



TO PRESERVE, PROTECT AND DEFEND THE FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM OF LYCOMING COUNTY

Your Chamber handed out awards at the 18th Annual Education Celebration

Chamber members learned about the Federal Opportunity Zone program at this month's Morning Member Connection

Winners walked away with awesome prizes from Leadership Lycoming's Final 3 event



TREASURE CASTLE soon to celebrate ten years making kids happy



The Chamber View



Jason Fink, President/CEO

Hopefully, you've been able to get out in March on the nice days to be outdoors and do something that you enjoy. You may notice that in place of my face, there's a photo of a sign post with the name "Lycoming" on it. That picture was taken near where I grew up in the former village of Alvira. It's a great place to go if you want to get outdoors and hike or bike (I was biking this day) and experience some unique history to our area. I'd encourage you all to go and check it out but to be honest with you I hesitate to do that as my brother and I, along with our families, like the relative quiet that's there. You can not only check out the bunkers, but it's state game lands and there are abundant wildlife including a great number of venues for bird enthusiasts.

I wanted to share some information based upon a conversation earlier in the month at the monthly meeting with the County Commissioners that we have to discuss various items here in Lycoming County. Commissioner Mussare shared that he came across someone who was questioning what we (the Chamber) do in terms of economic development for the county. He talked with them about it and said they understood it after he was done but recommended that I talk about it through this forum.

The best way for me to do this is to give you a recent example of a company that we were working with in the third and fourth quarter of last year. They were looking at siting their project here in Lycoming County. The lead came through the Gov-

ernor's Action Team (GAT). GAT put out a notice that included the factors that the company shared which were requirements for their development. This particular company was looking for just land to develop their project. We didn't know the name of the company, and almost always don't, as it was assigned a project name to keep confidential the business.

The GAT lead provided the specs associated with their development. Interstate highway access was key given that they distribute products to neighboring states. Their water and sewer were good and easily accommodated by those providers here in the market. The projections on electric and gas were sizeable which narrowed options down. Additionally, the size of the property for development was large which also limited the choices.

There were three properties that we advanced all in the eastern end of the county given the land requirements and easy access to electric service. The information was posted on the state's GAT system based upon this client's specification on reporting with a cover letter included detailing our market including workforce, access to health care and general quality of life.

We were contacted within a month of the submittal and informed that all three properties were being included on their initial list. At this point we were shared who the company was that was looking at the market and additional details on the project. This is usually not the case and if it is, a number of times we are required to sign a non-disclosure agreement precluding us from talking about the project with anyone other than those directly associated with the company. We were told that they were looking to arrive in two weeks to tour the properties in addition to a property in a neighboring county and

two other counties in the south central area of the state. There was also going to be a meeting prior to the site tours that would involve meeting with the electric and gas utilities to better understand service and costs associated with development at the various sites. On this occasion, we were pleased that they would be asking us to host this meeting for all the sites in Pennsylvania that they would be looking at for these utilities.

We lined up the representatives from PPL and UGI who came and spoke with the client about the different aspects involved with bringing electric and gas to the property. Each company did a great job in addressing the various factors involved with the unique complexities involved with the six properties that the company was considering.

During the discussion, the client also asked some general workforce questions. We learned at this point that they projected needing approximately 150 people when they became operational. They understood that it was a tight labor market across the country and wanted to see if it was that way here. We were upfront with them in sharing the current unemployment rate which they felt was still good for them in trying to attract from the regional labor pool.

Following our meeting, we headed out to tour the properties here in Lycoming County. They liked the highway access for all three which was easily discerned when driving to the properties via I-180 and US Route 15. They identified the pluses and minuses associated with each of them. One of the biggest challenges we have here in our region is that there's not much large tracts of flat land here. Anyone coming from another state where those are more prevalent, note this when touring properties in our area. However, it was good for

tion. They were comfortable with everything and advanced it to their board. Unfortunately, we were advised that they chose not to advance it at this time. The reason for this decision was that they were in the process of developing a similar project in another state and the board did not want to overextend themselves. They did want to keep in touch as their intent is to advance the project in two years. We thanked them and have been keeping up with them via email periodically. However, they know and we know our goal is to have that property developed within that two years.

After reaching the third property, we addressed any final questions that they had about what they had seen or heard today. The last question that I ask is about their decision making process and associated timeline. These answers tend to vary based upon a host of factors. Typically, it's a two to three-month window before we'll know where they're going with their project. Sometimes it can be longer than that and other times shorter.

They shared they were hoping after their day in Pennsylvania, that they'd go back and narrow their selection down to one to advance their project. A presentation to their board was slated in early December so we would know within a month.

We received a call a week after their tour that they selected one of our properties to advance to their board. They wanted a firm price for the property which we were able to obtain. Additionally, they needed utilities mapped out for all services to the lot. We were able to get this around to them within the week.

Knowing that they had a deadline that was approaching, we kept in regular contact to ensure they had everything needed for their board presenta-

tion. They were comfortable with everything and advanced it to their board. Unfortunately, we were advised that they chose not to advance it at this time. The reason for this decision was that they were in the process of developing a similar project in another state and the board did not want to overextend themselves. They did want to keep in touch as their intent is to advance the project in two years. We thanked them and have been keeping up with them via email periodically. However, they know and we know our goal is to have that property developed within that two years.

Hopefully, this gives you some sense of what we do here for economic development when it comes to siting new companies. There are other factors that will arise for projects that might have certain zoning associated with them which pulls in county planning for their expertise. It really is developing the best options here in the county and presenting them to the client when they are looking to advance their project. The one thing that I can leave you with is that whenever we need those partners, like the utilities or planning, they are always more than willing to assist in getting the details for the client. In talking with my counterparts in other areas, that's not always the case in other communities.

Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce Staff
Main Office - 570-326-1971

| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| President/CEO | Jason Fink |
| 570-320-4213 - jfink@williamsport.org | |
| Editor | Taryn Mueller |
| 570-320-4209 - tmuel@williamsport.org | |
| STAFF | |
| Vice President & Chief Financial Officer | Nancy Eischeid, CPA |
| 570-320-4206 - neischeid@williamsport.org | |
| Executive Secretary | Cindy Robbins |
| 570-320-4201 - crobbs@williamsport.org | |
| Financial Assistant | Lori Knowlden |
| 570-320-4205 - lknowlden@williamsport.org | |
| Leadership Lycoming/Special Events Coordinator | Sharon Jones |
| 570-320-4202 - sjones@williamsport.org | |
| Tourism Coordinator | Regina Edwards |
| 570-320-4208 - gedwards@williamsport.org | |
| Marketing & Membership Coordinator | Taryn Mueller |
| 570-320-4209 - tmuel@williamsport.org | |
| Receptionist | Amy Hamm |
| 570-326-1971 - receptionist@williamsport.org | |

Your Chamber Celebrates Education!

The Chamber held its 18th Annual Education Celebration at the Williamsport Country Club on March 7. The event includes awards for the Business Partner in Education, Alumni of the Year, Outstanding Professional Educator and Outstanding Senior.

The Business Partner in Education Award, sponsored by UPMC Susquehanna, is given to a business that demonstrates how area businesses can partner with schools and students who will one day become our future business leaders. The recipient of this year's award was Aramark.

The Alumni of the Year Award is presented to a graduate from each of Williamsport's higher educational institutions. This award, sponsored by Lycoming College and Pennsylvania College of Technology, is to recognize individuals who attended college and have stayed in the area and are successful and active residents in Lycoming County. This year's recipients were Patricia and Robert Burger, 1985 Lycoming College graduates, and Michael Bower, 1976 Pennsylvania College of Technology graduate.

The Outstanding Senior Award is awarded to students selected because of their performances in academics, leadership, activities, and community service. Each student is interviewed by a committee which selects one senior as the grand prize winner. Andree' Phillips, Chair of the Education Committee and on the interviewing committee, shared some of the information given during those interviews. As the students came forward to accept their award, each student also received a set of twig crayons sponsored by the First Community Foundation Partnership of Pennsylvania which symbolizes the diversity in our world.

This year's grand prize winner, Isabell Sagar, Loyalsock Township High School, received a \$250 cash award from M&T Bank and a college textbook scholarship for \$500 sponsored by the Sun-Gazette. The Outstanding Senior Award is sponsored by M&T Bank.

A special thank you to all the school districts for supplying donations for the gift baskets.



The Business Partner in Education Award was presented to Aramark. Accepting the award were Katey Murphy, Dennis Zapata and Kate Martin.



Lycoming College Alumni of the Year Award was presented to Patricia & Rob Burger, 1985 Lycoming College graduates, from Dr. Kent Trachte.



Outstanding Senior Award winners: (front row); Megan Wein, South Williamsport Area H.S.; Valerie Ammar Khodja, Hughesville H.S.; Novalee Leonard, Montgomery H.S.; Gianna Edkin, Muncy H.S.; (back row); MayLyn Ettinger, St. John Neumann Regional Academy; Rebekah Lundy, Montoursville H.S; Liam Ferry, Williamsport Area H.S.; Annalise Eiswerth, Jersey Shore Area H.S.; and Isabell Sagar, Loyalsock Township H.S.



Outstanding Educator Award winners: (front row): Elizabeth McClure, Muncy School District; Joe Smith, Loyalsock Township School District; Gina Wert, Jersey Shore Area School District; (back row); Trevor Enderle, Williamsport Area School District; John Litchfield, St. John Neumann Regional Academy; James Bower, East Lycoming School District; Brittney Monoski, Montgomery Area School District. Not pictured, Dan Jury, Montoursville Area School District and Richard Zalonis, South Williamsport Area High School.

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Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce

Education Celebration

In his absence, the Pennsylvania College of Technology Alumni of the Year Award was presented to Michael Bower's family, Amelia, Michael and Angela by Kyle Smith.



April PM Exchanges...

Larson Design Group
Thursday, April 11, 2019
5:00 – 7:00 pm
1000 Commerce Park Drive, Williamsport

Join Larson Design Group for food, drinks, entertainment, and door prizes as they showcase their newly remodeled office in Williamsport!



Larson Design Group*

YOUR VISION. MADE REAL.

Bastress Mountain Winery

Thursday, April 25, 2019

5:00 – 7:00 pm

5451 State Route 654, Williamsport

Bastress Mountain Winery

Mountain Top Distillery

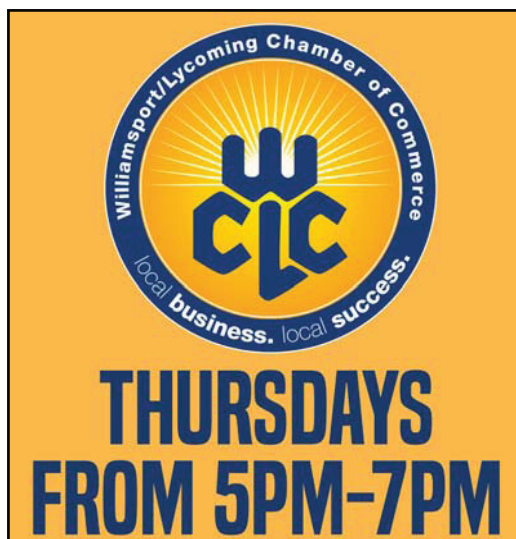
The new owners of the Bastress Mountain Winery and Mountain Top Distillery have integrated into the community well and continue to use local resources. We invite you to come and visit the new tasting room, try the updated recipes, browse the locally crafted and thoughtfully curated retail! Come out to enjoy the scenery that comes with our destination. We're a great place to gather in the beautiful mountains of the valley.



748 Broad Street
 Montoursville, PA

**MAY
09**

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



**THURSDAYS
FROM 5PM-7PM**

Welcome New Chamber Members!

4G Delivery, Inc.

