 15th, 2018.

Funding is to assist with non-profit organizations in their travel and tourism related activities and is to be used for underwriting the expense of promotional and publicity initiatives by those assets for the purpose of increasing tourism within Lycoming County. Awards are granted on a competitive basis.

Grant funding is limited to non-profit organizations and preference will be given to the assets that demonstrate the ability to attract patrons from outside Lycoming County.

Organizations meeting the criteria for the grant are strongly encouraged to apply for this funding. Applications and guidelines may be obtained by going to the Visitor Bureau website site, [www.vacationpa.com](http://www.vacationpa.com), or the Chamber's website, [www.williamsport.org](http://www.williamsport.org). They can also be obtained by calling the Chamber at 570-326-1971.

Those organizations that have questions or need assistance in completing the application can contact Jason Fink with the Visitors Bureau at 570-326-1971.

Since 2000, the Lycoming County Visitors Bureau has granted out through this program over \$1.2 million to 50 non-profit organizations conducting travel and tourism related events and activities here in Lycoming County.

Missed a Chamber Connection newsletter in 2017? You can visit our website, [www.williamsport.org](http://www.williamsport.org) and click on the Chamber Connection box.

Or you can search for the Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce on facebook and look in our albums. There you will find 2017 Chamber Connections.

Like us on Facebook

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LYCOMING AND  
LYCOMING COUNTY  
VISITORS BUREAU  
NEWS





**Call for exhibitors!**

# Science Festival

Thursday, February 15, 2018

SNOW DATE: FEBRUARY 22

Pennsylvania College of Technology

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**9 a.m.-2 p.m.**

Sneak peek for 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes (up to 1,500 students expected)

**5-8 p.m.**

Open to the public

The festival is geared toward elementary and middle school students and their families. Hands-on activities and demonstrations are best suited for the event.

Don't miss out on this great opportunity to spark excitement about science, math, engineering, and technology in our youth!

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Booths are limited and available first come, first served.

☐ Yes, we would like to exhibit.

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Email \_\_\_\_\_

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How many chairs will you need? \_\_\_\_\_

How many electrical outlets will you need? \_\_\_\_\_

Additional setup requirements \_\_\_\_\_

Return completed form to:

College Transitions, DIF 129  
Pennsylvania College of Technology  
One College Avenue  
Williamsport, PA 17701

+ 570.327.4527 (fax)

+ coltrans@pcot.edu

+ Or sign up online at k12.pcot.edu

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# Welcome New Chamber Members!

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Lewisburg, PA 17837

610-955-3666

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## Williamsport Escapes

Casey Packer

201 Basin Street, Unit 14D

Williamsport, PA 17701

570-906-8999

www.williamsportescapes.com

Entertainment/Arts/Amusements

Interested in joining the Chamber?  
Call Carroll Pawlikowski  
at 570-326-1971

## Chamber Members, Join Us...

### YWCA of Northcentral PA PM Exchange

Thursday, January 18, 2018

5:00-7:00pm

815 W. Fourth Street, Williamsport



Kick off the YWCA's 125th Anniversary with a History Mystery Birthday Party!

Explore the building and hunt for clues, identify folks in historical photos, and create new memories at the Victorian photo booth. Birthday hats optional!

### UPMC Susquehanna PM Exchange

Thursday, February 8, 2018

5:00-7:00pm

700 High Street, Williamsport

UPMC Susquehanna

Innovation for Your Head & Heart Come learn about the continued innovation going on at UPMC Susquehanna in the Heart and Vascular and Neuroscience departments. In addition to their newly built modern facilities, these departments are leading the way in cutting-edge treatments, technology and surgical procedures. Mix and mingle with providers from the Heart & Vascular Institute, Neurology and Neurosurgery departments.

### Thomas T. Taber Museum PM Exchange

Thursday February 22, 2018

5:00-7:00pm

858 West Fourth Street, Williamsport



The PM Exchange at the Taber Museum of the Lycoming County Historical Society will include not only tempting finger foods and a choice of beverages, but an opportunity to stroll through the museum and see its recent additions and upgrades to the exhibits, a chance to have your photograph taken in our dress up areas (a Victorian lady or a poodle-skirted babe from the 50s are among a number of costumes), or a rare opportunity to see all that lies beneath the museum in our vast storage areas housing the County's treasures.

Call the Chamber of Commerce today at (570) 326-1971 or visit [www.williamsport.org](http://www.williamsport.org) to make your reservations.

