www.williamsport.org



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

Hilsher Designs Encourages Shopping Local, Supporting Small Businesses

**New Chamber Members!** 

PM Exchanges/ Ribbon Cuttings

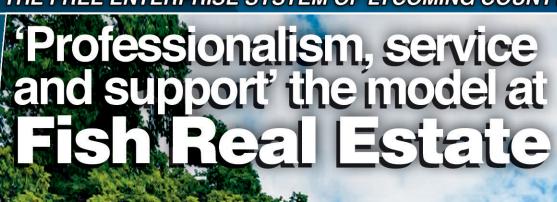
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Williamsport



*HILSHER* 





A COOPERATIVE EFFORT OF THE WILLIAMSPORT/LYCOMING CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND THE WILLIAMSPORT SUN-GAZETTE

#### From Jason Fink's Desk - President/CEO of the Chamber

It was great to have the official news shared last month that Southern Airways will begin service here in May. We're looking forward to seeing this begin as a number of business people have noted the challenges of getting in and out of here since it ended back in 2021. While it's not the full schedule that everyone is looking for or the size of plane that we'd all like to see, at this point it's a start and better than what we currently have, which is no service.

A couple of key points about the service that are new and different since we last had flights from Williamsport. One is that we're flying to Dulles, which should get us out of the weather belt that hits airports over the winter time from Philadelphia up to Boston. It also has a good track record on baggage and general accommodations. Another feature that is unique to Southern is that they fly on behalf of three different carriers. This allows you to ticket on either United, American or Alaskan Airlines. I like this personally since this gives you greater choice in determining which carrier will fit best for your particular destination.

Some good news in January was followed up by more good news in February. Phil didn't see his shadow which means Spring is around the corner. If you haven't been, I highly recommend making the trip over to Punxsutawney at least once in your lifetime. We did it several years ago and the kids still talk about it. Credit to the Governor for being there again this year. He's been to it the past two years he's been in office and appreciate him bringing the cache of the office to the event. Whether or not you agree with his politics, it's good to see the Governor willing to be away from Harrisburg to engage in these types of activities.

His administration has recently released a new strategy for economic development along with a new outdoor recreation report. It's been since the Rendell administration that there's been a plan for economic development. The outdoor recreation report is a work product of the new Office of Outdoor Recreation that was started by the Shapiro Administration.

The economic development strategy is a robust one that addresses many key opportunities to grow business and attract new ones to Pennsylvania. It positions Pennsylvania to convert our innovation assets into high-tech, high-paying opportunities. Based on a recent economic impact analysis, it has been shown that the creation of at least a \$2 billion, ten-year investment program could yield an impact of up to \$40 billion and generate as many as 75,000 jobs within Pennsylvania's advanced industries. The strategy emphasizes four additional high-growth, high-value sectors where Pennsylvania currently holds a competitive advantage and can expect significant potential for growth in the next ten years which includes agriculture, energy, manufacturing and robotics, and technology. Life sciences will continue to play a major role in Pennsylvania's innovation economy as one of the key industries identified in the strategy.

This plan does not take a one-size fits all approach. It reflects that diverse economy found here in the state and builds upon those strengths in each region. We don't have a lot of opportunity associated with the life sciences sector. Those are found more in the southeastern and southwestern parts of the state, in and around Pittsburgh and Philadelphia. However, we do have agriculture, manufacturing and energy sectors that are strong points for the county and region. It's good that we finally have a plan in place. This is only a part of it. A plan is a key starting point. What we will need now is funding to put it into action. If you want to read more on it, go to pagetsitdone.com.

The Growing Outdoor Recreation report is a 32-page document that provides a blueprint for the new state Office of Outdoor Recreation and the expanding outdoor recreation economy. The report, created with the feedback of dozens of stakeholders from outdoor enthusiasts to economic development professionals, focuses on actions to build capacity for outdoor industries, community and economic development projects, and inclusion efforts. I can share that I served on and participated in the Recreation Engagement Coalition that was the body that worked with DCNR in helping to create this document.

In the report, it makes a few strategic recommendations which include:

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Williamsport Sun-Gazette, February 2024

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- Steering funding to the outdoors through policy, planning, and by communicating the economic benefit of the outdoors
- Organizing the outdoor industry through an outdoor business alliance and identifying gaps to support businesses in the industry
- Developing the outdoor workforce by elevating and stabilizing compensation, benefits, working conditions, and the professional status of outdoor workers
- Communicating the value of the outdoors through collaboration with tourism and marketing partners
- Supporting events, programs, and resources to expand diversity, emphasize inclusiveness, and address inequity in access to outdoor spaces and activities

Lycoming County has great outdoor assets from our waterways to our forestlands. Activities in and around these assets support local businesses. There are more opportunities for growing this sector that will not only enhance the economic vitality of our community but also attract those who would want to enjoy living here because of the access to these assets.