Mr. Jerry Girardi
 1511 Walnut Street
 Williamsport, PA 17701
 (570) 220-5144
 Shipping/Mailing

Design Management Group

Mr. Jamie Walsh
 2007 Highway 315
 Suite 202
 Pittston, PA 18640
 (570) 299-7520
<http://www.dmgeng.com>
 Engineers - Consulting

Gabrielle Eischeid at TEU Real Estate Corporation

Ms. Gabrielle Eischeid
 151 John Brady Drive
 Suite 1
 Muncy, PA 17756
 (570) 757-7922
<http://teurealestate.com>
 Real Estate Agents

Heart Song Connection, LLC

Ms. Kathleen Stillings
 837 Washington Boulevard
 Williamsport, PA 17701
 (609) 230-2993
www.heartsongawareness.com
 Holistic Healing
Health & Wellness Products

Henderson Consulting Services

Mr. Matt Henderson
 4259 Kehrler Hill Road
 Montoursville, PA 17754
 (570) 244-1128

www.mwhendersonconsulting.com

Natural Gas - Support & Service

R&T Asian Market of Williamsport

Mr. Randy Stroup
 228 West 3rd Street
 Suite 314
 Williamsport, PA 17701
 (570) 503-6357

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Susquehanna Air Innovation, LLC

(DBA) Comfort Specialists
 Mr. Jeff Stoltz
 6037 Route 15 North
 Suite 120
 Selinsgrove, PA 17870
 (814) 935-9600
www.yourcomfortspecialists.com
 HVAC

E-Marketplace

Place your direct mail Marketplace flyer in our E-Marketplace Email blast for only \$75!

Be viewed by an additional 3100+ subscribers. Fill out the Marketplace registration form and email a PDF of your flyer to tmueller@williamsport.org.

Questions? Call the Chamber at (570) 326-1971.

For a complete list of upcoming Chamber events, visit www.williamsport.org.

PM Exchanges

UPMC Susquehanna Hosts PM Exchange



Thank you to UPMC Susquehanna for inviting Chamber members to learn more about the Hillman Cancer Center at their recent PM Exchange. Tonya Welshans, Marketing & Corporate Communications and Amber Depew, Corporate Communications, UPMC Susquehanna, accept the Certificate of Appreciation from Tanya Weber, Membership Development & Retention Committee of the Chamber of Commerce.

Interested in joining the Chamber?

Call the office at 570-326-1971 or apply online at:
www.williamsport.org

MaxWorx/Hope Enterprises Hosts PM Exchange



Thank you to MaxWorx/Hope Enterprises for inviting Chamber members to tour the Reach Road facility and enjoy delicious food at their PM Exchange. (From L to R) Victor Borgess, Membership Development & Retention Committee of the Chamber; Jason Smith, Director of MaxWorx; Mackenzie Howe, Director of Development with Hope Enterprises; and Rob Labatch, President of Hope Enterprises.

Ribbon Cutting



Recovery Community Connection Hosts Ribbon Cutting & Open House



Congratulations Recovery Community Connection on your ribbon cutting and grand opening at 1400 Market Street. RCC staff and the community came out to enjoy the festivities including a tour of the facility and shared their mission to develop and mobilize resources that support and enhance long-term recovery through education, public and policy advocacy, trainings, and peer support. (Present) Debra Jo Lamey, Dan Wingfield, Lisa Miller, Jo Snook, Nicole Reynolds, Jeremy Mohler, Jill Mandresh & Jason Fink, Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce President/CEO.

Upcoming Ribbon Cuttings & Open Houses

Wine & Design

357 Market Street, Williamsport

Friday, April 5, 2019

Please join us on First Friday for a ribbon cutting ceremony celebrating the new ownership of Wine & Design in downtown Williamsport

Ribbon Cutting @ 4:00 pm

Central PA Tennis Center

840 Route 15 Highway, South Williamsport

Wednesday, April 24, 2019

Please join us to celebrate the grand opening of the newly owned Central PA Tennis Center (Previously the West Branch Racquet Club)

Ribbon Cutting @ 4:00 pm

Aquarius Pool & Patio

170 Pine Street, Williamsport

Friday, May 3, 2019

Please join us on First Friday for a 50th Year Anniversary balloon release and open house in downtown Williamsport

Release of 50 Balloons @ 9:00 am

Enjoy 50% off select items storewide!

LEGACY MEMBER

J.B. Gibbons looks to past, present and future

By **RASHEED WESLEY JR.**
rwesley@sungazette.com

For over 50 years, J.B. Gibbons Construction, LLC has helped build Northcentral Pennsylvania, while also continuing to look to the future.

Since its founding in 1967, J.B. Gibbons Construction, LLC has tasked themselves with providing “the best construction services available in the area,” according to Sarah Andreychik, marketing manager for The Liberty Group, which owns J.B. Gibbons Construction.

Working closely with a multitude of engineers, architects, and contractors, J.B. Gibbons is able to serve both commercial and industrial zones anywhere within Pennsylvania, extending their services throughout the entire state.

“J.B. Gibbons offers buildings that combine extraordinary aesthetic appeal with optimum functionality,” Andreychik said.

Andreychik is the marketing manager for The Liberty who, along with other businesses such as Kaos Fun Zone, owns and operates J.B. Gibbons.

The Liberty Group invests in, acquires, develops and manages commercial properties of all types including hotels, businesses and office space throughout the Williamsport area. With their businesses, the Liberty Group invests in the local community and is “proud to add an economic impact, an increased customer base, and a variety of opportunities to the Williamsport area,” according to Andreychik.

J.B. Gibbons has been a leader in the commercial building construction industry in the Lycoming County area for over 50 years.

“JB Gibbons specializes in general contracting that focuses primarily in the commercial fields of education, healthcare, retail and industrial. We pride ourselves in building a quality product that leaves our clients with a facility they are proud of for years down the road,” said Michael Bolsar, manager of J.B. Gibbons.

As commercial contractors, J.B. Gibbons have local experience that “guarantees satisfaction with any of their services,” including estimates, design builds, renovations, remodeling, repairs and full-scale construction projects, Andreychik said.

