



# Chamber Connection

August 2026  
[www.williamsport.org](http://www.williamsport.org)

Find us on:



## Simply True North Cafe N Gifts



## Mel's Deli & Cafe



## Squarewood Acres Campground



**Welcome New  
Chamber Members!**

**Upcoming PM  
Exchanges**

**Leadership Lycoming**

**Upcoming Ribbon  
Cuttings**

**Member Renewals**

**From Jason Fink's Desk - President/CEO of the Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce**

Transportation has been in the forefront as I start writing my column for this month. Was primarily going to focus on the official designation of US 15 now being I-99. However, that changed with the news that Southern Airways was pulling out of the Williamsport market. Air service is important to many of our businesses in the region and it's something that will definitely impact those that were utilizing Southern's service.

On July 30, there was a dedication held to formally recognize US 15 becoming I-99. It was something that I actually did look forward to attending as there's some personal side to the highway for me. My dad worked highway construction running dozers and other equipment and he worked on a couple of sections of the highway between Trout Run and Steam Valley when they were making the upgrades for the I-99 designation. Realize there's a lot of people reading this that would rather watch paint dry which typically I'm that way as well.

We've all been waiting for the designation to occur since the "Future I-99 Corridor" signs went up several years ago. It made this seem a little less impactful which I get but also understand the importance of what this means to our area.

The work we do in trying to bring industry to the area is a key reason for its importance. Highway accessibility is traditionally at the top of the short list for site selection criteria. Looking into the stats, over 97 percent of respondents to an industry study of corporate site selectors considered highway accessibility to be very important or important. Companies are not only targeting locations that are in close proximity to prime transportation arteries, but they also are making sure they have easy access both on and off of those major interstates and highways.

Highway accessibility has increased in importance as supply-chain management has become more sophisticated. In order to effectively compete, distribution companies have had to become skilled at reducing product transit times. In particular, companies are paying close attention to both the last and the first mile, as the sources of delays tend to be at the very start and finish of a truck's trip.

Looking further into it, highway access is critical for Mid-Atlantic industrial users since trucks are the primary mode for transporting goods in the region. Highway access factored heavily in the decisions by many companies selecting Pennsylvania for their expansion. We're hearing that from companies that have chosen us here. Working with Digger Specialties, he wanted to be in close proximity to Interstate highways because of needing to get product to key locations in the North and South East and New England areas. Sharing with him not only the access to I-80 but also at the time of our discussions, future I-99, were key selling factors in bringing them to the market.

So while I get that it wasn't the most exciting news since we all expected it, it was all still an important occasion to mark. I will say that it was good to hear how PennDOT Secretary Mike Carroll spoke so positively about our two counties, Lycoming and Tioga. He noted how we "punch up" as we're always there advocating to the state for support of programming to better our communities. Speaking to him afterwards, he said he truly believes that, as he regularly hears from officials from our counties and knows that it's being done elsewhere in Harrisburg.

**(Cont. on next page)**



**WILLIAMSPORT**  
LYCOMING COUNTY, PA

**LOCAL BUSINESS. LOCAL SUCCESS.**

## *From Jason Fink's Desk - President/CEO of the Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce*

For the other transportation news that dropped over the weekend, that obviously is not one that we were happy to hear about for our market. Air service nationwide continues to be a challenge and there is no quick simple solution to it. Having been involved with previous efforts to bring airlines to the community, I know that there are people at the airport and on the airport authority board that want to get air service back to the level we had prior to the pandemic. The problem is the airline industry has changed significantly since 2000 and became even more complex in the past several years.

The US airline industry had 76 air carriers. That number today is down to 56, with 37 of them being medium and small carriers. Since 2000, major carriers including TWA, American West, Northwest, Continental, AirTran, US Airways (remember them), Virgin and Hawaiian have all been acquired. This consolidation has led to reduced airports being served, especially those of our size and scale. Those that think that we're the only small community airport being impacted by this only needs to go online to educate themselves about the challenges their facing.

Looking at the stats and seeing the various leakage studies done on our market, it would suggest that we are prime for a carrier for a 70-seat jet to a major hub like Charlotte or Chicago. The difficulty from where I sit is that unlike some other small community airports that are further separated from other airports, Williamsport is not. We sit less than 60 minutes from State College, less than 1 ½ hours from Elmira and 1 ½ hours from Harrisburg and Wilkes-Barre/Scranton. Those who fly from our market have demonstrated to the airlines that they're willing to drive to those airports to save \$25 -\$100 when we did have service to Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Charlotte. When an airline sees that they can still pick up your business without having to fly to your market, it makes it that much easier to end the service.