Pennsylvania currently has the eighth largest outdoor recreation economy in the country, which creates over 164,000 jobs and adds \$17 billion to the state economy. This report provides a roadmap for the new position of Director of Outdoor Recreation to grow this sector and push us up into the top five outdoor recreation economies in the country. To read more about the report, you can find it here by entering the following, https://elibrary.dcnr.pa.gov/GetDocument? doc/GetDocument?

	namber of Commerce Staff 570-326-1971
President/CEOJason Fink	Accounting Clerk/Executive AssistantCindy Robbins
570-320-4213 - jfink@williamsport.org	570-320-4201 - crobbins@williamsport.org
Vice President & Chief Financial OfficerBo Hornberger	Membership DirectorTaryn Hartle
570-320-4206 - bhornberger@williamsport.org	570-320-4209 - thartle@williamsport.org
VP of Operations, Marketing, CommunicationsMark Stankiewicz	Leadership Lycoming/Special EventsMeghan Quinn
570-320-4202 - mstankiewicz@williamsport.org	570-320-4216 - mquinn@williamsport.org
Tourism & Group Tour DirectorGina Edwards	Front Desk ReceptionistBecky Steppe
570-320-4208 - gedwards@williamsport.org	570-326-1971 - bsteppe@williamsport.org

#### American Legion Post 104 Home Association

Harry Swank - Post Commander 1312 Broad Street Montoursville, PA 17754 (570) 368-9000 www.post104al.org Non-Profit Organization

#### Anjies Cleaning Bees LLC

Anjelica Gonzalez - Owner/Cleaner Williamsport, PA 17701 (272) 230-9475 http://anjiescleaningbees.com Janitorial Services/Supplies/General Cleaning Referred by Chamber Member Denise Hager, First Commonwealth Bank

#### Faxon Lanes

Marianne Koiva - Marketing Manager 1225 River Avenue Williamsport, PA 17701 (570) 323-0273 www.faxonlanes.com Entertainment/Arts/Amusements Recreation/Sports

#### Grab 'N Growl

Jessica Holmes - Owner Muncy, PA 17756 (570) 971-3061 Check us out on Facebook Food Truck Referred by Chamber Member Clarissa Paige, Clarissa Paige OBM Services

> Pied Piper Pest Control, LLC John Burgess - Owner 412 Broad Street Montoursville, PA 17754 (570) 368-3600 www.piedpiperpestcontrol.org Pest Control

#### **Rose Valley Campground**

Keegan Klotz 346 Kibbe Lane Trout Run, PA 17771 www.Rosevalleycampground.com Campgrounds/Cabins

SERVPRO of Williamsport/Montoursville Ben Boyles 2890 Lycoming Mall Drive Muncy, PA 17756 (570) 546-3500 servprowilliamsportmontoursville.com Fire & Water Damage Restoration

Spruced Up Outdoor Living LLC Kyle Kling - Owner South Williamsport, PA 17702 (570) 772-8073 Check us out on Facebook Landscaping Services/Maintenance/ Products Referred by Chamber Member Denise Hager, First Commonwealth Bank

> Summer Clean LLC Dave Matthews - Owner Williamsport, PA 17701 (570) 244-5576 Check us out on Facebook Power Washing

Tammy Rupert - Thrivent 1712 Sand Hill Road Montoursville, PA 17754 (570) 447-1698 https://connect.thrivent.com/tammyrupert Financial Services

#### The Crooked Goose

Tony Ecker - Owner 155 W 4th St Williamsport, PA 17701 (570) 907-1913 https://thecrookedgoose.com Restaurants/Cafes/Taverns

#### The Laundry Room of Williamsport

Lyle Brouse - Owner 1844 Lycoming Creek Road Williamsport, PA 17701 (252) 515-6025 Join us for the Grand Opening & Ribbon Cutting Wednesday, February 14, 2024 @ 1pm Dry Cleaning/Laundry

#### The Purpose Center

Flo Cherenfant & MarQuerita Story -Owners 400 Market Street, Suite 4 Williamsport, PA 17701 (201) 936-0900 Join us for the Grand Opening & Ribbon Cutting Wednesday, March 6, 2024 @ 4pm Leadership Development Counselors

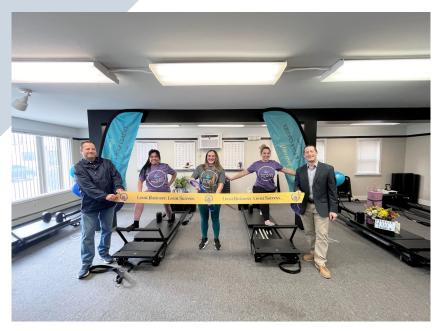
#### Wolfes Commercial Cleaning LLC

Lakesha Weisel - Owner Cogan Station, PA 17728 (570) 360-4414 https://wolfescommercialcl.wixsite. com/wolfescleaning Carpet Cleaning Janitorial Services/Supplies/General Cleaning 3

Williamsport Sun-Gazette, February 2024



## **January Ribbon Cuttings**



A Ribbon Cutting and Open House was held at Revive & Align Pilates on January 13th. Head over to 421 Washington Boulevard in Williamsport to check them out!