## Chamber Member Discount

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### Workforce Management

Manpower offers Chamber member businesses **four (4) employee hours free** on their first order!

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#### Manpower

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[www.us.manpower.com](http://www.us.manpower.com)

Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce - 102 West Fourth Street - Williamsport, PA 17701  
(570) 326-1971 - [www.williamsport.org](http://www.williamsport.org)

For a complete list of upcoming Chamber events, visit [www.williamsport.org](http://www.williamsport.org).



# Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce Hosts Holiday PM Exchange

5

Williamsport Sun-Gazette, January 2018



*The Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce hosted the Holiday PM Exchange in the Visitor Information Center. Delicious food was provided by Farrington Place, Johnson's Cafe, Buffalo Wild Wings, Ed's Market, Wegman's, Vinnie's Italian Eatery, Long Island Pizza and Boom City Brewing Company. Everyone seemed to have a great time, networking with fellow Chamber members. Thank you to all who attended and we'll see you at the next PM Exchange!*

Follow us on Facebook!



Williamsport/Lycoming  
Chamber of Commerce

*Santa made his rounds at the PM Exchange, visiting with everyone and wishing them a great Holiday season. Santa poses with friends Camille Salvatori, Dee Gephart and Connie Barger and also with the Notre Dame Club crew, Mike and Nancy Dorman and Mike McFadden.*





## PPL serves 54,000 customers in Lycoming County

By CARA MORNINGSTAR  
cmorningstar@sungazette.com

The PPL Electric Utilities Susquehanna Service Center, 4810 Lycoming Mall Drive, Montoursville, provides Lycoming County with electricity.

"We serve 29 counties in Pennsylvania, and it's 1.4 million customers," said Tracie Witter, regional affairs director for PPL Electric Utilities.

In Lycoming County, there are approximately 54,000 customers.

"We have about 48,000 miles of power lines," she said. "Just to give you a sort of analogy, that's enough to reach around the world two times. That's in the 29 counties."

She said the company strives to be reliable for both its business and residential customers.

"We take a lot of pride in being reliable. We are in the top quartile for reliability," she said. "Reliability means minimizing the number of times your power actually goes out and then restoring it quickly."

She said the company is number one in the entire East Coast for large utilities in customer service.

"That's a J.D. Power award," she said. "We've won 25 J.D. Power and associates awards for top quality service for residential and business customers, so we're very proud of that."

She said they have a very dedicated customer service department.

"They're very responsive to customers, and we have an outage map where people can go online. They can see the cause of the outage and the approximate time of when their power will be restored," she said. "You can access that from the website or from your mobile device. Our website is responsive design ... It's all mobile friendly. I can pay my bill, and I can check for outages."

When the power is out, customers



CARA MORNINGSTAR/Sun-Gazette  
**Steve Fisher, a lineman for PPL Electric Utilities, inspects his truck and supplies after a long day's work in order to make sure he is prepared for work the next day recently at the Susquehanna Service Center, 4810 Lycoming Mall Drive, Montoursville.**

are able to look on their phones for information about what's going on in their area.

"We've invested \$30 million in tree-trimming, and we've increased it to \$60 million for the next five years," she said. "It's really important because it's the number one cause of power outages, fallen trees."

She said they also sent crews down to Florida to help out with Hurricane Irma relief.

"We felt our vegetation management was so strong, and that would have greatly helped Florida if they had as an aggressive vegetation management program," she said. "Certainly, the elements were an issue, but maybe the damage could have been lessened."

On top of being able to manage trees from damaging power lines, the company also gives back to the environment.

"It's a balancing act for PPL because we know we have to trim the trees, but we're also very environmentally conscious," Witter said. "A program that we launched this past fall is called Community Roots ... We took orders in the fall for 20,000 trees, deciduous and evergreen seedlings."

They donated 20,000 trees to non-profits, schools and organizations.

"That was our way for showing the community that we do care about the environment," she said. "We're very community minded. We have a very strong, very capable workforce."

Last year, the company gave \$4.5 million in grants toward educational, workforce development and community revitalization programs within their service area.

"The investment we all make in our communities, where we all live, work and play, is because PPL wants healthy communities," she said.

The company is always trying to improve and has made changes to their infrastructure for better service.

"We're building reliable systems, and we made significant investments to improve the delivery system. We've replaced aging facilities and built new ones to meet the demand and make the network more reliable," she said.

"When you see new poles going up and new wires, they're more reliable because they're newer. We also applied something called Smart Grid Technology."

Smart Grid has sensors on poles that detect outages, according to Witter.