Through the broad use of their contacts, J.B. Gibbons has worked with all types of industries over the past several decades including healthcare,



education, hospitality, automotive, retail, commercial office, industrial, gas industry, sports, state and government, and ecclesiastical.

J.B. Gibbons is particularly fond of its ties to the surrounding community. Many of the buildings seen in the local community have been J.B. Gibbons projects, including the Liberty Arena, the Lycoming College Recreation Center, Faxon Place, the Pennsylvania Welcome Center in Tioga County, the Carwash at Faxon, and the First Community Foundation Partnership to name a few. At any given time, J.B. Gibbons employs between 25 and 40 individuals.

“Through its business, J.B. Gibbons is proud to add an economic impact and a variety of opportunities to the local community,” said Andreychik.

While J.B. Gibbons has solidified its legacy in Lycoming County as well as the entire state of Pennsylvania, they look to build on that legacy by deepening its relationships with local organizations in order to Lycoming County and Northcentral Pennsylvania.

“JB Gibbons has been in business for over 50 years and we will continue to provide exceptional service and workmanship that our customers know and enjoy,” Bolsar said.



PHOTOS PROVIDED

At top, one of J.B. Gibbons trucks with their signature logo sits at a work site. Above, the historic Ross Club building was renovated by J.B. Gibbons and is located on the corner of 4th and William Street in downtown Williamsport.

Andreychik explained how J.B. Gibbons always looks to innovate and aims to have an active hand in constructing the future.

“At J.B. Gibbons, they’re not only planning for the future, they’re literally building it.”



Chamber Member Discount

Working to meet the needs of our members

Chamber Member Discounts are exclusive offers available to Chamber members and their employees. The discounts are offered by members, for members.

They run year-round with no expiration!

Take advantage of all 18 benefits including reduced price health insurance, car care services, office supplies, advertising, construction, cell phone accessories and more.

All benefits can be found on our website at <http://williamsport.org/member-benefits/member-discounts/>



Construction

XW Construction offers a **5% discount** on all signed roofing contracts.

This discount is available to *Chamber members only*. Please mention this program to receive the discount.

For more information please contact:

XW Construction
5745 Musser Lane
Watsonstown, PA 17777
(570) 238-0057

Questions about our Member to Member Benefits?
Call the office at (570) 326-1971
or checkout our website: www.williamsport.org

Revolving Loan Fund Recipient 4G Delivery, Inc.

The Revolving Loan Program provided financial assistance in March to 4G Delivery, Inc. in the form of a working capital loan, to purchase the Federal Express Ground Business operating at 600 Alexander Drive, Muncy, PA.

With this loan, the Revolving Loan Program has provided \$545,000 in financing opportunities for 16 Lycoming County businesses.

Congratulations to 4G Delivery, Inc!

The Revolving Loan Program is available to...

assist businesses with their financial needs for construction, renovations, equipment purchases and working capital.

For more information or application, contact Nancy Eischeid at the Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce at 570-326-1971.

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Montoursville Street Banner Order Form



The Montoursville Chamber of Commerce is coordinating street banner sponsorships to help to bring pride to our Borough and recognition to our businesses.

Banners will be hung throughout the Borough in the very near future. Get yours now.

ONLY 17 BANNERS AVAILABLE

Sponsorship includes the option of displaying your company name AND/OR logo. Logos can be displayed at no additional cost.

Montoursville Chamber Members, Non-Profit @ \$225 each

Non-Chamber Members, Non-Profits @ \$250 each

Call the Chamber at 570-326-1971 for more information and to purchase a banner.

Part of the proceeds will go to the Montoursville High School Art Department in recognition of a student rendition as well as other community projects.



TONY DGIEN
State Farm



FEATURE MEMBER

Treasure Castle soon to celebrate ten years making kids happy

By Barbara Cioffi
Sun-Gazette Correspondent

There's plenty of fun to be had at Treasure Castle in South Williamsport, especially for children between the ages of one and twelve with imaginations just waiting to be inspired by a colorful, magical atmosphere.

Owner Sharon Markle, along with her husband Glenn and daughter Brenda Lukasiewicz, the operations director, transformed the former South Williamsport United Methodist Church at 1414 West Southern Avenue into a playland unique to the area, throwing open the doors to the castle on July 13, 2009.

When the church came up for sale in 2008, Lukasiewicz was working as director of a day care center on Lycoming Creek Road and before that had worked at a kids' entertainment center and at the Children's Discovery Workshop.

After seeing the complex, which included a separate building housing a day care, she presented her Shrek-inspired vision to her parents.

"Brenda is very much in tune with what kids want," her mother said, adding that Lukasiewicz was the one with the vision and experience to pull it all together.

"It was her idea to have a kid-friendly castle atmosphere that was exciting in every way," Markle said.

Their plans appealed to church leaders, she explained, because it was important to them that new owners

(See TREASURE, Page D9)

BARBARA CIOFFI/Sun-Gazette correspondent
Sometimes slides are best enjoyed from the bottom up. Above, two adventurous girls run up the slide in Treasure Castle. Right, a young boy enjoys his sky high vantage point from the turret.



Treasure Castle soon to celebrate ten years making kids happy

(From Page D8)

would continue the day care and also provide something for the community.

For the first year they focused strictly on upgrading the day care next door, known as Little Treasures Pre-School and Day Care. Next came gutting the building and deciding what could be kept and reused to enhance the castle atmosphere. The stained glass windows stayed, adding a colorful ambience to the castle on sunny days.

A new feature on the ground level of the three-storied edifice is a virtual play floor that has been a big hit with kids who like interactive, physical games.

With a computer in the ceiling and a white floor, more than 50 games are projected and rotated every few minutes as kids switch quickly between sports themes, a large piano keyboard, or even a game that requires players to “stomp the mice,” Markle said.

The owner believes their interactive

white floor may be the only one available in the area at present.

Treasure Castle offers a food court on the main floor and provides three rooms that can host birthday parties for large groups. Two rooms can serve 15 party-goers and one located in the former church choir loft can host 30.

Treasure Castle and Little Treasures also offer a summer camp program for children needing care when school is not in session.