Damon & Drew Lomison opened Fair Play Distillers and held a Ribbon Cutting and Grand Opening on January 19th. If you'd like to visit them, they are located at 2314 Lycoming Creek Road in Williamsport.



Home Instead cut the ribbon on their business, located at 1032 Washington Boulevard in Williamsport. We wish them many years of success!



First Citizens Community Bank held a ceremony to mark their new location at 1820 East Third Street in Williamsport.

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#### Leadership Lycoming Holds Education Program Day

The Leadership Lycoming Class of 2024 had their fourth Program Day; Education, beginning at Lycoming College, Krapf Gateway Center. Hosts Lauri Moon, Class of 2004 and Paula Holmes, Class of 2023, welcomed the class and gave a little background of themselves before introducing the first presentation; an overview and history of Lycoming College with Dr. Chip Edmonds, Executive Vice President; Dr. Philip Sprunger, Provost and Dean of the Faculty; and Dr. Susan Ross, Dean of the College. The presentation was followed by a tour of the Krapf Gateway Center and the Trachte Music Center.

The class continued the morning at the Pennsylvania College of Technology for a presentation from Dr. Michael Reed, President, Pennsylvania College of Technology; followed by tours of the Physician Assistant, Machining and Welding lab areas with Liz Biddle, Senior Corporate Relations Director and Erin Shultz, Manager of College Relations. Lunch was prepared and served by the team at Le Jeune Chef.

The afternoon continued with a tour of Williamsport Area High School with Dr. Justin Ross, Associate Principal, Williamsport Area High School, Class of 2017 and Matt Fisher, Career and Technical Education Director.

The agenda wrapped up with a panel discussion/break out session of current topics within the education and academia sector. The panelists were: Dr. Richard Poole, Williamsport Area Assistant Superintendent, WASD, Erica Hoyt, Special Education Supervisor, BLaST IU17, Becky Swinehart, Special Education Supervisor, BLaST IU17, Jesse Smith, Principal, South Williamsport Area High School, Mallory Meyers, School Counselor, Jersey Shore Area High School, Erick Edler, School Counselor, Montoursville Area High School, and Matthew Johnson, Principal, Montoursville Area High School.

Thank you to our Leadership Lycoming Annual Sponsorships, UPMC and North Central Sight Services. Thank you to our Tier 3 sponsors, Lycoming College and Pennsylvania College of Technology, and our 2nd Tier Sponsor, Susan Matteo. Thank you to hosts Lauri Moon and Paula Holmes. Thank you to Laurel Edmonds Cowher, STEP Head Start and Brandy Smith, Montoursville Area School District.



Dr. Chip Edmonds Executive Vice President Lycoming College



Dr. Michael Reed President Pennsylvania College of Technology

## Leadership Lycoming accepting applications for the Class of 2025

Are you interested in Leadership Lycoming? Now is the time to submit your application for the Class of 2025. Graduates are seen throughout the community as participants on boards, committees and task forces. Many find that the information they receive as a Leadership Lycoming participant provides them with the insight to better understand the issues facing out 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.

Applications are available online and can be downloaded at www.leadershiplycoming.org. Applications will be accepted until April 19. If you would like more information, please contact Meghan Quinn, Leadership Lycoming Coordinator, at 570-320-4216 or mquinn@williamsport.org.

We look forward to seeing you in the Leadership Lycoming Class of 2025!

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# FEATURE MEMBER

## 'Professionalism, service and support' the model at Fish Real Estate

#### **By ISABELLA** BRIDY ibridy@sungazette.com

Founded in 1956, Fish Real Estate has been serving buyers, sellers, and vacationers around the world. Fish Real Estate "Is the core of the company that focuses on representing sellers and buyers in the residential market and has in this region for 68 years," according to company President, Brent Fish.

Fish Real Estate describes itself as a "dedicated and professional team [that] continues to meet our customers' expectations by assisting them in finding a property that best suits their wants and needs while continuing to offer many expanded services such as exclusive Commercial Services via Fish Commercial Group and high-level Mortgage services via More Than A Mortgage," on their website.

Over the years, Fish ago. has grown into a massive Companies of the World market." and was named one of PA 100 Organizations.

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SUN-GAZETTE FILE PHOTO Fish Real Estate handled the sale of this French chateau-style home that started out as a Victorian home about three and a half years

company. In 1979, Fish support," Brent said. "But ers, buyers and tenants that Homes and Gardens Real amazing team of full-time ing of industrial, retail, of-Estate network followed trained agents who are fice and commercial land." by a 2010 association with constantly engaged in their the Leading Real Estate business and the real estate cialty group of realtors

Business Central's TOP cessful branches of business division specializes in recis Fish Comercial Group or reational real estate. This companies from Fish, their "We exist and are suc- "FCG." Brent described includes land purchascessful still today based FCG as "our division that ing, waterfront properties, rates and expanded property on our model of profes- consists of commercial-on- cabin-like properties, and options for Fish customers. sionalism, service and ly agents that represent sell- more.