"That automatically reroutes power to a different line to customers. That's why outages might be like a minute or less," she said. "It's automatically done, whereas in the past without Smart Grid, they have to call the trucks. The lineman would go up to manually reroute the power or repair it."

The new technology allows that process to happen automatically without having to wait for someone to manually do it.

"When the line is fixed, it goes back to the original line," she said.

They have over 4,500 Smart Grid switches in the 29 county area.

"Power is really the lifeline for people. When people lose their power, they're somewhat paralyzed," she said. "Our customers really depend on us ... Power is the lifeblood of the community."

For more information, visit [www.pplelectric.com](http://www.pplelectric.com) or call 1-800-342-5775.



# December Open Houses/Ribbon Cuttings

## Covenant Builders Cuts Ribbon on New Location



*Congratulations to Covenant Builders for cutting the ribbon on their new location at 433 Broad Street, Montoursville. Helping to cut the ribbon is (L to R): Chris Jordan, Covenant Builders, Design Specialist; Vince Matteo, Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce; Frank Pellegrino, Owner; Tony Mussare, Lycoming County Commissioner; Earl Neff, Covenant Builders, General Manager; Steve Folk, Covenant Builders, Design Specialist; Charley Hall, Representative Garth Everett's Office; Diane Johnson, Covenant Builders, Administrative Assistant; Jane and Al Clapps, Owners.*

## TCC Verizon Wireless Cuts Ribbon on New Business



*Congratulations to TCC Verizon Wireless for opening the new business at 1025-A North Loyalsock Avenue in Montoursville. Cutting the ribbon on their new business is (L to R): Nevin Hack, Operations Store Leader; Krystle Stoltzfus, Technology Advisor; Brian DeLaney, Store Manager; Sean Morgan, Owner; Cortney Cummings, Technology Advisor; and Danielle Arbogast, Verizon Wireless Account Manager.*

## Revolving Loan Fund

The Industrial Properties Corporation, Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce and the City of Williamsport are committed to assisting small businesses with their economic development projects. From building renovations, expansion/working capital to equipment purchases, the Revolving Loan Program can provide the finances you need to increase business and ensure economic prosperity.

### APPLICATION CRITERIA

The Revolving Loan Fund is available to:

- Individuals, corporations, limited liability companies and non-profit organizations
- Gross sales less than \$1,000,000 annually or employ less than 50 individuals
- Place of business or significant amount of business in Lycoming County
- Start up enterprises, expansion of existing business or relocation of business to Lycoming County

For more information please contact:

Nancy J. Eischeid, CPA, Vice President & Chief Financial Officer

Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce

Phone: (570) 320-4206

Email: [neischeid@williamsport.org](mailto:neischeid@williamsport.org)





# FEATURE MEMBER

## North Shore Railroad hauls freight in region

By **MIKE REUTHER**  
mreuther@sungazette.com

Six separate rail lines operating under different names comprise the North Shore Railroad Co., their diesel locomotives hauling carloads of freight throughout the region..

The headquarters for the rail operation can be found in the Newberry section of Williamsport.

"We started the railroad on Aug. 16, 1996, North Shore Railroad Chief Marketing Officer Todd A. Hunter said. "We have since then grown our traffic base and customer base."

Among the freight haulers are Lycoming Valley Railroad, the company's biggest rail operation, based in Newberry.

With its diverse manufacturing base, Williamsport alone provides a prime customer base for Lycoming Valley Railroad.

"We are in the customer



MIKE REUTHER/Sun-Gazette

**A Lycoming Valley Railroad engine with carloads of freight heads down the tracks on a recent run. Lycoming Valley is among six freight hauling operations comprising the North Shore Railroad Co.**

Industrial railroads, each of which service designated geographical areas.

All told, about 85 to 100 companies are served by North Shore with some 11,000 jobs in central

(See NORTH, Page 9),



MIKE REUTHER/Sun-Gazette

**A diesel engine takes a break from hauling freight at the Newberry rail yards.**

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service business," Hunter said. "We move things around."

In addition to Lycoming Valley, North Shore is comprised of Juniata Valley, Nittany and Bald Eagle, North Shore, Shamokin Valley, and Union County

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# FEATURE MEMBER

## North Shore Railroad hauls freight in region

(From Page 8)

Pennsylvania dependent upon the rail operation.

North Shore hauls approximately 20,000 carloads of freight per year.

"We are a Class 3 carrier certified shortline," Hunter said.