As a business owner Markle enjoys

being able to provide a place for families to “just have fun together” where they can be safe. “We gear everything we do to the kids having a great experience here,” she emphasized.

Judging by the joy and laughter of children from All things Bright and Beautiful Day Care Center in Avis, who visited Treasure Castle on a recent field trip, Markle and Lukasiewicz can be assured those business objectives can continue into a future beyond their first ten years.



BARBARA CIOFFI/Sun-Gazette correspondent

From left, Brenda Lukasiewicz, Operations Director at Treasure Castle and her mother, owner Sharon Markle. Colorful characters wait outside to welcome young ones to Treasure Castle at 1414 West Southern Avenue, South Williamsport.

The Williamsport Sun-Gazette is printed on newsprint which contains recycled material



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Leadership Lycoming Program Day

Leadership Lycoming and Business & Economic Development

The Leadership Lycoming Class of 2019 began their day in the Jane Schultz Room at Lycoming College with updates of local developments in Lycoming County. Bill Nichols, River Valley Transit, began with an overview of the 50 years of transportation and even gave away some gift cards for correct answers from his presentation. Jeff Bennett talked about the large construction project on the campus and how the look of the Basin Street corridor will welcome everyone to the new entrance of Lycoming College. Deiter Reichman from UPMC Susquehanna spoke about the Hillman Cancer Center project and Misty Dion, Center for Independent Living, talked about the project to replace their building with offices and new apartments on the second floor. Jason Fink, President/CEO of the Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce moderated the discussion.

After a break, Jason led a discussion on business development resources with Brenda Holdren, LHU Small Business Development Center, discussing the process of starting a new business. Jason and Jared Grissinger, Governor's Action Team led a discussion of the steps taken for a company

who is looking to relocate/build in Lycoming County.

Before lunch, the Lycoming County United Way prepared the class for upcoming panel meetings.

Chris Ray, Pennsylvania College of Technology, talked to the class about the Pre-Apprenticeship and Apprenticeship Programs at PCT.

Dennis Gilbert, Appreciative Strategies, discussed the generations and how we can navigate a workforce by understanding each generation a little more.

Finally, the class had the opportunity to board a city bus and head to PMF Industries for a tour. The class really enjoyed learning more about PMF and what they do. They participate in the Apprenticeship Program through Penn College, so it all tied in very well.

Thank you to our sponsors, Larson Design Group; The Muncy Bank & Trust Company; RDF Tax Services; PMF Industries and Chris Wallace, Realtor, TEU Real Estate.

Thank you to Lori Lyons, Lycoming College and Sebastian Peipher, BLAST IU 17 as class reporters.



Jeff Bennett, Vice President for Finance and Administration at Lycoming College, (LL Class of '05) showing Lycoming College's beautiful Gateway Project.

Leadership Lycoming is on Facebook!

Like us

AND STAY UP TO DATE WITH THE LATEST NEWS AND EVENTS



Chris Ray, Executive Director, Business Development, Penn College Workforce Development & Continuing Education (LL Class of '14) talked to us about how PCT is tackling the Skills Gap with their Apprenticeship Program.



Realtor Chris Wallace



The Class of 2019 posed for a photo after their tour of PMF Industries.

Leadership Lycoming is Accepting Applications for Class of 2020

Applications Due April 19th, 2019

Are you interested in Leadership Lycoming?... Now is the time to submit your application. Graduates are seen throughout the community as participants on boards, committees, and task forces. Many find that the information they received as a Leadership participant provided them with the insight to better understand the issues facing our community today and tomorrow.

Class participants are selected on the basis of their demonstrated leadership potential and sincere desire to contribute time and effort in their community. A formal Selection Committee chooses class members based on a written application, references and personal interviews.

If you are interested in submitting an application for the Leadership Lycoming Class of 2020, the deadline is April 19. Applications are available online and can be downloaded at www.leadershiplycoming.org.

If you would like further information or an electronic application, contact Sharon Jones, Program Coordinator at 570-320-4202 or sjones@williamsport.org.

We look forward to seeing you in the Leadership Lycoming Class of 2020!

Change is Good at Your Chamber!

Spring is coming and we are freshening up our look.



Check out our new website at

www.williamsport.org

Easy to search member directory

Stay up-to-date with our events calendar



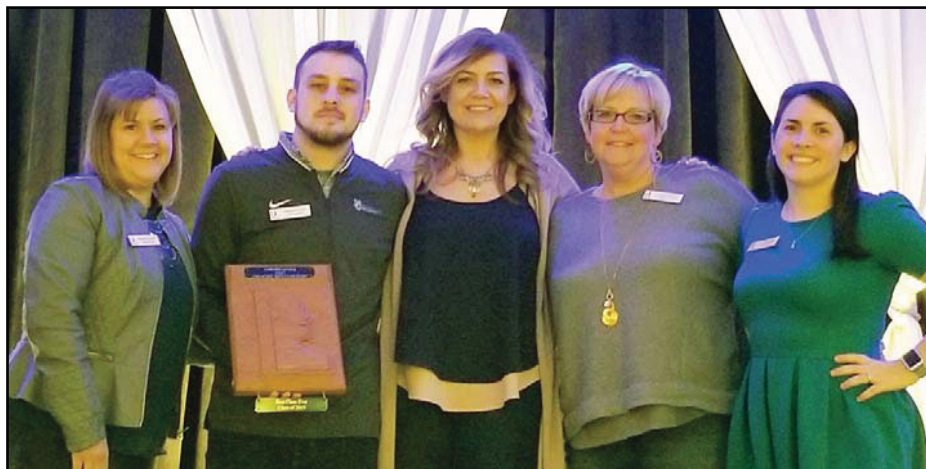
Congratulations to the Final 3 winners: Brian McCormick & Emilie Ertel; Kristin & Brady Groves; and Ed Pawlak, not shown. They collectively decided to split the \$3,000 between them and walk away with \$1,000 each.

www.williamsport.org

www.vacationpa.com

www.leadershiplycoming.org

Leadership Lycoming Holds Final 3



Congratulations to the Class of 2019 for winning the "Best Class Ever" class basket. Representing the class is Stacey Russell, Anthony Pace, Becky Yeagle, Kristin Caringi, and Samantha Mahaffey. Their Backyard BBQ Bash included an outdoor Fire Pit, a portable Charcoal Grill with charcoal and wood chips, assorted bar-b-que sauces, and beverages.