Fish also retains a speto operate Fish Outdoor service and Robin Vacation One of their more suc- Properties or "FOP." This Rentals based out of Ea-

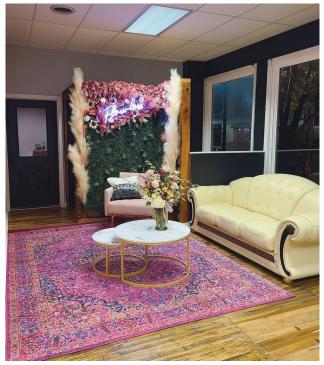
Estate whom they work closely, including the mortgage company behind their "More than a Mortgage" gles Mere. While separate partnership offers excellent For more information on

Brent outlined the com- Fish Real Estate, visit them sport, or go online at www. Real Estate joined Better most importantly [is] our specialize in sales and leas- pany affiliates of Fish Real at 1868 E. 3rd St., William- fishre.com.



# NEW MEMBER Medical spa Lanna Beauty Bar 'restores confidence'





PHOTOS PROVIDED Lanna Beauty Bar, 418 William St., top, offers a variety of services in a comfortable atmosphere, above. benefit of IV hydration ther- reducing inflammation, im-

#### **By ISABELLA BRIDY** ibridy@sungazette.com

cosmetic medical spa Lanna Beauty Bar opened its doors on William St. in Williamsport.

Founded by Annie Hager, a Registered Nurse, and Lauren Velkoff, a Certified the digestive system, Hag-Physician's Assistant, "Lanspa facility. We provide many different services in a relaxed and comfortable lems and difficulty absorbatmosphere. Our services intherapy, vitamin injections their diet alone." This would (shots), permanent makeup include conditions such as for eyebrows, teeth whiten- celiac disease, Crohn's dising, neurotoxin injections, ease, cystic fibrosis, and and dermal fillers."

Available to anybody 18 years or older, Lanna Beauwill provide a medical questionnaire and may or may not require a formal consultation.

and injection services for vi- latory guidelines." tamins and minerals."

explain the benefits of in- ishing electrolytes, vitamins, travenous (IV) hydration minerals, and antioxidants, therapy, "The most abundant improving energy levels,

is that it delivers fluids and ing athletic performance. nutrients directly into the In November of 2023, bloodstream, bypassing the another specialty of Lanna and provide services that digestive system, making the fluid and nutrients (vitamins, minerals, etc.) immediately available to the body two versions of permanent "We both grew up in the to utilize."

> er mentioned that these IV chronic pancreatitis, among others.

"Here at Lanna Beauty Bar is designed for cus- ty Bar, we operate in full tomers to walk out feeling compliance with all state relaxed and rejuvenated. For and federal regulations services, a member of staff and guidelines," Hager explained. "Intravenous hydration therapy is not FDA-approved, only because there is not enough research and "Most services can be evidence of its health benwalk-in," Hager said. "The efits. However, the fluids services that do require a we utilize and the additives consultation are neurotox- we put into the fluids are all in injections, dermal fillers FDA-approved, sterile, and (hyaluronic acid injections), safe for administration. The and permanent makeup... infusions that we offer have Our most popular service is been reviewed by a medical our intravenous hydration director and are within regu-

Possible benefits of IV Annie Hager went on to treatments include replen-

apy and IV vitamin therapy proving skin, and support- all shading/stippling."

Beauty Bar, including the not only increase general trending permanent eye- wellness but also restore brow procedure. They offer confidence," Hager said. brows; "combination brows area and are happy to be in Due to this bypass of include some microblading the location we are to help strokes at the beginning to support the needs of the the middle of the eyebrow." surrounding community." na Beauty Bar is a medical therapy treatments are in- Hager explained, "The eyecredibly beneficial "to those brow is then shaded by a Lanna Beauty Bar's servicwho have digestive prob- stippling effect with a tattoo es, visit them at 418 Wilmachine and a fine needle. liam St., Williamsport, PA ing appropriate amounts Powder brows do not have 17701, or go to lannabeauclude IV vitamin hydration of essential nutrients from any microblading, they are tybar.com.

oort Sun-Gazette, February 202

"Our goals for 2024 are Permanent makeup is to grow in the community

For more information on





www.EGWealth.com 570-601-6960

# SMALL BUSINESS

## Hilsher Designs encourages shopping local, supporting small businesses

#### **By SETH NOLAN** Sun-Gazette Correspondent

When Jayme Sherman's mother, the owner of Hilsher Graphics, passed away in May of 2022, they made the difficult decision to close the doors of the family-business after 50 years.

