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**Welcome New  
Chamber Members**

**Upcoming PM  
Exchanges...**

**2023 Site Consultant  
FAM Tour**



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# FROM JASON'S DESK Jason Fink | President/CEO

What a great Little League World Series. Congratulations to Steve Keener and his entire team at Little League Baseball for hosting another wonderful tournament season this year. The games went pretty much uninterrupted by the weather, which always helps. And what a finish. Two excellent teams, both deserving and capable of winning. A grand slam to tie the ballgame in the top of the 5th and in the bottom of the 6th, a home run to win the game. Exciting for all to see and experience and I'm already looking forward to what 2024 and the 77th Little League World Series will bring to us.

Taking a look at what else was happening in August, in the City, council is set to act on whether to accept the bid to sell the current city hall building. In looking at the situation, I think back to the first house that my wife and I bought. It was a small 1500 square foot house

with 3 bedrooms in the east of Williamsport. The house was older, dating back to 1929. We qualified for a first time home buyers loan and that was at 6.5% interest at the time. It was a great neighborhood with a mix of empty nesters and young families.

Being a first time homeowner in an older home brought many lessons. The first was that there was always something to be fixing, whether it was the furnace, water heater, leaky roof, etc. Some of the things I was able to do myself, while others were left to the experts. There were many lessons learned along the way in doing fixes and repairs like realizing I should have just called someone who knew what they were doing instead of me doing it myself. I'll never forget me trying to fix the front door knob, which I thought was going to be an easy fix. It ended up being an introduction to a mortis lock, which I completely destroyed and had my wife in tears realizing that I wasn't the capable handyman that my father was in fixing items at the house. That not only taught me something new

about what a mortis lock was, it also gave me a lesson that I didn't know everything about owning an older house.

So you are probably wondering where I'm going with all of this and how it relates to the current situation with Williamsport's city hall. Well first, the current members of city hall have inherited this issue with the building. The issues with a leaky roof, poor heating and ventilation and the host of other items have culminated into what they are now dealt.

These issues arose because of lack of care and investment when the little items came up that needed to be fixed, but were put off for other reasons. This is not to blame previous administrations or councils because there's only so much money available and choices need to be made about what is best done with it. I don't believe there was any ill intent by any previous official at the city to see the building be in its current state.

Old buildings and old homes take regular care and upkeep. Unfortunately this

wasn't done with the current city hall. Numbers have been put out there ranging from \$5 million upwards to \$20 million. Whatever that number is, if routine maintenance would have been done, it wouldn't have cost that much in regular upkeep.

Now council must decide if it's better to put this into the hands of the private sector to own, fix and maintain the building or for the city to undertake this repair. Based upon how we've got here, I personally believe that this building is better off in the hands of the private sector. Examples here in the city abound to support this position. The former Herdic House Hotel (now Park Place), former West Branch Bank (current Chamber and Visitors Center home), the Home for the Friendless (presently The Stacks) and former City Hall (now City Hall Grand Hotel) are just four examples of what the private sector has done in reusing older buildings in the City.

Most who have followed this

know that this was the former post office which was deeded over through sale to the city back in the 70s. Much has changed in the city since that time with two of the biggest being the population has declined from where it was in 1970 from 38,000 to roughly 26,000 and the various technology advances. The amount of city personnel required has dropped over those years to where now it has been stated that the city administration requires offices for approximately 30 personnel.

Whatever the decision that city council makes regarding the future ownership of this building, I know that they do this with great thought and consideration in what they believe is the best for the city. Knowing this, I look forward to the point in the next year or two when this building has people in it, for whatever purpose that is ultimately decided.

## 2023 SITE CONSULTANT FAM TOUR



Looking at the header, you might wonder what is a site consultant FAM tour. Well first off, FAM is short for familiarization and a site consultant is what businesses and corporation use in helping to identify communities for future locations for plants and back office operations.