Now what we're dealing with Southern leaving the market is not the case. The airport authority rightfully engaged with Southern with the primary focus in trying to maintain service which kept the TSA agents at the airport. This bought time to continue their work in trying to bring a larger carrier similar to what we had with Piedmont when they flew for American. The need to engage with any carrier like the one with Southern was precipitated with the understanding that without air service, the TSA agents will eventually be permanently pulled. Once that happens, it's a greater challenge to secure service.

So with all of this, what's the answer? That's something that I struggle to land on given all that's in play. The airport authority has done what it could to maintain the possibility of securing another carrier to the market. Will the market change to afford us the opportunity to get one in the near future? That's the question and challenge that is being faced now. It's a critical time for those in the air service market here in the community and one that fortunately is in the hands of people understanding of the factors in play that are being faced. One thing that I can say is that we have good committed people on the airport authority who are up to the challenge in making the right decision, whatever that may be.



**WILLIAMSPORT**  
LYCOMING COUNTY, PA

**LOCAL BUSINESS. LOCAL SUCCESS.**

# Member Renewals

## First-Year Renewals

Brows and Beauti by KC  
 Eddie Wehler and Son  
 Elevated Nutrition Club, LLC  
 Liohi Natural Health and Beauty  
 Merchant Payments Group  
 Otto Bookstore  
 Our Generations Quilt Shop  
 Rockefeller Doodles  
 Tactical Strike Arena (Now Mobile)  
 The Tobacco Center  
 Z&L Hair/Ziggy & Aaron's Water Ice

## Members 2-5 Years

BNI - Williamsport  
 Eat & Run Catering & Restaurant  
 Famvest Partners, LLC  
 Jasper Steel Works LLC  
 John Ryan Brewery  
 Lycoming Bakery  
 PDC Spas  
 Positive Medium  
 St. Nell's Humor Writing Residency  
 Steel Nation  
 Superior Plus Propane  
 The Animal Hospital on the Golden Strip  
 WNEP-TV  
 ZenBusiness

## Members 6-10 Years

ClearView Asset Protection LLC  
 Covation Center  
 Dolly's Diner  
 First Choice Business Solutions  
 Heritage Springs Memory Care Inc.

**Thank you to all of our Chamber members  
 that renewed their membership between  
 June 26 through July 29**

## Members 6-10 Years (Continued)

Lycoming-Clinton Joinder Board Programs  
 Masters Excavating LLC  
 Pennsylvania General Energy  
 Perfect-2-Perfect  
 Ronald McDonald House of Danville, Inc.  
 Woodrich - "Trees for Life"

## Members 11-20 Years

Comfort Inn of Williamsport  
 Eric Stashak Commercial Photography and Video Production  
 Fischer Insurance Agency  
 Santino's Italian Cuisine  
 TriArch Industrial Group  
 Water Tower Square, LLC

## Members 24 Years

Susquehanna Computer Innovations, Inc.

## Members 70 Years

ANDRITZ Inc.  
 UGI Utilities, Inc. - Energy to do more

Continue to Next Page





# Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce

102 W 4th St, Williamsport, PA 17701  
Main Office - 570-326-1971

**President/CEO**..... Jason Fink  
570-320-4213 - jfink@williamsport.org  
**Vice President & Chief Financial Officer**..... Bo Hornberger  
570-320-4206 - bhornberger@williamsport.org  
**Tourism & Group Tour Director**..... Gina Edwards  
570-320-4208 - gedwards@williamsport.org  
**Accounting Clerk/Executive Assistant**..... Cindy Robbins  
570-320-4201 - crobbs@williamsport.org  
**Membership Director**..... Taryn Hartle  
570-320-4209 - thartle@williamsport.org  
**Director of Special Events & Leadership Lycoming**..... Sydney Sellers  
570-320-4216 - ssellers@williamsport.org  
**Director of Marketing and Communications**..... Jarett Dorman  
570-320-4202 - jdorman@williamsport.org  
**Administrative Assistant**..... Trisha Dauenbaugh  
570-320-4200 - tdauenbaugh@williamsport.org