"I was the sales representative for our company and after closing was announced, several customers expressed their concerns about their future design and printing needs," Sherman, the owner of Hilsher Designs, said. "I valued the connections I made over the years and really didn't want to see our customers stranded."

Sherman was motivated by these conboard.

"From there, it was an easy decision to create Hilsher Designs," Sherman said. "Many customers followed me on my new adventure and several have found their way



family business open, just in a new light."

late summer of 2022, specializes in graphic the Bindery Department," she said. "I went design with a focus on logo creations, print away to college in New York but ended up design, social media graphics, and digital moving back to the area in February 2014 advertising.

"We can coordinate all of your printing got you covered from start to finish."

back. I'm very lucky to keep part of the Hilsher graphics beginning in middle school in the shop during her summers off. Hilsher Designs, officially formed in the "It was mainly in the mornings, working in and started working at the shop."

Since being in business, Sherman has versations to create her own graphic de- needs as well," Sherman said. "A printer enjoyed re-connecting with customers and sign company. Both graphic artists were on will be selected based upon the best price meeting new ones. "It's been fun networkand project timeline. From the initial quote, ing and getting our name out in the comto sending print-ready files and handling munity to let others know of our services postage, shipping and delivery ... we've and how we can help their business," she said. "Most importantly, working alongside Sherman worked with her family at my graphic artist, Lori Wagner, has been

the best part of all. I couldn't do it without her. She is an amazing artist and has been working in the industry for over 20 years."

When Sherman originally began Hilsher Designs, she didn't offer printing services, but given her background in the printing business, she realized it was something she should start offering to customers. "And I am so glad I did," Sherman said. "I'm able to support local printers and be able to play my part in keeping the print industry alive."

Looking ahead to the next year, Sherman said she would like to grow the business and eventually bring on a new full-time employee.

"One of my business goals is to remind people to keep your graphic design and printing needs local as much as possible," Sherman said. "Always shop local and support small businesses. Don't always go to major websites that pop-up first on your Internet search. Take a little more time to look into local and surrounding businesses for your needs. This mentality helps businesses in small communities thrive."

# **MORE SIGHTS! MORE SOUNDS! MORE COVERAGE!**

Scan the QR code to visit the Sun-Gazette YouTube channel.



# **AMSPORT SUN-GA**

Williamsport Sun-Gazette, February 2024

# Chris Masse · Jon Gerardi · Henry Huber

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Williamsport Sun-Gazetta February 2024

E CHAMBER connection

#### Member Renewals (Continued on next page) December 23 through January 31 Thank you....you are appreciated!

**First Year Renewal** First Heritage Federal Credit Union Park Place, LLC Pro Supply

Member 2 - 5 Years Clarissa Paige OBM Services Cole's Hardware Elysian Fields Equestrian Center Gunzey's Hot Sausage Hull's Landing Restaurant Jersey Shore Area Joint Water Authority Montoursville Rotary Club 5314 Northeast Oil & Gas

#### Member 6 - 10 Years

A1 Stop/Beer Here Advanced Drainage Systems, Inc. Andrée P. Phillips DPH Discount Pins, Inc. Goodwill Industries of North Central PA It's My Party Store, Inc. KGD Wealth Management Le Chocolat Lycoming Arts Lycoming County Republican Committee Postage Pros Plus Scissor's Edge St. John Neumann Regional Academy SWC Realty The Carwash at Faxon The Graphic Hive **TLC Fitness** Williams Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company LLC

#### Member 11 - 15 Years

AC Cruz State Farm Agency Appellation Construction Services, LLC Fishlips, LLC Halliburton Hamilton Patriot LLC Montoursville Veterinary Hospital Providence Engineering Corporation Quandel Construction Group, Inc. SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority Sordoni Construction Services, Inc. Susquehanna Wire Rope & Rigging, Inc. The Liberty Group Zartman Construction, Inc.

Member 16 - 20 Years **BLaST Intermediate Unit 17** Bostley's Preschool Learning Center Inc. C&N Bank C.H. Waltz Sons, Inc. Callahan's Antiquities Chesapeake Energy Choice Carpet Cleaners, Inc. **Comfort Keepers** Corter's Flooring America **Diakon Family Life Services** Discovery Machine, Inc. Economy Locker LLC/Country Store **Brand Meats** Glass & Burns Inc. DBA Catherine Burns Insurance Services Gregory Welteroth Advertising Gustonian Gifts Ichiban - Japanese Cuisine Intrada Technologies JPW Industrial Ovens & Furnaces **Keystone Leather** Loyalsock Township School District Malee Law Firm, P.C. Markle's Plumbing & Heating Marshall, Parker & Weber **MAS** Printing Mel's Deli & Cafe Millbrook Playhouse, Inc. **Murray Motors** Pajama Factory **Premier Realtors** Raup & Sholder, P.C. Richard R. Motter Agency Schrader Architectural Products/Overhead Door Co. of Lycoming County SEDA-Council of Governments Spherion State Farm Insurance - Tony Dgien Agent Steinbacher, Goodall & Yurchak Susquehanna Marble and Granite, LLC Tasseron Sensors, Inc. The Comprehensive Financial Group The Flatiron Salon The WorkCenter **Tiadaghton Inn** TURA Inc. Valley Forge Pension Management, Inc. Webb Weekly Williamsport Electric, Inc. Wm L. Robinson Concrete Contractors, Inc.