We've been partnering with the state's Department of Community and Economic Development team since 2017 in annually hosting a site consultant FAM tour during the Little League World Series. The Series is the carrot we use in getting site consultants to come to Pennsylvania to learn about business development programming along with getting a firsthand look at what is available here in Lycoming County in terms of workforce, land, buildings and quality of life amenities.

This year we received funding from the Lycoming Economic Development Joseph L. Rider fund at the First Community Foundation Partnership to help cover the costs in hosting this tour. In addition to seeing World Series games, we also were able to tour them through Ralph S. Alberts, Lycoming Engines, Penn College and UPMC Williamsport. We appreciate their support in being able to showcase the various capabilities found here in our market.





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# THANK YOU!

The Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce and its Lycoming County Visitors Bureau appreciates the help of the organizations and businesses that came forward to help us with the 17<sup>th</sup> Grand Slam Parade and 13<sup>th</sup> Williamsport Welcomes the World.

We would like to recognize the following for their Williamsport Welcomes the World sponsorship:



We would like to recognize the following for their Grand Slam Parade sponsorship:

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Thank you to all who had an entry or came out to watch this year's Grand Slam Parade or participated and attended this year's Williamsport Welcomes the World.

We look forward to seeing you again next year in helping to welcome the world to our community.



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New Chamber Members!

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www.bigrockpaving.com  
*Construction - Bridges*

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*Food Truck & Caterers*

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Williamsport, PA 17701  
(570) 435-9441  
donmarcolo.com  
*Retail Shopping  
Embroidery/Screenprinting  
Photographers*

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*Home Non-Medical Personal Care*

## Montour Beverage

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Montoursville, PA 17754  
(570) 368-2240  
*Beverages/Ice*

## Novak Strategic Advisors

500 North 3rd Street, 9th Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17101  
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novakstrategic.com  
*Consultants*

## Shali Rose Co. Boutique

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## Six West Settlements Inc.

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## Taco Loco

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# 2023 WILLIAMSPORT WELCOMES THE WORLD!



# SMALL BUSINESS

## Evergreen Wealth Solutions keeps focus on clients

By **SETH NOLAN**  
Sun-Gazette Correspondent

Evergreen Wealth Solutions has spent over two decades sharing their experience and building and evolving a group of people who share the vision of wealth management and finance.

Evergreen Wealth Solutions is a client-centric wealth management firm that believes the client's interests always come first, whether working with successful individuals, families, institutions, or business owners. Evergreen views financial planning and asset management as a unique opportunity and privilege and manages them as if they were their own.

Evergreen works as an ensemble, which means that clients benefit from collective knowledge and experience as well as individual expertise. Together, Evergreen collaboratively creates, implements, and manages solutions that are tailored to help clients reach and sustain their financial goals.

"We recognize the four pillars of people's lives: health, wealth, love, and purpose," Andy Harris, founder and president, said. "Our niche is helping our clients build and maintain their financial lives, freeing up bandwidth to focus more time and energy on those other, arguably more impactful, areas. By doing so we believe we can help our

clients live more impactful lives."

The firm was founded in 2002, but rebranded as Evergreen Wealth Solutions in 2015.

"I worked for Nationwide Financial Services home office for nearly 5 years in the late 90's working in multiple roles while attending college," Harris said. "I then became the internal contact and liaison for a product designed for active traders. Working closely with clients, financial advisors, senior management, and mutual fund managers in this role, laid the groundwork for the decision to become a financial advisor in 2002."

The long-standing core group of Evergreen's clients has been pre-retirees and retirees, but also includes entrepreneurs and young professionals. Over the years as the business has grown, Evergreen has developed niches in working with business owners and non-profit organizations.

From 2002 to 2015, the firm was centered on clients that Harris and Michael Kolb worked with directly. In 2015, they rebranded as Evergreen Wealth Solutions and in 2017 expanded the firm.