Leadership Lycoming's Final 3 was another great evening for winners. Attendees were treated to an assortment of hors d'oeuvres and beverages. Many walked away with several prizes. Thank you to everyone who purchased a ticket and attended the event. Congratulations to everyone who won a basket or two!

The "Best Class Ever" award was chosen again this year. Class members were invited to submit a basket to be judged by the "secret panel of judges". Besides the bragging rights for the class, a handmade award made by Mike Drawbaugh, Class of 2011 bears the name of the winner. This award will hang in the Leadership Lycoming office until another class can be awarded at next year's Final 3. Congratulations to the Class of 2019 for the bragging rights of "Best Class Ever".

Leadership Lycoming would like to thank Mike Pontious, Leadership Lycoming Chair and Donna Bastian for their tag-team duties!

A special thank you to the following businesses and friends for their donations; Bastian Tire and Auto Centers, Clyde Peelings Reptiland, Genetti Hotel & Suites, Griggs Coffee & Peanuts Store, Hampton Inn Downtown, Hiawatha, Keystone Advertising Specialties, Little League International, Lycoming College, Pennsylvania College of Technology, Raymond James, Roche Financial, Susquehanna Trailways, Williamsport Country Club, Williamsport Crosscutters, Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce, Nikki Bower, Gladys Engel, Paula Yeckley, Sharon Jones, Todd Musheno, Sherry Paulhamus, Kelley Reed, Chris Wallace, Tanya Weber, Michele Rozenberg, Class of 2015, Class of 2016, Class of 2017, Class of 2019, Leadership Curriculum Committee, Leadership Final 3/Fundraising Committee, Leadership Marketing Committee, and the Leadership Lycoming Operating Committee.

Thank you to the Final 3 Committee for all their assistance; Heather Allison, Donna Bastian, Eric Gaetano, Sharon Jones, Gina Kennedy, Tanya Weber and Paula Yeckley.



Lycoming Mobile Sandblasting comes to you

By **DEREK DANNEKER**
ddanneker@sungazette.com

When it comes to stripping the finish off of a surface, there are very few ways to avoid damaging the material underneath. However, with sandblasting, the power can be adjusted to properly strip the material in a manner which prevents flash rusting for up to 72 hours.

Peter Bower of Lycoming Mobile Sandblasting said he watched an advertisement for the sandblaster and noticed the large amount of hobbyists in the area. He eventually traveled to Houston Texas, where the machines are built, to tour the company before purchasing a mobile sandblaster.

Since July 2018, Bower said he, along with his son, are open for business.

The entire sandblaster fits on a trailer, allowing for easy transportation and access to any job.

“(It’s) a diesel motor, compressor and high pressure water and sand. It’ll take the finish off anything,” he said.

Rust, grease, paint and more will come off anything from car bodies, trailers or even bridges.

“It’s really a matter of pressure changes and different media I use. So this will go up to 120 PSI and sand it’ll take a steel bridge right down to metal, or I can turn it down to 75 PSI and use a different to work on a fiberglass boat,” he said.

The medium too — or what is ejected from the nozzle — can be adjusted from sand to fine-grained glass, to find the exact amount of pressure necessary to leave the surface clean, but undamaged.

Customers like how delicate the operation can be, said Bower, who added that a large amount of his jobs are to strip the paint off of cars for being remodeled.

“It’s really surface preparation,” he said, for the application of a new finish.

Lycoming Mobile Sandblasting is able to even handle the larger jobs, as he was recently employed to strip the paint off of a 48-foot-long Lowboy.

In addition, the sandblaster can work on surfaces such as cement or cinder block, to clean off graffiti, stripes or more.

The process is eco-friendly and non-toxic, meaning the job can be completed nearly anywhere. The crew will clean the area and properly dispose of any debris that is blasted off.

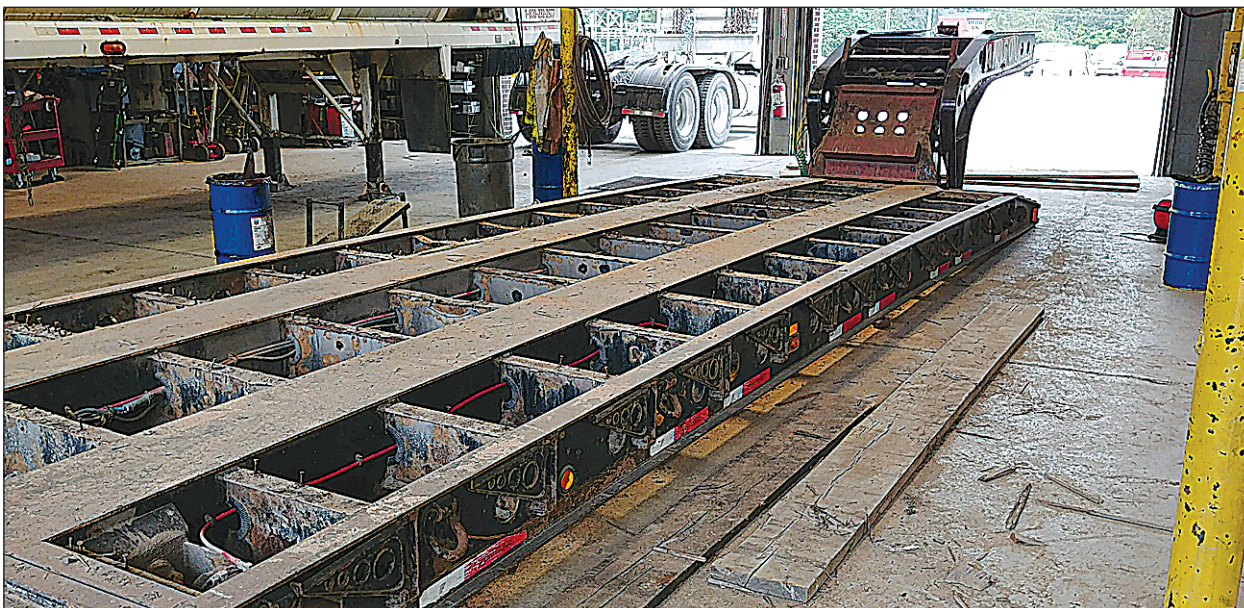


Free quotes are available by contacting (570) 660-8190 or visiting them at their website at www.LycominMobileSandblasting.com.