Member 21 - 25 Years Albright LIFE Boy Scouts of America-Susquehanna Council Buttorff's Hardware, Inc. Central Pennsylvania Food Bank -Williamsport Branch Data Papers, Inc. Elery Nau Hardware First National Bank **Fisher Mining Company** Henry Dunn, Inc. HRI, Inc. Information Technology Services, Inc. Jiffy Lube Johnson's Cafe **Kevstone Advertising Specialties** Kriger Fence Co., Inc. Loyalsock Animal Hospital Lycoming County Water & Sewer Authority Montoursville Borough Moore Power Sales Vision Morgan Stanley Mr. Sticky's, Inc. Nittany Mountain KOA Campground PALCO Federal Credit Union Penn State Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Quality Air Mechanical, Inc. Teamwork Graphics, Inc. Warrior Run Development Corporation Williamsport Crosscutters

Member 26 - 30 Years Backyard Broadcasting of Pennsylvania Bullfrog Brewery **Cruise Planners** DuBoistown Borough East Lycoming School District Fulton Bank Glenn O. Hawbaker, Inc. Hurwitz Batteries, LLC Impact Advertising Janney Montgomery Scott, LLC Lyco Lube Xxpress Inc. Lycoming Career & Technology Center Lycoming Housing Authority Lycoming Physical Therapy, Ltd. Lycoming Valley Railroad Company Montgomery Borough Muncy School District Orelli Supply, Inc. Pennram Diversified Mfg. Corp. Port Elevator Company, Inc. Refrigeration Service Co./The Wholesale Chef South Williamsport Area School District TurnKey Construction, Inc. Wayne Township Landfill WBRE-TV Williamsport Mirror and Glass Company Williamsport Regional Airport Williamsport Scottish Rite World Travel International, Inc.

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Member 31 - 35 Years **Bayard Printing Group Bearing & Drive Solutions CSR Enterprise Networks** Durdach Bros., Inc. First Community Foundation Partnership of Pennsylvania Fred Hamm, Inc. Innovative Manufacturers' Center (IMC), Inc. Interior Construction Specialists, Inc. Larson, Kellett & Associates, P.C. Lundy Warehousing, Inc. Old Corner Hotel Roche Financial, Inc. The Hite Company Tory Leather Transitional Living Centers, Inc. Tulpehocken Spring Water Wascher Chiropractic Center Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC Woodlands Bank

#### Member 36 - 40 Years

All Round Tire Company Allison Crane & Rigging American Rescue Workers Anthony H. Visco, Jr. Architects Aquarius Pool & Patio, LLC Baker Tilly Beiter's, Inc. Charlotte Pipe and Foundry Clyde Peeling's Reptiland **Crockett Financial Services** Dixon A. C. & R. Corporation E. R. Kinley & Sons Jewelers East End Lumber Company EconoLodge Williamsport Fairfield Manufacturing Company, Inc. Faxon Cleaners, Inc. Forsburg Furnace & Air Conditioning Company, Inc. JanWay Company Jersey Shore Area School District Jersey Shore Borough Lycoming County Commissioners McNerney, Page, Vanderlin & Hall Moff & Associates Montoursville Area School District **Nevills Flowers** Oregon Hill Wine Company, Inc. River Valley Regional YMCA **River Valley Transit Authority** Roan Inc. Roan's Transfer & Storage, Inc. Robert H. Fredrickson, D.D.S., M.A.G.D. STEP, Inc. Susquehanna Trailways The Blessing Insurance Agency, Inc. Tony's Delicatessen West Branch Drug & Alcohol Abuse Commission White Deer Golf Course Williamsport Municipal Water Authority -Williamsport Sanitary Authority Williamsport Symphony Orchestra YWCA Northcentral PA

#### Member 41-50 Years

A M Metal Specialties AAA North Penn D & M Tool & Machine Company, Inc. Glamorise Foundations, Inc. Huffman's Office Equipment Co., Inc. J. B. Gibbons Construction, LLC Jersey Shore State Bank Jersey Shore Steel Company Klein & Rizzo, Inc. Koppers Inc. Labels by Pulizzi, Inc. Lycoming County United Way, Inc. McDonald's Restaurants Miele Amusements, Inc. Nesco Resource Pennsylvania College of Technology Ralph S. Alberts Co., Inc. Williamsport Parking Authority Young Industries Inc.