Join us for upcoming  
Ribbon Cuttings

## WeCare at Sycamore Ribbon Cutting

Thursday, August 13, 2026  
1445 Sycamore Road, Montoursville  
**Ribbon Cutting at Noon**

## PA CareerLink® Lycoming County Ribbon Cutting

Thursday, September 3, 2026  
330 Pine Street, Suite 301, Williamsport  
**Ribbon Cutting at 11AM**



THE JERSEY SHORE AREA CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE

## PICNIC AT PINE CREEK SEED FARM



THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS  
FOR A RELAXING & FUN EVENING



**Geisinger**



**Northwest Bank**



## DINING & PARTY SUPPLIES



## PICNIC AT TWIN MEADOWS FARM MONTOURSVILLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Thursday, September 3, 2026  
5:00 - 7:00 pm  
361 Mountain Road  
Montoursville, PA 17754



Kick off your Labor Day weekend with fellow Chamber members  
and enjoy live music at Twin Meadows Farm! 🎵

Registration: \$20 per person

Includes: Buffet of picnic favorites and a complimentary drink ticket

- Izzy Butters Performing Live!
- Enjoy a game of Cornhole • Cash Bar



Sponsorship opportunities are now available!

**Geisinger**



**FIRST Commonwealth Bank**



**IZZY BUTTERS LIVE!**



<https://business.williamsport.org/events>

# PA Beef Trail has suggestions on tasty dishes

By **MATTHEW COURTER**  
mcourter@sungazette.com

Founded in 1985, the Pennsylvania Beef Council is a non-profit organization working on behalf of beef farmers and ranchers to promote and educate consumers on the state's beef infrastructure.

The organization does so through a number of programs and initiatives, according to Kylie Lusk, director of consumer affairs.

Lusk was born and raised on her family's dairy farm in southwestern Pennsylvania, and went on to attend Penn State for animal science and agribusiness.

"This is something that I've always been passionate about: connecting producers with consumers and telling that agriculture story," she said.

Telling that story was part of the inspiration for the organization's newest initiative, the PA Beef Trail.

Modeled after the Wisconsin Beef Council's prime rib trail, the initiative seeks to link consumers up with the best beef-based dishes from across the state.

"The beef trail is where consumers are able to nominate their favorite beef dishes from restaurants all across Pennsylvania, so it was all consumer driven, to highlight special beef dishes from their favorite spots or maybe some new spots in Pa.," Lusk explained.

Once nominated, the organization verified that the business had a physical location, and they were added to the map available at the council's website.

"We wanted to be as inclusive as possible and share all of the great ways that people are enjoying beef around the state," Lusk said, adding that any dish that features beef as its main protein is welcome.

Lusk said the trail gives consumers the chance to step outside of their comfort zone.