The serviceable area is within a 150 mile radius of Williamsport, which includes Altoona, State College, Mansfield, Bloomsburg and Harrisburg.

DEREK DANNEKER/Sun-Gazette

Peter Bower and his son are the workers of Lycoming Mobile Sandblasting. Bower said, with his sandblaster which fits on the back of a trailer, he can travel anywhere. Workers sandblast a truck, right, and trailer, above, to strip finish and rust from their surfaces. Sandblasting has many industrial applications and can prepare trailers, such as the 48-foot-long trailer seen below from rust with the application of a fresh finish.



NEW MEMBER

Real Taste Taqueria's quick meal took years in the making

By **DEREK DANNEKER**
ddanneker@sungazette.com

There is no separating Curiel and Erica Bame from Real Taste Taqueria and Food Truck. It's the culmination of their ventures and the recognition of their failures. In the process of finding the balance between food truck and restaurant, the two also found success.

From an early age, Curiel Bame said he knew what he wanted to do as a child in El Paso, Texas, between days spent with his mother and grandmother cooking authentic Mexican cuisine and observing his father's own his own martial arts business.

In 2001, Curiel Bame was dropped off at Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts in Pittsburgh. After graduating, he worked under Greg Alauzen for about five years at the Marriott Corporation, but later followed the chef to Mad Mex, a concept by Big Burrito Restaurant Group.

Curiel Bame continued to work with Chef Alauzen when he opened Eleven, which became a 4-star dining restaurant.

"It was a cook's dream to train under Chef Greg to learn the discipline and what is required to work in a proper kitchen," said Curiel Bame.

He later worked under Yves Carreau as a sous-chef as the Sonoma Grille opened in late 2004. The grill was a fine dining concept which focused on west coast flavors.

"Greg taught me the concept of proper cooking techniques and Yves taught me the business aspect of how actually to make a living doing what I love," said Curiel Bame.

Carreau allowed Curiel Bame to open Sevice in 2007; This was Curiel Bame's first job as an executive chef.

By 2008, Curiel Bame moved away from Pittsburgh to have his first child.

"You're only as good as your last dish, I took this with me from the City," said Curiel Bame. He went to central pennsylvania, and while adjusting to the small amount of people, fell in love with the countryside. After cooking at nursing homes and colleges, Curiel Bame eventually found himself as the executive chef at the Genetti where he met his wife, Erica.

But, Curiel Bame's next foray into fine dining and lesson to be learned was in 2012 at The Joint in Williamsport, which he opened with Vince DiSalvo. The restaurant, ran into internal issues from another partner, that eventually compounded and ended up in



DEREK DANNEKER/Sun-Gazette

Left, the eye catching purple Real Taste truck waits for hungry customers. Right, from left. Samantha Burkhart, Curiel Bame – owner and chef, – Chelsea Johnson, Cortney Tate. Real Taste Taqueria plays host to a girl's night supper near their opening.

the closure of The Joint said Curiel Bame.

"That was a huge learning opportunity for me because I never actually closed a restaurant," said Curiel Bame.

To break the routine that many central pennsylvanians find themselves in, Curiel Bame said he realized that he needed to go to where they are, namely, buy a food truck.

In 2016, when Williamsport started to allow food trucks, he bought his second food truck. His first truck was bought in 2012, but with Williamsport being so restrictive, he later sold it.

Lacking the overhead to get the truck a paint job, Curiel Bame kept the Real Taste name of the truck — which still stunk of curry from its use in D.C — and purple paint job. Working nights on weekends, he slowly began to draw customers.

"If it wasn't for Vincent DiSalvo and DiSalvos, Real Taste wouldn't have become a reality through their love and compassion as a long standing food institution in the Williamsport Area," said Curiel Bame.

Nick Cowles, owner and operator of the Grilled Cheese Cafe food truck, helped Curiel Bame with the logistics of working in a food truck.

"During the fall of 2017, I decided to follow my original dream to work for myself," said Curiel Bame. "I knew that I was going to get back into a brick and mortar restaurants." He decided on Jersey Shore because the borough was able to work with him during the updating of his building at 909 Allegheny St., Jersey Shore,

"I could park my truck in my parking lot. And, I

could sell tacos during the day and I could come in during night or have contractors working during the day," said Curiel Bame. When the restaurant opened in October of 2018, the plan was to dial back the food truck portion. However Curiel Bame found it worked as advertising for the restaurant, growing the customer base.

"It's allowing us to grow our business correctly," he said.

Erica Bame, who worked in advertising for several years, said she knows the importance that people place on not being "Just another number." She said she wants customers to feel comfortable and know they're important.

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Milton • Mount Carmel • Muncy • Northumberland • Selinsgrove • Sunbury

Member Renewals

Received between March 1st and March 28th

Thank you to our renewing members.
We do appreciate your membership
and involvement in the
Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce!

Members 61-70 Years

PNC Bank, N.A.

Members 51-60 Years

Wolyniec Construction, Inc.

Members 41-50 Years

AAA North Penn

Members 31-40 Years

Charlotte Pipe and Foundry
Crouse Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Inc.
Lonza Inc.

Members 21-30 Years

ACT-1 Specialties
Glenn O. Hawbaker, Inc.
Lycoming Mall
Pennram Diversified Mfg. Corp.
Tulpehocken Spring Water
WVIA/WVYA Public TV and Radio

Members 16-20 Years

DATMAN Productions, Inc.
LHU Small Business Development Center
Morgan Stanley

Members 11-15 Years

Brite Laundry Center
JW Aluminum-Williamsport Operations
Markle's Plumbing & Heating
Millbrook Playhouse, Inc.