#### Member 51-60 Years

Frito-Lay, Inc. **KBF** Print Technology Logue Industries, Inc. M&T Bank PMF Industries, Inc. Savoy Contract Furniture Stellant Systems, Inc. Williamsport Area School District

#### Member 61-70 Years

Fink's Paint Store, Inc. Fish Real Estate Knight-Confer Funeral Home, Inc. Lamar Advertising Lewis Lumber Products, Inc. Robert M. Sides Family Music Centers Staiman Recycling Corporation Sun-Gazette Company The Meadows, A Park Home Personal Care Community UPMC Wolyniec Construction, Inc.

> Member 91 Years Pepsi Bottling Group, Inc.

Member 102 Years Lundy Construction Company

> Member 116 Years Lycoming Engines

Member 123 Years Marco Technologies

Member 124 Years Plankenhorn Stationery Co.



#### **Chamber Member Discount**

Working to meet the needs of our members



#### **Office Supplies & Office Furniture**

- ♦ 35% off all NEW Office Furniture ordered direct from the Hon factory.
- · Huffman's offers monthly website sales with up to 70% off select everyday items.
- · Our website, www.huffmans.com makes it convenient & easy to order with free shipping on all purchases.

For more information please contact:

**Huffman's Office Equipment** 5318 Lycoming Mall Drive Montoursville, PA 17754 (800) 326-9322

mber of Commerce ~102 West Fourth Street ~ Williamsport, PA 17701 (570) 326-1971 ~ www.williamsport.org

THANK ... YOU

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#### Upcoming Member Events

#### **Ribbon Cutting: The Laundry Room of Williamsport**

Wednesday, February 14, 2024 | Ribbon Cutting @ 1pm 1844 Lycoming Creek Road, Williamsport

#### Jersey Shore Chamber of Commerce Winter Mixer

Thursday, February 15, 2024 | 5-7pm Tiadaghton Inn 1120 Allegheny Street, Jersey Shore

#### PA Wilds 2024 Big Idea Contest Information & Q&A Session/PM Exchange

Thursday, February 22, 2024 | Info Session 4-5pm, PM Exchange 5-7pm Bald Birds Brewing Company 220 Shaffer Lane, Jersey Shore

Join the Chamber, PA Wilds, Ben Franklin Technology and other partners as they host an outreach event for their Big Idea contest, followed by a PM Exchange.

#### Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting & Awards Banquet

Monday, February 26, 2024 | Registration @ 11:30am | Event 12-1:30pm Holiday Inn Downtown Williamsport Join us as we review 2023 and look ahead to a great 2024 in Lycoming County!

#### **Ribbon Cutting: Live Well Adjusted**

Ribbon Cutting & Open House Tuesday, February 27, 2024 | 5:00 PM Open House 4:00 – 6:00 PM 329 Pine Street, Suite 305, Williamsport

#### **Ribbon Cutting: The Purpose Center**

Wednesday, March 6, 2024 | 4:00 PM 400 Market Street, Suite 4, Williamsport

## <u>Coming soon....</u>

The 2024 Lycoming County Visitors Guide will be arriving soon! 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 2024 Lycoming County Visitors Guides along with other regional and local brochures on a regular basis. The guides are delivered to hundreds of locations all over Lycoming County and neighboring counties. 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.

## Taking Lycoming County to Canada

Gina Edwards, of the Lycoming County Visitors Bureau recently represented Lycoming County at the Ontario Motorcoach Association (OMCA) Marketplace. The OMCA Marketplace was held December 11-13, 2023 in Toronto, Ontario. OMCA Marketplace is attended by over 900 members including, Convention and Visitors Bureaus, hotels, attractions and motorcoach/bus companies. The purpose of the Marketplace is to promote destinations and itineraries to motorcoach companies as well as offer members education seminars about the group tour and travel industry. Gina had many successful appointments with Canadian motorcoach companies and hopes to expand the group travel business within the coming year. For more information on the Ontario Motorcoach Association Marketplace, please feel free to contact Gina Edwards at 570.320.4208 or gedwards@willliamsport.org.

# YOUR GUIDE TO LYCOMING COUNTY, PA



ATTRACTIONS - OUTDOORS HOTELS - CAMPING - EVENTS WINERIES - BREWERIES DISTILLERIES - SHOPPING DINING - MEETINGS WEDDING/EVENT VENUES

VisitLycomingCounty.com

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## **Montoursville Chamber of Commerce Winter Mixer**

Chamber members enjoyed an evening of delicious food, drinks and live music at the Montoursville Chamber of Commerce's Annual Winter Mixer. Montoursville's newest event venue, Twin Meadows Farm, hosted the evening. Country music artist, Logan Route, entertained the crowd with songs from the 90s and 2000s. Pour Decisions Distillery served up handcrafted cocktails alongside Rosko's Brew House serving their craft brews. Thank you to our many sponsors for helping to make this event a success.





Montoursville Chamber of Commerce







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#### Center for Rural Pennsylvania Hosts Roundtable Discussion on Rural CDFI Funding

WILLIAMSPORT – The Center for Rural Pennsylvania Board of Directors recently hosted a roundtable discussion at the Pennsylvania College of Technology in Williamsport on increasing Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) funding in rural areas. The Center for Rural Pennsylvania has examined data from the CDFI Fund to evaluate the degree to which rural Pennsylvanians are benefiting from these valuable services, particularly business loans.