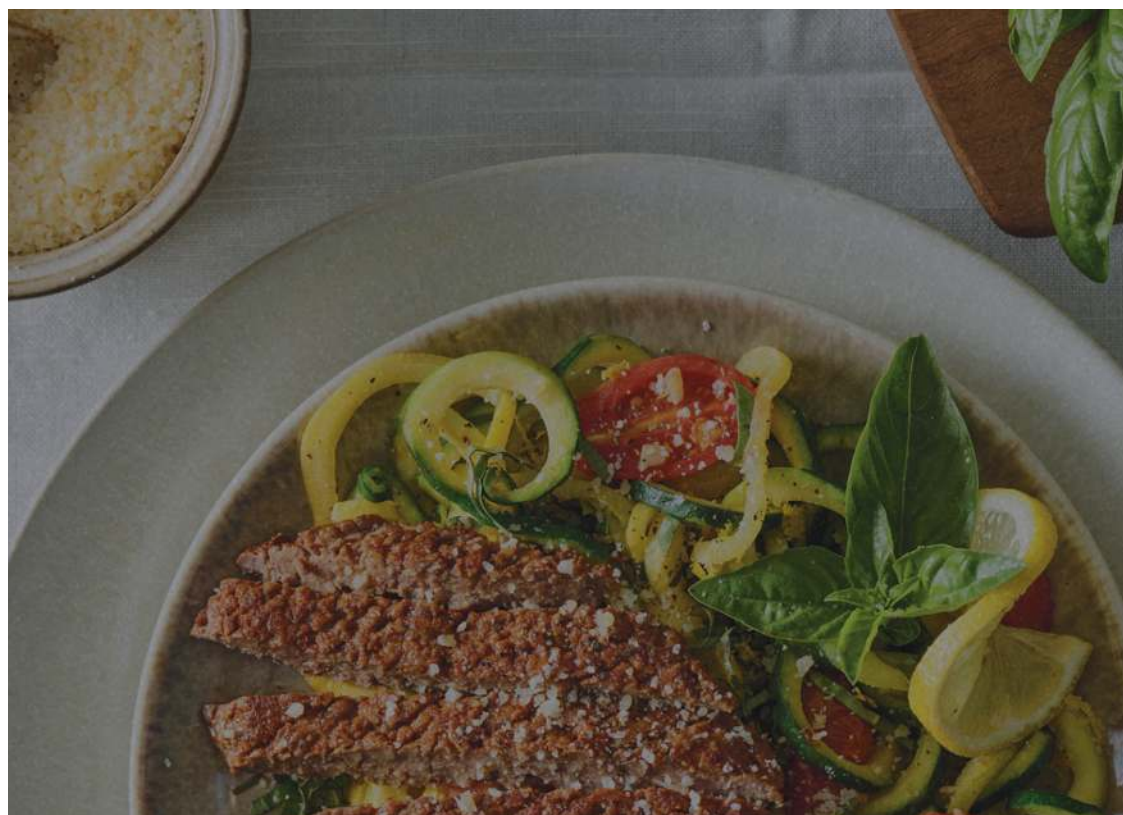


PHOTO PROVIDED

An image from the initiative's website.

"It's always easy just to fall back on something that's familiar, and I think half the problem is when people are looking for a place to eat, maybe they just don't know what's out there," she said, calling the initiative "an all-encompassing resource for anyone from around the state."

"It was a lot of fun getting to connect with consumers all across the state," Lusk said, noting that the organization received a total of 73 submissions.

"These range from a burger from down the street to some higher end delicacies. There's a lot of really good looking steaks, a lot of ribeyes on the trail. There's even a couple tomahawks from some different spots," she said.

With attendees of the Little League World Series soon to flock to the area, the trail features a "Williamsport Hyper Local Trail."

"The National Beef Cattle-

men's Association are a partner of the Little League World Series, and since that is hosted in our backyard, the Pennsylvania Beef Council helps to amplify some of their efforts, one of those being this hyper local Little League World Series/Williamsport Beef Trail.

In designing the local trail, the organization worked with the Lycoming County/Williamsport Chamber of Commerce to reach out to area restaurants in search of interested participants.

The local trail will not only be available through the council's website, but also as part of the official Little League World Series app.

"So many people are coming in, and there's such great local restaurants around that area. We're really excited to be able to highlight those," Lusk said.

"We'll also be on site at Little League. They do a player meal every year, so we're able to be a

part of that, which is really cool to get to connect with a lot of the players and bring some beef to them that day," she said.

Window clings and signage will help consumers to identify restaurants that are part of the beef trail or the more hyper local Little League World Series Trail.

Lusk said that there was a lot of excitement around the inaugural year of the initiative.

"They were really honored to be chosen because it is their customers who are nominating them to be a part of this," she said.

"We're really proud of how everything has turned out for this first year, and this is something that we would like to be an annual thing," Lusk said, with nominations for the 2027 trail expected to run from January to mid-April.

"Next year's trail will launch again on May 1, since May is National Beef Month, so we

like to highlight it and kick off the start of Beef Month with a bang," she said.

"It's also important to note that we're not going to have any revolving nominees or participants, so each year, if you're featured on the trail, you'll have to be renominated" Lusk added.

Along with the Beef Trail, the council also focuses on other initiatives including their PA Beef to PA Schools program.

"This is a statewide initiative that started a few years ago, and it's a 50-50 cost share program where we're getting local beef into local schools," Lusk explained.

The Beef Council works with local farmers to pair them with nearby school districts.

"It's really nice and neat that we're able to get local beef into schools and the students and the school just love it. They are so excited when they have fresh beef in the cafeteria," Lusk said.

Another program the council runs is their Beefing Up Backpacks initiative, in which they donate beef sticks to local backpack programs.

"Most of the backpack programs throughout Pennsylvania are really lacking in animal proteins, especially health stable ones, so we kicked off this initiative a few years ago to produce a beef stick that could be in these backpacks, and we've been working with schools and food banks all across the state," Lusk explained.