"With the ensemble model, two like-minded advisers, Jim Dinsmore and Ed Barone a year later joined to work in coordinated fashion with shared resources and philosophies for the benefit of the clients," Harris said.



PHOTO PROVIDED

**The staff of Evergreen Wealth Solutions, seen here in a photo for social media, collaboratively creates, implements, and manages solutions tailored to help clients reach and sustain financial goals.**

2019 marked a significant milestone in the firm's journey with successfully obtaining Registered Investment Advisor (RIA) status with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), solidifying its commitment to upholding the highest standards of fiduciary responsibility and client-centered financial advisory services.

A few years after the RIA transition, the firm obtained the Chairman's level at Commonwealth Finan-

cial Network (CFN) which is a prestigious recognition awarded to the top 4% of financial advisors who have demonstrated exceptional performance, dedication, and success in their practice.

2021 marked the adoption of Entrepreneurial Operating System (EOS), which is a comprehensive business management framework designed to help companies and organizations achieve clarity, alignment, and

(See EVERGREEN, Page 7)




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# FEATURE MEMBER

## St. John Neumann expects another exciting school year

By **MARK MARONEY**  
mmaroney@sungazette.com

St. John Neumann Regional Academy has exciting updates this school year, including the first year that a foreign language class will include Mandarin, a dialect widely used and spoken in China.

“We are going to have a foreign language class in Mandarin available for upperclassmen,” High School Principal Alisia McNamee said with enthusiasm in her voice.

Mandarin has supplanted English as the world’s most spoken language.

In another development, a Memorandum of Understanding between the school district and Commonwealth Schools — which include Lock Haven University, Mansfield University and Bloomsburg University — has been forged.

This Memorandum of Understanding allows for guaranteed scholarships for St. John Neumann School District graduates who meet certain criteria.

Additionally, the district has a Memorandum of Understanding with four Catholic universities in the Scranton, Wilkes-Barre area regarding scholarship funding.

As the school year kicked off, the principal updated the parents on the upgrades at the buildings and facilities.

These include new LED lighting and a boiler.

St. John Neumann Regional Academy comprises three campuses: A preschool on Winthrop Street in South Williamsport; an elementary school on Franklin Street in Williamsport and a high school on Penn Street in Williamsport.

“This is an exciting year as it is the first year the district will be operating the pre-school for 3- and 4-year-olds and for 4- and 5-year-olds preparing for kindergarten readiness.

Once again, the district is excited about its Noble Knights walk-a-thon which will be held to highlight social and emotional connectivity for the student body in all three campuses.

This is highly anticipated each year and is made possible by the dedicated faculty staff and the students.

The overall purpose and theme of the walk-a-thon is to demonstrate how St. John Neumann Regional Academy students show and value the importance of kindness, bullying prevention, respect, responsibility, preparation and service to others



Students of St. John Neumann Regional Academy and their families participate in a walk-a-thon in September of 2022.

SUN-GAZETTE FILE PHOTO

others.

The event also teaches restorative discipline based on the Catholic faith. It builds morals and values for the student body, from pre-kindergarten through senior year of high school.

During the event, students take part in yard games, listen to music by a disc jockey, are served ice cream and help support the district with raising funds.

The event also showcases the district’s emphasis on social and emotional programs and how important it is for students to be enrolled in classes that are conflict-free and who are in a welcoming environment.

This year, there is a therapy dog for the kids on all of the campuses. His name is Carson and he is a golden retriever owned by the Director of Guidance Jennifer McPherson.

(See ST. JOHN, Page 8)

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# Evergreen Wealth Solutions focuses on clients

(From Page 5)

growth.

Last year Evergreen launched two new divisions, Evergreen Exits and Evergreen Institutional.