Members 6-10 Years

Central Contracting
Eureka Resources
FayJan Tool Sales Company, Inc.
Fishlips, LLC
Gentry Development, LLC
Lakeview Apartments
River Valley Health & Dental Center
Smith's Jewelers/PA Gem Lab
Summers Landscaping
Zartman Construction, Inc.

Members 1-5 Years

Advanced Drainage Systems, Inc.
Annmarie Phillips
B.A. Meixel Electrical, Inc.
Bittner Vending, Inc.
Boom City Brewing Company
Cricket Wireless at One-Stop
Family Practice Center, PC
Gephart Moyer Financial Advisors
Henry Street Partnership
Hughesville Raceway Self and Mobile Storage
Jason Eberhart - State Farm Insurance Agent
Morrone's Cafe, Lounge & Banquet Room
Nittany Professional Cleaning, Inc.
Patinaz, LLC
Select Motors
The Barn at Greystone Farm
The Daily Item
Thompson's Outdoor Power Equipment
White Horse Graphics
X W Construction, LLC



Get Connected With Your Chamber!

www.williamsport.org
E-mail: chamber@williamsport.org
Phone: 570-326-1971 • Fax: 570-321-1209

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Lycoming
County
Visitors Bureau

The 2019 Lycoming County Visitors Guide is here!

The Visitors Guide is full of useful information on what to do, where to stay, eat and shop throughout Lycoming County. Please pick up a copy of the visitors guide at the Visitors Center, located at 102 West Fourth Street, Williamsport or many other locations throughout the area.

The Lycoming County Visitors Bureau will be distributing the 2019 Lycoming County Visitors guides along with other regional and local brochures on an every other month basis. The guides are delivered to hundreds of locations all over Lycoming County and neighboring counties. The schedule for delivery for the guide will be the months of January, March, May, July, August, October and December. If you would like to have your business receive the Lycoming County Visitors Guides please contact Gina Edwards at 570.320.4208 or gedwards@williamsport.org.

Lycoming County Visitors Center

HOURS

APRIL 1ST - NOVEMBER 30TH

| | |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| MONDAY | 9:00AM - 5:00PM |
| TUESDAY | 9:00AM - 5:00PM |
| WEDNESDAY | 9:00AM - 5:00PM |
| THURSDAY | 9:00AM - 5:00PM |
| FRIDAY | 9:00AM - 5:00PM |
| SATURDAY | 9:00AM - 3:00PM |
| SUNDAY | 11:00AM - 3:00PM |

Welcome to LYCOMING COUNTY

OFFICIAL VISITORS GUIDE 2019

Morning Member Connection Federal Opportunity Zones and LERTA



Chamber members had an opportunity to start their day with an informational session on the Federal Opportunity Zones program. Scott Dietrich, of the Governor's Action Team and Rick Vilello, of Department of Community and Economic Development, addressed Chamber attendees on both the Federal Opportunity Zones and LERTA and how they can help drive development in Williamsport. Opportunity Zones are designed to spur economic development by providing tax benefits to investors. An Opportunity Zone is an economically-distressed community where new investments, under certain conditions, may be eligible for preferential tax treatment. Localities qualify as Opportunity Zones if they have been nominated for that designation by the state and that nomination has been certified by the Secretary of the U.S. Treasury via his delegation of authority to the Internal Revenue Service. Opportunity Zones are an economic development tool. They are designed to spur economic development and job creation in distressed communities. Williamsport was nominated as a Federal 'Opportunity Zone' in April of last year.

Thank you to the Genetti Hotel for hosting the event and providing a delicious breakfast buffet. Thank you to our program partners; Lycoming College, Larson Design Group and First Community Foundation Partnership of Pennsylvania.



Thank you to our Program Partners:



Larson Design Group®

YOUR VISION. MADE REAL.



**LYCOMING
COLLEGE**



First Community
Foundation Partnership
OF PENNSYLVANIA

Interested in joining the Chamber?
For more information, call the office at
(570) 326-1971 or apply online at:
www.williamsport.org

15th Annual Grand Slam PARADE Wednesday August 14 Planning is well underway for the 15th annual Grand Slam Parade set for Wednesday August 14. Parade entry applications are available on line at www.grandslamparade.com. Application deadline is June 1.

The Grand Slam Parade is produced by the
Lycoming County Visitors Bureau,
a program of the Williamsport/
Lycoming Chamber of Commerce.



Have Your Business Featured in the Chamber Connection It's Free to Chamber Members!

Showcase your business in our monthly newsletter.
It is published inside the Sun-Gazette on the first
Monday of each month.

To be featured on the cover, we require 10+ years
as a member.

To be featured as a Legacy Member, we require 20+ years
as a member.

Newer to the Chamber?

Our 'New Business' and 'Small Business' features are a great way to
promote yourself.

Contact our Marketing & Membership Coordinator,
Taryn Mueller at tmueller@williamsport.org
or (570) 320-4209 for more information.

Lunch Member Connection

Thursday April 25, 2019—12:00PM - 1:00PM

Topic: Area Wage and Benefits Analysis Report

Featured Presenters: Lycoming College Business 451 – Advanced Human Resource Management Class - Dr. Patrick Coyle, Professor

Location: Holiday Inn Downtown, 100 Pine Street, Williamsport

Cost: \$20



LYCOMING
COLLEGE

The Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce worked with Lycoming College and their students under the direction of Dr. Patrick Coyle, to conduct a Wage and Benefits Survey in March. Many companies over the past few years have been trying to gauge where they fall with salaries and benefits in the tight labor market here and across the county. The results of this survey will be presented by the students in Dr. Coyle's class. Come and hear from them how companies in the area are structuring their wages and benefits to attract the best talent in accomplishing the work in their respective business and industry sectors.

Register by calling 570-326-1971 or go online to
www.williamsport.org

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