With a lifelong passion for agriculture, Lusk said she couldn't be happier working with the organization.

"We're a small but mighty team, so we're going to take every opportunity we have to build that awareness of what we're doing and how we're trying to help farmers, help consumers and just bring these stories to life," she said.

For more information on the PA Beef Council or Trail, please visit [www.pabeef.org/pa-beef-trail](http://www.pabeef.org/pa-beef-trail).

# Mel's Deli & Cafe offers 'Pennsylvania cooking'

By **MATTHEW COURTER**

mcourter@sungazette.com

Mel's Deli & Cafe has been a mainstay of the area for over two decades, and recently celebrated its 25th anniversary.

Originally opened at 45 W. Fourth Street in downtown Williamsport, Mel's quickly outgrew that location, necessitating a move to Pine Street.

"We loved all of our people. Everybody working in the courthouse, the law offices, the judges and the banks and all the people that worked downtown, that was our clientele," owner and operator Melony "Mel" Hartranft said.

Unfortunately, they were unable to remain in that space after their lease was pulled out from under them.

However, Hartranft would take the opportunity to raise her children as well as continue to build the catering side of the business while staying in touch with many of her customers, faxing them a menu, and making deliveries every Friday.

"We did great, but I missed the everyday people coming in and out, so I said to my husband, I really want to have a storefront," she explained.

That itch would lead Hartranft to set up shop in their current location, 365 Broad St, Montoursville, 11 years ago, only a few blocks from where she grew up and just around the corner from where daughter, Aubri Pyles attended daycare.

Today, Pyles works alongside her mother at the cafe and acts as venue coordinator at their catering venture, Twin Meadows Farm.

"We gutted this place, and when we got it in, uncovered old tin ceilings that were originally in here, but had been covered by a drop ceiling," Hartranft said.

"We put new drywall and everything in here, so the tin ceil-



**Mel's Deli and Cafe is located at 365 Broad St., Montoursville.**

PHOTO PROVIDED

ings and the hardwood flooring are the only things original here, and I love how it turned out," she said.

The new location also came with a built-in Williamsport clientele that eagerly embraced the new location, as Mel's quickly established a customer base in the heart of Montoursville.

"We have so many people that are basically like family," Hartranft said, among them local first responders.

Hartranft and co quickly ingrained themselves into their new surroundings, donating to local high school teams and community events.

"We even have some high school students that are awesome employees and continue to come

back and work whenever they have time during college," she said.

"We have been lucky enough to have some of the same loyal employees throughout the last 11 years in Montoursville," Hartranft added.

Mel's offerings have vastly expanded in the years since moving to Montoursville, including several new breakfast items, among them sausage gravy, cream dried beef, scrapple and corned beef hash and much more.

"We have our basic menu, but then we do a lot of specialty stuff, like our coconut dream pancake stack. "It's like dessert for breakfast, and we do avocado toast," Hartranft said.

Mel's also offers seasonal spe-

cialty drinks, as well, which are created in collaboration with the cafe's employees.

Many of the products and ingredients utilized by Mel's are locally sourced, including Poco Farm honey, non-in-house-made dressings, courtesy of Village Eatinghouse and fresh baked bread from Lycoming Bakery in South Williamsport.

The vast majority of recipes used at the cafe, described by Hartranft, as "Pennsylvania cooking," have been handed down by families over the years.

"We do fresh ground coffee here, and you can buy half pound by the pound. We probably have about 20 different flavors," she said, adding that they are also

available as whole beans for those that prefer to grind their own coffee at home.

Asked how it feels to reach 25 years in the business, Hartranft called the milestone "surreal."

"When I had to close my restaurant down, it wasn't my choice, so I was very heartbroken because it was thriving," she said.

"So when we reopened here, I just hoped and prayed that everything would go great, and I just love all my customers," Hartranft said, adding that while it is certainly hard work, she has a great team backing her.

"I have my daughter by my side, and I always say, 'my ride or die,'" she said.

"I'm very happy she chose to stay working with me, because she did a two years associate degree in business, and when she graduated, she decided to stay on with the family business," Hartranft said, stressing that if there ever comes a time when Pyles decides to pursue a new career path, that will be just fine.

"Working a family business has its challenges but we bring a unique piece to the business and that's what makes the balance so fun," Hartranft said.