“Evergreen Exits will help guide business owners through the transition process (whether through sale or internal transfer) and the associated planning, tax, and estate implications,” Harris said. “Evergreen Institutional will help support the board members of Not-for-Profit organizations, foundations, and endowments meet their fiduciary responsibilities related to the financial and investment decisions. Then, just in July of this year, Todd Rishel joined the Evergreen team as an advisor bringing with him a wealth of experience and exceptional track record.”

Looking ahead, Harris said he hopes Evergreen will continue to align with like-minded clients and professionals and continue to grow as organically as they have over the years.

“I love being able to build our practice in the community that I was born and raised in, where I’m also raising my family,” Harris said. “I’ve found an awesome group of people to work with who are equally passionate about the business. We look forward to continuing to live, work, and play in the greater WilliamSPORT area.”

Chris Masse • Jon Gerardi • Henry Huber



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SUN-GAZETTE FILE PHOTO

Members of St. John Neumann Regional Academy Class of 2023 celebrate graduation by throwing their caps into the air. High School Principal Alisia McNamee said there are a number of exciting developments underway this year, including which include a Memorandum of Understanding with Commonwealth University, comprising Lock Haven University Mansfield University and Bloomsburg University.

# St. John Neumann expects another exciting school year

(From Page 6)

In terms of the faculty they will be getting upgraded technology such as 3D printers that can be used in the woodshop class.

Overall, St John Neumann Regional Academy has about 250 students and 40 faculty.

It is a faith-based education and theological teaching that falls under the umbrella of the Diocese of Scranton.

Besides the strong educational core curricula the students are taught morals and values and to respect others.

The Catholic academy is for students

ages 3 on up to seniors who are preparing for post-secondary education, military or careers.

Tuition is required, however, there are several avenues to obtain financial aid, including scholarships.

McNamee was grateful to the diocese for its financial aid program and for the aid available through the Clarence Eck Foundation, an alumnus of the school, which offers scholarships to students pursuing a Catholic education. The foundation scholarship is available to any of the interested students.

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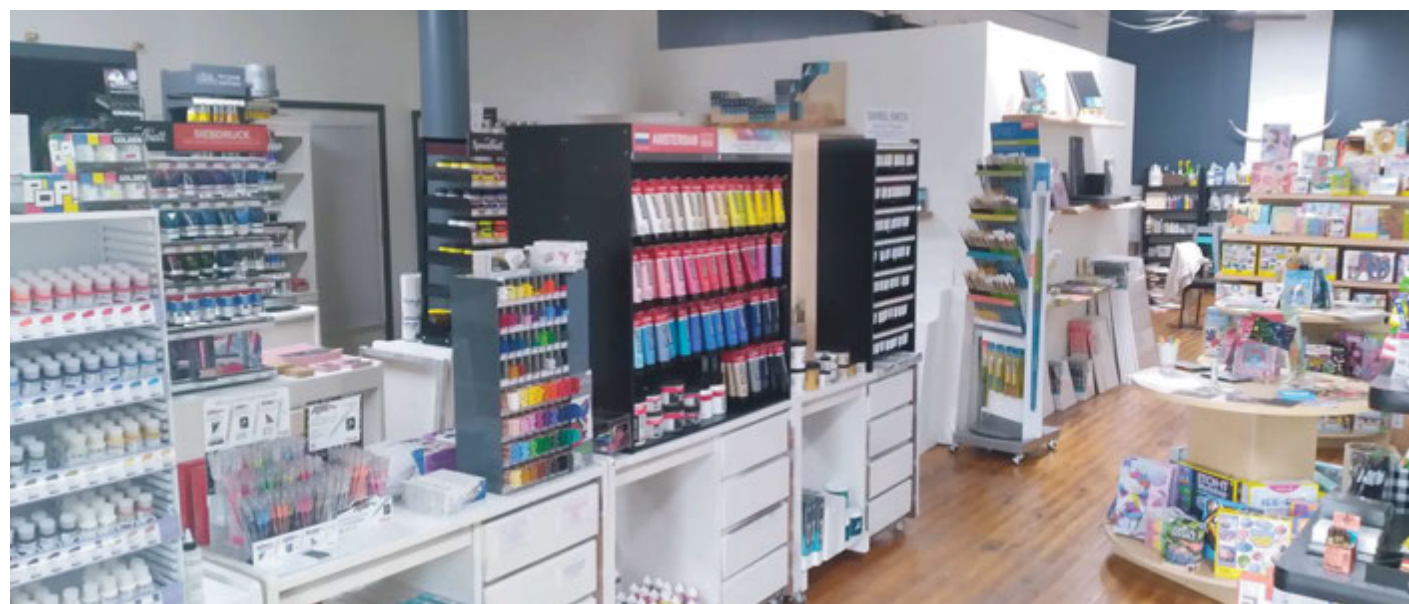
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# NEW BUSINESS