"CDFIs provide a valuable service in supporting economic growth and stability in communities across the United States," said Senator Gene Yaw, Center for Rural Pennsylvania Board of Directors Chairman. "The Center's research findings suggest business CDFI loans are much more common in urban counties than rural counties in Pennsylvania."

According to the CDFI Fund, a program of the U.S. Department of the Treasury, CDFIs are certified financing entities "offering affordable financial products and services that meet the unique needs of economically underserved communities." They provide low-interest business loans for first-time home buyers, for small business creation and support, and to help consumers rebuild their credit scores.

"The report by the Center for Rural Pennsylvania on CDFI's here in the Commonwealth was very helpful as a rural county," said Jason Fink, President/CEO of the Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce. "CDFI's can play a helpful role in advancing small business development as demonstrated in areas where they have been active. Unfortunately, they aren't involved in many rural counties in Pennsylvania as evidenced by the report. We are looking forward to utilizing this report to advance discussions on how this key economic development tool can be made available to all counties in Pennsylvania, including those here in the rural sector."

"We are grateful to the Center for Rural PA for conducting this research," said Abbi Peters, COO of the PA Wilds Center and Co-Founder of the Wilds Cooperative of PA. "Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) play a significant role in providing loans and building credit in underserved areas. The findings reveal that CDFI lending and services are insufficient in rural communities throughout the Commonwealth, including the PA Wilds. The findings of this study may also serve as a reference point for policymakers, industry players, and other stakeholders concerned with enhancing financial inclusion in rural communities."

The analysis examined three federal fiscal years: FY 2018, FY 2019, and FY 2021. The year 2020 was analyzed separately due to the impact of federal and state spending in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Center also evaluated loans that crossed county or state lines in a separate analysis.

Research shows 19 rural counties, over one-third of all rural counties, did not receive a business CDFI loan in FY 2018, FY 2019, or FY 2021. While significantly fewer loans were provided to rural businesses, loans issued to rural businesses were of a higher value than those received by urban businesses. Compared to other states, Pennsylvania businesses received fewer CDFI loans, overall. Across the United States, rural businesses received 27 percent of the CDFI loans and urban businesses received 73 percent. However, the loan values were more evenly distributed. Forty-five percent of the loan value (\$15.1 billion) went to rural businesses and 55 percent (\$18.3 billion) went to urban businesses.

"The research findings indicate that there are fewer CDFI business loans in rural communities than what population, economic output, or poverty indicators would predict," said Dr. Kyle Kopko, Center for Rural Pennsylvania Executive Director. "These findings present an opportunity to discuss how policymakers can support CDFI activity throughout the Commonwealth and increase access to capital in rural Pennsylvania."







FEBRUARY 29, 2024 5-7PM

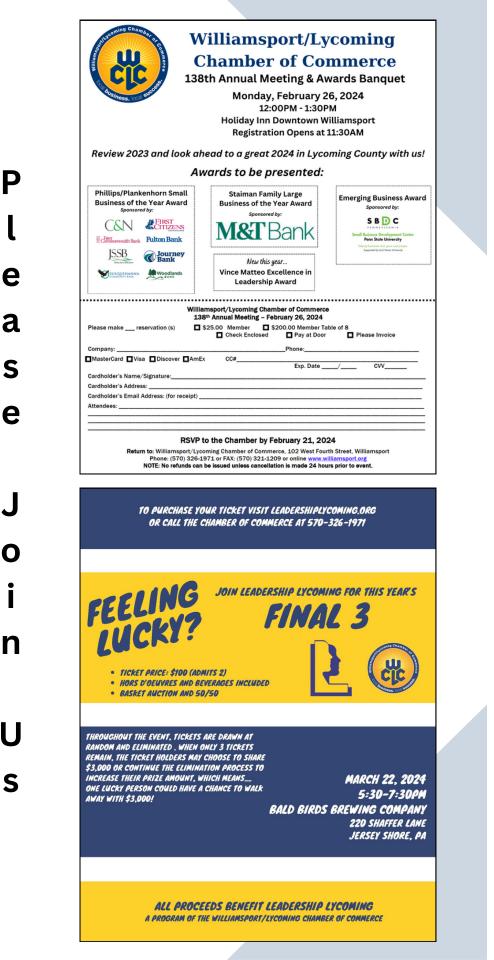
WILLIAMSPORT COUNTRY CLUB

TOPICS: What is artificial intelligence? AI, business, and leadership



PRESENTER: JEFFREY J. BROWN Vice president for information Technology/Chief information officer Pennsylvania college of technology

REGISTRATION IS FREE TO ALUMNI Please click here or reach out to meghan quinn at Mquinn@Williamsport.org to register



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Williamsport Sun-Gazette, February 2024