SEDA-Council of Governments Joint Rail Authority owns the tracks used by the different rail companies.

"They are the landlord. We are the tenants," Hunter explained.

North Shore employs 77 people engaged in activities from actual rail operations to maintenance, the vast majority of whom have been with the company five years or longer.

"We pay family sustaining wages," Hunter said.

The Newberry railyards include various repair shop and other related activities.

Loni A. Briner, public relations media manager, said, "We have our locomotive shop here. A lot of



MIKE REUTHER/Sun-Gazette

The North Shore Railroad Co. includes a locomotive shed where engines can undergo maintenance. The repair work is done at the railyards in the Newberry section of Williamsport.

shortlines don't have that."

Hunter noted that the natural gas boom of recent years brought a greater demand for freight-hauling.

But even after that economic wave fell away, North Shore continued to grow.

"We were growing before the Marcellus Shale drilling," Hunter said.

And, the company is ready if the drilling returns in force.

North Shore Railroad also runs tour trains throughout the region over 20 weekends a year.

Each October and December, Lycoming Valley Railroad hauls passenger for the Fall Foliage and Santa Express train excursions. Sponsored by the Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce, the trips have become popular annual events.

Hunter called the tour trains the company's "give-back to the community."

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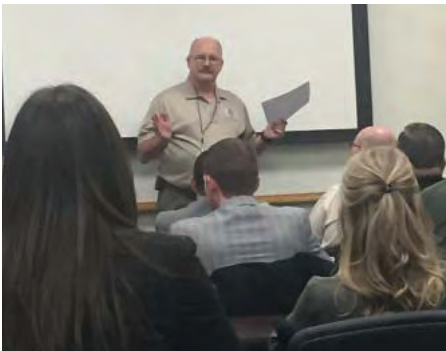
# Leadership Lycoming and Local & State Government

The Leadership Lycoming Class of 2018 started out with a discussion around city council and the different roles and responsibilities had amongst several different members. The class learned about the different committees, along with roles and responsibilities of each member, and the time commitment that is involved with their roles in making key decisions for the community. Thank you to City Council Members, Jonathan Williamson and Joel Henderson, City of Williamsport departments heads, Deputy Fire Chief Dave Dymeck, Chelsea Myers, City Planner, Joe Gerardi, Bureau of Codes and Stephanie Young, Community Development Director.

The class also had the opportunity to see local government at work, as we were guests at the County Commissioners meeting. It was interesting to not only hear how each agenda item is brought to the Commissioners for approval, but interesting to learn about their planning meeting and work session that occur prior to the formal meeting. The live meeting was an interesting experience as it spanned several facets of local government, and was focused on real-time issues and day to day government operations and financial obligations to run the city. The class also had the opportunity to have lunch with and discuss government issues with Senator Gene Yaw, Representative Garth Everett, Commissioner Tony Mussare and Chamber President/CEO Vince Matteo.

Next, was a visit to the Department of Public Safety for a tour of the 911 Call Center and Emergency Management. Charley Hall from Representative Garth Everett's office, talked to the class about campaign concepts, running for office and ended the day with a fun exercise.

Thank you to our sponsor Representative Garth Everett. And thank you to Jackie Oliva, River Valley Health & Dental Center, Matt Custer, Little League International, and Joe Balduino, Lycoming College for being class reporters.



*While no pictures could be had inside the 911 Call Center, the Leadership class learned a bit about the task force and action planning that occurs when disaster strikes, whether that be flooding, fire, or the reporting and service provided to the community in the wake of devastation from John Yingling.*

Thank you to our sponsor



Thank you to our hosts; City Council, City of Williamsport, Lycoming County Commissioners, J. V. Brown Library. Department of Public Safety, and River Valley Transit for transportation.

*Below, the Leadership Lycoming Class of 2018 with Lycoming County Commissioner Tony Mussare, Senator Gene Yaw and Representative Garth Everett.*



*The Leadership Lycoming class got a taste of political campaigning by Charley Hall, as the group was split up and learned about two fictitious candidates and their back stories. There were pro and con arguments from the different political parties, and presentations were made in an effort to sway voters with respect to specific candidates. In the end the fictitious election was had without too many verbal attacks or altercations, but a great deal of learning was had as to what goes on in the trenches of a political campaign.*





# January Chamber Business Spotlight



There are over 900 member businesses in the Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce. In January we are featuring our members in the Technology Sector. We encourage you to choose these Chamber members in our community for all of your technical needs.