Connie Owens poses with a piece of her artwork. The local artist is owner of Make Art Supplies, Williamsport, which offers a large inventory of products for artists and crafters.

MIKE REUTHER/Sun-Gazette

## Artist puts on her business hat with Make Art Supplies

By **MIKE REUTHER**  
Sun-Gazette Correspondent

It's not completely out of the realm for artists to combine creativity with business.

Concetta "Connie" Owens can be counted among those people who has embraced entrepreneurship after years of pursuing her artistic talents.

In July 2022, she launched Make Art Supplies, a storefront in the vast Pajama Factory complex and former warehouse building in Williamsport.

"I always wanted to do it," she said.

The business offers a large inventory of art and craft supplies where local artists can buy materials and indulge their passions.

Owens has big plans for the business, including expanding the storefront and offering classes for people interested in pursuing their creativity.

Most recently, she hired business, retail, and merchandising managers to help her with the operation of Make Art Supplies.

"I think when people walk in here,

they really like the store," Owens said. "We fill a niche."

There are no shortage of artists and crafts people around Williamsport, including in the Pajama Factory, which in recent years has become its own kind of creative community.

One of her hopes, she said, is to make rural communities such as Williamsport aware of the economic benefits of the arts.

"I started out as a mosaic artist. I was also a decorative finisher," she said.

But Owens also learned about business. Her late husband was a businessman, and she has her own business experience flipping houses and running art studios.

Make Art Supplies, she noted, began with a basic line of art products, and has since grown to include a more expansive inventory as she became more fully aware of the demand from local artists.

"I do my best to get what they need," she said.

Customer support is a big part of the business and adults and kids alike can often find what they need at her store.

She hopes to eventually offer various

classes for children.

Owens admits she's learned a lot about running the business.

She has found that tasks such as book-keeping take up a lot of her time.

Immediate plans include establishing a website for the business.

Her advertising consists of social media, print media, and, of course, word-of-mouth.

In the meantime, she has not lost her creativity and finds it vital in her approach to business.

"Creative thinking is vital to everything you do," she said.

She feels the storefront at Rose Street and Park Avenue at the north end of the Pajama Factory is a good spot for the store.

"There are artists right her in the neighborhood," she said. "So, I like the location."

Her dream, she said, has always been to create an artists' colony.

"You can learn from each other," she said. "It's sort of like what you have here at the Pajama Factory."

Owens feels that Williamsport is striving to become a strong arts community.



Evergreen is pleased to announce Todd Rishel joining the Evergreen Wealth Solutions team

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## 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, & non-profit organizations
- Gross sales less than \$1,000,000 annually or employ fewer 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:

**Bo Hornberger**

Vice President & Chief Financial Officer  
Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce

Phone: 570.320.4206

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

## MONTOURSVILLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE EVENTS...



The Montoursville Chamber of Commerce hosted their summer picnic at Pier 87 Bar & Grill. Chamber members enjoyed a picnic-style buffet, hand crafted drinks and relaxed with their toe in the sand. Thank you to this year's sponsors: Jersey Shore State Bank, The Liberty Group, W.B. Konkle Memorial Library, The Muncy Bank & Trust Co., Senator Gene Yaw, Masters Excavating LLC, Quality Collision, PennCore Consulting, Valley View Rehab & Nursing Center.