After all these years, Mel's Deli & Cafe remains a customer-centered business.

"All of our customers have become like family. We've watched some customers grow up and now bring in their children," Hartranft said.

"Restaurants come and go, but we've always believed that if you treat people like family, serve food you're proud of and never stop improving, they'll keep coming back," she said.

"Twenty-five years later, that's still exactly how we operate," Hartranft said.

For information on Mel's Deli & Cafe, please check out their Facebook page.

# Squarewood Acres Campground offers experience

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

There's a place specializing in camping for those in recreational vehicles, wanting a cabin or going for the tent experience along the bucolic Lycoming Creek.

Squarewood Acres Campground at 389 Marsh Hill Road, Trout Run, is operated by Chuck and Marie Mertes. And while the couple has operated it for five seasons, the camp history goes back over 30 years.

When asked what makes Squarewood Acres Campground so special, it was not a hard question for Chuck to answer.

"We are a scenic, relaxing campground where you can come to enjoy nature, family and friends!"

"We are located in the heart of the PA Wilds, specifically in the village of Marsh Hill in McIntyre Township."

Located just 8 miles north on Route 14 off of the Trout Run Exit on Route 15, Squarewood Acres camping season starts the first weekend in April, even as the frost sometimes has not yet left the ground.

It goes through spring and summer and ends the last weekend of October.

## Lycoming Creek is a draw

"Everyone that camps here loves the creek, whether they are swimming, tubing, or fishing," he said.

There are a lot of things to do, too, whether that be fishing, floating on a tube,



PHOTO PROVIDED



or sweating to a game of basketball or volleyball, recreating in the park, or just relaxing by a fire.

"They also love the natural beauty that surrounds the campground and the area itself," he added, as "we have no light pollution so the star-gazing is amazing."

"We are also close to hiking trails that everyone comes for, especially Rock Run, which has beautiful waterfalls that people can't resist visiting," he said.

## Priced right

This picturesque, creek-

side campground has RV sites, cabins are also available and bunkhouse rental.

The campground has a variety of amenities such as large shaded, grassy sites, a nearby creek abundant with trout, nearby hiking trails, biking, and kayaking.

The camp has hot water

**Images of Squarewood Acres Campground in Trout Run the business shared on its website.**

showers and a 20 foot by 60 foot pavilion for picnics, or just sitting a spell and taking in the natural surroundings.

There are about 90 sites and two on-site cabin rentals.

The campground has 50 and 30 amp sites that can accommodate an RV of any

size. The tent sites have water and electricity, and there are four primitive sites available.

The campground sports a full-service, clean bathhouse and restroom facility, and an RV dump station.

Their phone number is 570-995-9230.