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[www.optimo-it.com](http://www.optimo-it.com)

### Real IT Care LLC

**(570) 323-2650**  
[www.realitcare.com](http://www.realitcare.com)

### Susquehanna Computer Innovations

**(570) 323-0089 \*\***  
[www.sciatwork.com](http://www.sciatwork.com)

## Knowledge Acquisition &

### Strategy Modeling

**Discovery Machine, Inc.**

**(570) 329-5661**  
[www.discoverymachine.com](http://www.discoverymachine.com)

## Professional Writer

**Writers Qi \*\***  
(570) 258-5455  
[www.WritersQi.net](http://www.WritersQi.net)

## Security Systems

**Compu-Gen Technologies \*\***  
(570) 323-8324  
[www.Compu-Gen.com](http://www.Compu-Gen.com)

### Select Security

**(877) 877-0345**  
[www.selectsecurity.com](http://www.selectsecurity.com)

### TYCO Integrated Security \*\*

**(800) 701-8449**  
[www.tycois.com](http://www.tycois.com)

### Vector Security®, Inc. \*\*

**(800) 222-6565**  
[www.vectorsecurity.com](http://www.vectorsecurity.com)

## Sound Systems

**DATMAN Productions, Inc. \*\***

**(570) 321-9230**  
[www.datmanentertainment.com](http://www.datmanentertainment.com)

## Telecommunications

**Compu-Gen Technologies \*\***

**(570) 323-8324**  
[www.Compu-Gen.com](http://www.Compu-Gen.com)

### Contrast Communications \*\*

**(570) 966-1515**  
[www.contrastcommunications.com](http://www.contrastcommunications.com)

## Website Design & Hosting

**Pennsylvania Visitors Network**

**(570) 321-8004**  
[www.pavisnet.com](http://www.pavisnet.com)

### The Graphic Hive \*\*

**(888) 590-3310**  
[www.thegraphichive.com](http://www.thegraphichive.com)

Shopping local isn't just about convenience. Much of the money you spend at a local business will remain in the community, ensuring the vibrancy and sustainability of our quality of life.

# Jersey Shore Area Chamber of Commerce Winter Mixer



**Wednesday, February 28, 2018**

**5:00pm - 7:00pm**

**Tiadaghton Inn**

**1120 Allegheny Street ~ Jersey Shore**

**Sponsored By:**



**The Muncy Bank  
& Trust Company**

*~ Complimentary Buffet ~ Cash Bar ~*

To make a reservation, call or visit the website:

Phone: (570) 326-1971 FAX: (570) 321-1209 or register online at [www.williamsport.org](http://www.williamsport.org)



# MONTOURSVILLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

## Winter Social

*Join us for drinks and hors d'oeuvres!*

**Tuesday  
February 20th  
From 5pm to 7pm**

**Hosted by Nevills Flowers**

*At the Governor Schulze Mansion, 748 Broad Street, Montoursville*

*Sponsored by:*



**RSVP by Friday, February 16th**

**Call 570-326-1971 or online at**

**[www.williamsport.org](http://www.williamsport.org)**

# Break the Connection.



Stop Prescription Drug Abuse  
Before It Starts.

**Learn More. PASTop.org**

**Support local efforts. Join the Coalition at**  
**[www.ProjectBaldEagle.com](http://www.ProjectBaldEagle.com)**



# SMALL BUSINESS

## Wine and Design provides creative outlet

By CARA MORNINGSTAR  
cmorningstar@sungazette.com

Wine and Design, 357 Market St., has offered the Williamsport and surrounding areas a place to try out a new creative outlet since 2014.

Jodi Rakoski, studio owner, said she fell in love with the area since attending the Pennsylvania College of Technology.

“My background is in restaurant management, but I love the city of Williamsport,” she said. “You get all the activities of the big city, but you get the nice community, the small town feel.”

She said Williamsport is a great community to work with, so when she decided they wanted to open a branch of the Wine and Design themselves, she knew she wanted it in Williamsport.

“I fell in love with the atmosphere of Wine and Design, the relaxation and how much fun it was,” she said. “Plus, the fact that at the end of the evening you can take home a painting you’re really proud of, especially if you have no art background.”

She said she thought it was a different concept. “We thought, ‘Hey, that’s really neat.’ There’s not anything in the Williamsport area like it,” she said.

Wine and Design offers patrons a place to come and learn how to paint either in groups or solo.