The Montoursville Chamber of Commerce hosted the final installment of the Broad Street Mini Park Project. Over the years, community members & businesses purchased engraved bricks in memory of loved ones, dedicated to their family and friends, and in honor of their businesses. Thank you to all who contributed to the project, located next to Johnson's Café in Montoursville.



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## RIBBON CUTTING!



**Rosko's Brew House**

Rosko's Brew House celebrated their 1-Year Anniversary at 601 Pine Street, Williamsport. Set in a historic brick home built in 1870, Rosko's pairs the rich history of Williamsport with traditional, seasonal, and trendy beer styles. When you visit Rosko's, you can expect an intimate, cozy atmosphere, friendly staff, and meticulously curated craft beer. Rosko's also offers locally crafted wines, canned cocktails, and a soft pretzel that is a perfect match for its beverages. Rosko's is family friendly, and well-behaved dogs are permitted on the outdoor patio.

## AN AUGUST PM EXCHANGE...



Thank you to the Community Arts Center for hosting our PM Exchange on August 31. Everyone attending had an opportunity to see the 30th anniversary video that was produced to recognize the importance of this community asset. We appreciate everyone coming out and celebrating with the CAC on their anniversary and look forward to many more years of local and national performances to take place there.



### 2023 Montoursville Chamber of Commerce Summer Picnic







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## CHAMBER MEMBERS...

New Business? Have you moved to a new location? Coming up on a business anniversary or have something to celebrate?

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# Member Renewals

Received between July 27, 2023 and August 29, 2023

*Thank you to our renewing members!*

We do appreciate your membership and involvement in the Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce!

## First Year Renewal

Axe of Faith  
Bayada Assistive Care State Programs  
Ford Custom Renovation, LLC  
Kollective Wellness  
Rust & Shine  
The Locker Room Bar & Grill

## Members 2-5 Years

Backhouse Cafe' Coffee & Tea  
Billtown Binz  
CubeSmart  
Epic Fitness  
Erb's West End Family Market and Catering  
First Citizens Community Bank  
Graybar  
Lycoming Lawn and Garden LLC  
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Skills of Central PA  
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The Hemlock Uncut - Angela Barletta  
Williamsport Bowman Barber Supply  
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Woodrich - "Trees for Life"

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Jason Eberhart - State Farm Insurance Agent  
Jersey Mike's Subs  
Medico Construction Equipment, Inc.  
National Range & Armory  
Pier 87 Bar & Grill  
SJ Holdings  
Sunrise Real Estate & Management Services  
Susquehanna Greenway Partnership  
The Salvation Army

## Member 11-14 Years

Comfort Inn of Williamsport  
Orchard Pump & Supply Co., Inc.  
Range Resources  
Treasure Castle Playland, LLC

## UPCOMING RIBBON CUTTINGS:

**Ribbon Cutting: Don Macolo's Apparel**  
Saturday, September 9, 2023 | Ribbon Cutting @ 4pm  
1100 Washington Blvd., Williamsport  
Back to School Sales Event 3-7 featuring FREE school supplies, music, 360 photo spin, food & drinks.

**Ribbon Cutting Shali Rose Co. Boutique**  
Saturday, September 23, 2023 | Ribbon Cutting @ 10am  
217 Broad Street, Montoursville (rear)  
Offering unique & affordable women & children's clothing





# THE 34TH ANNUAL CHAMBERLINKS GOLF OUTING

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2023

WHITE DEER GOLF COURSE

REGISTRATION 7:30AM - TEE OFF 8:30AM

RAIN DATE: TBA



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**Business Showcase Sponsor:** Alexander.