“Basically, we provide a studio space for you to have a two-hour party. It’s a two-hour painting party where we’re going to help you step by step through the instructions,” she said. “We start to finish a painting in two-hours. At the studio, you’re allowed to bring your own beverages, so it’s kind of fun to bring your own bottle of wine, split with a couple of friends ... You can bring snacks into the studio, if you’d like.”

Instructors help guide the patrons through the process. There are currently six instructors on staff with an artistic background to help people through



CARA MORNINGSTAR/Sun-Gazette  
**Jodi Rakoski, studio owner, puts the finishing touches on a painting recently at Wine and Design, 357 Market St.**

the process. Many canvasses come with a stencil outline to help those who are beginners.

“I’d say 80 percent of our clients have never painted or only ever painted in grade school,” Rakoski said. “It’s another outlet. It’s a place to come, relax and rejuvenate. You can focus on painting, on doing something new.”

She said the paintings themselves are chosen so that the average person can leave with a nice piece of artwork.

“They come in super nervous that they can’t accomplish this, but throughout the two-hours ... They see it’s working, and at the end, they’re really proud of themselves,” she said. “It’s a neat process to see people go through.”

It is not just for adults, either. They offer activities like Art Buzz Kids for family friendly painting and craft classes for children of all ages. Wine and Design on wheels is a program that offers to bring the supplies, set up and art instruction to locations rather than having it at the art studio itself.

In the Do It Yourself division, Wine and Design

also offers painting on other mediums rather than canvas to turn things like barn stars, wood palettes, door hangers, wreaths, glasses and more into works of art.

Their schedule offers theme nights to guests to do partner paintings like Date Night or Mom and Me nights, where partners can work together on two individual paintings that have shared themes or attributes to make them appear like one painting side-by-side.

Other fun theme nights include Paint Your Pet night, where patrons can submit a photo of their pet, receive a stencil of their pet on a canvas and learn how to paint their pet themselves.

To see the calendar of events coming up, visit [www.wineanddesign.com/calendars/williamsport](http://www.wineanddesign.com/calendars/williamsport) for upcoming theme nights.

For more information about how to attend, email [williamsport@wineanddesign.com](mailto:williamsport@wineanddesign.com) or call 570-846-0993.



CARA MORNINGSTAR/Sun-Gazette  
**A finished painting dries after being worked on at Wine and Design, 357 Market St.**



# NEW MEMBER

## Getting word out about drugs, addiction

By **MIKE REUTHER**  
mreuther@sungazette.com

**S**aving Lives for Zachary is a grassroots effort toward getting the word out about the dangers of drugs. Launched by Carolyn Miele, whose 27-year-old son died from a heroin overdose in 2016, the non-profit group is gaining support for its positive messages and education efforts in the community.

Miele's reason for starting the organization is simple: "I don't want any more parents to go through what I have"

She feels the group has helped to make a difference and often hears from people impacted in some way by drugs.

"If we can educate just one person," Sandy Bachman, the group's chief fundraiser said.

The group meets once a month to talk about drugs. The sessions include presentations by speakers who address drug addiction, including the heroin

epidemic, which has greatly impacted many lives not only locally but across the nation.

"A big thing Carolyn has done is help wipe away the stigma (of addiction)," Bachman said.

The growing heroin crisis, she noted, cuts across all socio-economic levels.

Miele said she's learned a lot about heroin addiction since the group started.

"There are things I wish I'd known before my son died," she said.

A single fatal drug overdose, she noted, affects many people.

Zachary overdosed after being clean of heroin for three years.

"I felt there were so many kids dying," Miele said. "I didn't feel like anything was being done about it."

Getting the word out to youths of the dangers of drug addiction is a goal of the group.

Miele noted that more kids than ever are growing up around drugs, including in the home, where parents may be using.

"I felt kids needed to be educated. That what I want to do," she said.

The organization is looking for sponsors to help the group continue



MIKE REUTHER/Sun-Gazette

**Carolyn Miele (left), and Sandy Bachman are eager to get the word out about the dangers of drugs and addiction. Saving Lives for Zachary was launched by Miele in 2016. The group holds monthly educational sessions for the public to attend.**

to educate the community and offer its programs.

So far, friends, family, businesses and groups have stepped forward.

Saving Lives for Zachary's committee members include Charles and Gail

Kiessling, Mary Spitler, Sue Miller, Dina Washer, Matt O'Neill, Sara Watson, and Phyllis McKernan.

The group's next meeting is 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 25 at the Trade and Transit Center, Williamsport.



MIKE REUTHER/Sun-Gazette

**Pictured above is the logo for Saving Lives for Zachary.**



# Member Renewals

Received between November 23rd and December 18th

Thank you to our renewing members. We do appreciate your membership and involvement in the Chamber!