**Breakfast/Beverage Sponsor:** Superior Plus.

**Contest Hole Sponsors:** Muncy Bank & Trust, ROCHE, THE HARTEMAN GROUP, M&T Bank.

2023 CHAMBERLINKS GOLF SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES	
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\$1600	<b>DINE AROUND</b> Includes One foursome, premium sign placement and name on all printed material. Contribute towards restaurant gift certificates provided to each golfer in lieu of a large meal at the conclusion of the tournament
\$1000	<b>On Course Business Showcase</b> While the golfers wait their turn on selected holes, showcase your business with hand-outs, games and networking! Includes One foursome.
\$1000	<b>BEVERAGE</b> Includes One foursome, a professional sign and name on all printed material
\$1000	<b>BREAKFAST</b> Includes One foursome, a professional sign and name on all printed material
\$1000	<b>CONTEST HOLE</b> Includes One foursome, a professional sign on a contest hole and name on all printed material Provide a gift from your company for the golfer winning your contest hole
\$750	<b>FLAG</b> Includes One foursome and a flag on a hole with your company name and sponsor year — Yours to keep!
\$250	<b>TEE</b> Includes a professional sign with your company name on the course
\$500	<b>FOURSOME ONLY</b>
\$125	<b>INDIVIDUALS ONLY</b>

## 2023 ChamberLinks Golf Outing Registration

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 \_\_\_\_\_ Flag (\$750) \_\_\_\_\_ Tee (\$250) \_\_\_\_\_ Foursome Only (\$500) \_\_\_\_\_ Individual (\$125)

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Cardholder Name/Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder Email Address: (for copy of receipt) \_\_\_\_\_

**Return to:** Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce, 102 W. Fourth St., Williamsport, PA 17701 Fax: 570-321-1209

**PLEASE NOTE:** No cancellations will be permitted after September 11, 2023



# JULY & AUGUST BREAKFAST MEETINGS

The Chamber held at the end of July and August breakfast meetings with our two congressman serving Lycoming County, Congressman Glenn "GT" Thompson and Congressman Dan Meuser. Each provided our members with great insight to what they are advocating for us in Washington along with answering questions from those who were in attendance.



## A SPECIAL LITTLE LEAGUE® WORLD SERIES TREAT

During this year's Little League World Series, the Chamber and Visitors Bureau were pleased to host Hall of Famers Ryne Sandberg and Alan Trammell. We have below (left) Gabe Sinicropi from the Williamsport Crosscutters interviewing Ryne Sandberg at the Grand Slam Breakfast presented by UPMC Health Plan. In the below (right), Alan Trammell high fives one of the players in the annual whiffle ball game hosted by UPMC.







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.



# SEPTEMBER PM EXCHANGE...

Grampian Hills Apartments  
Thursday, September 21, 2023

5:00 – 7:00 pm

300 Valley Heights Drive, Williamsport

The staff at Grampian Hills Apartments invites you to join your fellow chamber members for an evening of delicious hors d'oeuvres and beverages, breathtaking views, a spectacular community atmosphere, and so much more! Bring your business card for a chance to win a door prize!

## WILLIAMSPORT/LYCOMING CHAMBER OF COMMERCE STAFF MAIN OFFICE - 570.326.1971

President/CEO ..... Jason Fink  
570.320.4213 | jfink@williamsport.org

### STAFF

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Receptionist ..... Becky Steppe  
570.326.1971 | chamber@williamsport.org

## Jersey Shore Area Chamber of Commerce

### Picnic Registration & Sponsorship Opportunity

Enjoy a relaxing evening of food and drinks under the pavilion at the Nippenose Tavern

**Tuesday, September 12, 2023**  
**5:00pm-7:00pm**

Nippenose Tavern  
6391 Route 654 Hwy  
South Williamsport, PA 17702

- A picnic-style buffet
- Complimentary drink ticket valued up to ten dollars
- Cash Bar Available