## Members Over 100 Years

Lycoming Engines

## Members Over 50 Years

Fink's Paint Store, Inc.  
Hermance Machine Company  
Lewis Lumber Products, Inc.  
Pepsi Bottling Group, Inc.  
PPL Electric Utilities  
Susquehanna Paper & Sanitary Supply Corp.  
The Hartman Group

## Members 21-50 Years

All Round Tire Company  
Allison Crane & Rigging  
Anthony H. Visco, Jr. Architects  
Aquarius Pool & Patio, Inc.  
Berkshire Hathaway Home Services  
Hodrick Realty  
Brass Alignment, Inc.  
Burger King/Carrols, LLC  
Compu-Gen Technologies, Inc.  
Crockett Financial Services  
Crouse Funeral Home  
D.A.D's Landscaping  
Davis Insurance Agency, LLC  
Dental Care Associates  
DePasquale Staffing Services, A Division of  
Nesco Resource  
Eagle Janitorial Supply & Service Company  
East End Lumber Company  
East Lycoming School District  
First Community Foundation Partnership of  
Pennsylvania  
Fred Hamm, Inc.  
Gearhart, Wienecke & Verrastro, PC  
Grampian Hills Apartments  
Home Service Beverage/First Ice  
Hope Enterprises, Inc.  
Innovative Manufacturers' Center (IMC),  
Inc.  
J. B. Gibbons Construction, LLC  
Janney Montgomery Scott, LLC  
Jersey Shore Area School District  
Jersey Shore Borough  
Jersey Shore State Bank  
Klein & Rizzo, Inc.  
Larson, Kellett & Associates, P.C.  
Lecce Electric, Inc.  
Loyalsock Township Board of Supervisors  
Lycoming Career & Technology Center  
Lycoming County Fair Association  
Lycoming County SPCA

Lycoming Valley Railroad Company  
Manpower Staffing  
McDonald's Restaurants  
Milton Transportation, Inc.  
Montgomery Plumbing Supply Company t/a  
Bi-Lo Supply  
Montoursville Area School District  
Muncy School District  
Murphy, Butterfield & Holland, P.C.  
North Central Sight Services, Inc.  
Oregon Hill Wine Company, Inc.  
Overhead Door Corporation  
Pennsylvania College of Technology  
Pennsylvania State Education Association  
(PSEA)  
Port Elevator Company, Inc.  
Price Optical Lucas Contact Lens  
RE/MAX West Branch  
Roan's Transfer & Storage, Inc.  
Roche Financial, Inc.  
Sanders Mortuary, LTD.  
Savoy Contract Furniture  
Station House  
Thomas T. Taber Museum of the Lycoming  
County Historical Society  
Tony's Delicatessen  
Trenco, Inc./Distribution Concepts Co.  
TYCO Integrated Security  
Wascher's Chiropractic Center  
West Branch Drug & Alcohol Abuse  
Commission  
West Branch Valley Federal Credit Union  
Williamsport Area School District  
Williamsport Education Association  
Williamsport Parking Authority  
Williamsport Regional Airport  
Williamsport Symphony Orchestra  
Woodlands Bank

## Members 10-20 Years

Albright LIFE  
Anesthesia Associates of Williamsport  
Attractive Alternatives  
AutoTrakk, LLC  
Best Line Equipment  
BLaST Intermediate Unit 17  
Callahan's Antiquities  
CareerLink - Lycoming County  
Comcast Spotlight  
David DiGiallorenzo, DMD  
DeWald Chiropractic  
Discovery Machine, Inc.  
Edward Jones Investments  
Elery W. Nau, Inc.

Glass & Burns Inc. DBA Catherine Burns  
Insurance Services  
Gregory Welteroth Advertising  
H. Dean Properties  
Hans CedarDale Satellite, Inc.  
Henry Dunn, Inc.  
Hudock Capital Group LLC  
IBG Business  
Impact Advertising & Video  
Jiffy Lube  
Keystone Leather  
Kriger Frence Co., Inc.  
Lewis Veterinary Clinic  
Loyalsock Animal Hospital  
LPL Financial  
Lycoming County Water & Sewer Authority  
Malee Law Firm, P.C.  
Marshall, Parker & Weber  
McTish, Kunkel & Associates  
Mid-State Occupational Health Services, Inc.  
Montgomery Borough  
Mr. Sticky's, Inc.  
Murray Motors  
Paris Companies  
Pennram Diversified Mfg. Corp.  
Piper Aviation Museum Foundation  
Quality Air Mechanical, Inc.  
Raup & Sholder, P.C.  
Schrader Architectural Products/Overhead  
Door Co. of Lycoming County  
Spheron  
Susquehanna Marble and Granite, LLC  
Teamwork Graphics, Inc.  
The Flatiron Salon  
The M Group  
The Williamsport Home  
The WorkCenter  
Warrior Run Development Corporation  
Wayne Township Landfill  
William P. Carlucci, Esq.  
Williamsport Crosscutters

## Members 6-9 Years

CDI-Infrastructure, LLC, dba L. R. Kimball  
ECM Realty Management, Inc.  
FayJan Tool Sales Company Inc.  
Kessel Construction, Inc.  
Keystone Communications  
LB Water  
Quandel Construction Group, Inc.  
Sordoni Construction Services, Inc.  
STV Energy Services, Inc.

*continued on page 15*



# Member Renewals

continued from page 14

## Members 5 Years & Under

A&A Auto Stores  
 Accent Lighting Productions  
 ACE Answering Service  
 Adelphoi Village  
 Andrée P. Phillips  
 Art of Kathleen B. Bonnell  
 Camp Susque  
 Cheri's House of Flowers  
 DPH Discount Pins, Inc.  
 Echo Flooring Gallery  
 Family Practice Center - Cornerstone Family Health  
 Gephart Moyer Financial Advisors  
 Harold Eck, CPA  
 Hepburn Township Supervisors  
 Hub's Home Oxygen & Medical Supplies, Inc.  
 Interstate Truck Center  
 Lycoming County Republican Committee  
 M-B Companies, Inc.  
 MedExpress Urgent Care  
 Micro-One Computer Center  
 Montoursville Veterinary Hospital  
 Muncy Industries  
 Panda Patriot LLC  
 Postage Pros Plus  
 Southwestern Energy  
 Sunshine 6-Packs & Subs  
 Susquehanna Valley Vein Center LLC  
 Tanya's/Dance Plus  
 TLC Fitness  
 Williamsport Wine & Design

## Montoursville's Mini-Park installs last bricks

Thanks to the vision of Mayor John Dorin and others about 10 years ago, a Mini-Park was established in the center of Downtown Montoursville. When you stop by the park, you will notice a brick walkway with engraved bricks. The

Borough of Montoursville has renovated the Mini-Park and installed 53 new commemorative bricks over the past 18 months.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those members of the community who have donated

a commemorative brick. Recently the last group of donors, along with the leadership of the Montoursville Chamber of Commerce gathered at the Mini-Park to view their donated bricks.



**Lycoming County  
 Visitors Center  
 Winter Hours**

<b>Monday</b>	8:30 am	to	4:30 pm
<b>Tuesday</b>	8:30 am	to	4:30 pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	8:30 am	to	4:30 pm
<b>Thursday</b>	8:30 am	to	4:30 pm
<b>Friday</b>	8:30 am	to	4:30 pm
<b>Saturday</b>	9:00 am	to	3:00 pm
<b>Sunday</b>	11:00 am	to	3:00 pm

Visit us online at :  
[www.vacationpa.com](http://www.vacationpa.com)

**The Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce  
 Education Committee  
 Invites you to our Seventeenth Annual**



**Education Celebration**

**Thursday, March 1, 2018**

**Registration: 5:30 p.m.  
 Program: 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

**Williamsport Country Club  
 800 Country Club Drive  
 Williamsport**

**Reservations Required  
 To register, visit [www.williamsport.org](http://www.williamsport.org)  
 or call the Chamber at 570-326-1971**

**Featured Awards**

**Outstanding Educator**

**Outstanding Senior of the Year**

**Business Partner in Education**

**Alumni of the Year**





# Thank You...

The Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce wishes to thank all that came out to support the 2017 Santa Express Train Excursions in the Williamsport area. It was a pleasure to see familiar friends and families who were with us on past excursions over the past 16 years. We also enjoyed making new friends joining us for the first time. We look forward to having you with us for future excursions in 2018.



**A special *Thank You* goes out to the  
SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority,  
Lycoming Valley Rail Road and Penn  
Valley Rail Road for their partnership with the Chamber in  
conducting these excursions.**



The Santa Express Train Excursions are also underwritten in part by the below community minded businesses. They help in keeping this an affordable family event in our community. Please join us in thanking them through your patronage and support.



*Wegmans*