**G:M**  
Golden Business Machines, Inc.

**Canon**  
imageRUNNER  
ADVANCE

**1-800-692-6217**

*Your Document Efficiency Specialists*



www.GoldenBusiness.com  
201 Basin Street, Williamsport, PA 17701

*Serving North Central Pennsylvania for over 20 Years!*

# Welcome New Chamber Members!

New Members June  
26 through July 29



| Apex Concierge Medicine                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Creative Financial Strategies                                                                                                                                                                                           | Cruise Planners - Katrina Rupert                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Digger Specialties                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Julianna Lippert-Keck, MD,<br>FAPWH, DABFM<br>49 E 4th St, Suite 201<br>Williamsport, PA 17701<br>(860) 608-7685<br><a href="http://apex-concierge-medicine.com">http://apex-concierge-medicine.com</a><br>Healthcare – Physicians<br>Referred by Tiffany Cioffi of Fish Commercial Group | Barbara Morehart<br>1140 Sheridan Street<br>Williamsport, PA 17701<br>(570) 979-4554<br><a href="http://www.creativefinancialstrats.com">www.creativefinancialstrats.com</a><br>Investments/Financial & Estate Planning | Katrina Rupert<br>Serving Lycoming County<br>(570) 971-2570<br><a href="http://katrinarupert.cruiseandland.com">http://katrinarupert.cruiseandland.com</a><br>Travel Agencies, Tour Packages                                     | Dwayne Zimmerman<br>70 Digger Drive<br>Montgomery, PA 17752<br>(570) 244-2955<br><a href="http://diggerspecialties.com">http://diggerspecialties.com</a><br>Manufacturing                               |
| EquipmentShare                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | McCarthy Tire Service                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Round Hill Ranch                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Steel Studios, LLC                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Maynard Green<br>25 Energy Drive<br>Muncy, PA 17756<br>(570) 308-7200<br><a href="http://equipmentshare.com">http://equipmentshare.com</a><br>Rental Equipment                                                                                                                            | Kyle Reeder<br>2940 Reach Road<br>Williamsport, PA 17701<br>(570) 326-1576<br><a href="http://Mccarthytire.com">http://Mccarthytire.com</a><br>Automobile Tire Sales & Service                                          | Jessi Woltz<br>521 Spike Lane<br>Montoursville, PA 17754<br>(570) 772-6458<br>Check us out on Facebook<br>Equestrian / Equine Attractions<br>Wedding & Event Venue<br>Referred by Stefanie Allison of Wine & Design Williamsport | Siera Bathgate & Kait Rhea<br>1201 Allegheny Street<br>Jersey Shore, PA 17740<br>(570) 367-9131<br><a href="http://steelstudiosphotography.com">http://steelstudiosphotography.com</a><br>Photographers |
| T3 Rehab & Performance, LLC                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Timber BBQ                                                                                                                                                                                                              | WeCare at Sycamore                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Whitco Supply                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Trenton Woolcock<br>575 E. 3rd Street<br>Williamsport, PA 17701<br>(570) 419-3289<br><a href="http://t3sportsrehab.com">http://t3sportsrehab.com</a><br>Physical Therapy<br>Fitness Instruction/Nutrition<br>Referred by Victoria Harrington of First Commonwealth Bank                   | Josh Aucker<br>445 Market Street<br>Williamsport, PA 17701<br>(570) 322-7131<br>Check us out on Facebook<br>Restaurants/Cafes/Taverns                                                                                   | Justin Chapman<br>1445 Sycamore Road<br>Montoursville, PA 17754<br>(570) 601-8100<br><a href="https://wecarehcc.com/care-centers/sycamore">https://wecarehcc.com/care-centers/sycamore</a><br>Healthcare - Skilled Nursing       | David Yetter<br>2906 Reach Road<br>Williamsport, PA 17701<br>(570) 601-4645<br><a href="http://www.whitcosupply.com">www.whitcosupply.com</a><br>Petroleum Products                                     |

**Are you interested in joining the Chamber?**

Call the Chamber's Membership Director,  
Taryn Hartle, at 570-320-4209.

Apply online at [www.williamsport.org](http://www.williamsport.org).

**Continue to  
Next Page**



# Simply True North Cafe N Gifts a simple place to savor moments

By PAT CROSSLEY  
pcrossley@sungazette.com

Although there have been several twists and turns since she started her business, Tracey Bartholomew, owner of Simply True North Cafe N Gifts, has always stayed true to the motto of "A Simple Place to Savor Moments."

In 2016 Tracy and her business partner and friend, Terry Garner opened the Simply Savor Cafe at the former Christian Life Bookstore.

They decided they wanted to expand and they had heard about the Williamsport Regional Airport having a small kiosk and they thought it would be a good location to sell their Simply Savor cookies.

"Then we came down when we were asking about that. They were like, 'Oh, didn't you hear? We're tearing down the airport and we're building a new one,'" she said.

In 2018 they got picked to operate the cafe area at the new terminal, but because of building it and the pandemic, they weren't certified until July 2020. That is when they changed the name to Simply Savor on the Fly.

When they first opened at the airport there were full flights coming in and out so they opened basically as just a cafe. And then American Airlines pulled their service out of the local airport.

"We kind of had to start thinking out of the box," she shared.

With the passing of Garner last year, Bartholomew is the only employee at the cafe, so the caterings are mostly in the mornings. Right now she has groups that meet on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, but she would like to expand that.

"I'm actually looking for Mondays, Wednesdays, or Fridays, like other groups that would like to do the caterings. I set it up buffet style here on the counter, and they have



**Tracey Bartholomew, owner of Simply True North Cafe N Gifts at the Williamsport Regional Airport, offers visitors to her establishment simple home cooking and a place to enjoy a quiet break from their routine.**

the whole meeting space here and everything," she said.

The space holds close to 30 people plus Bartholomew said that she has extra tables and chairs that could be used to accommodate a larger group. There is also another meeting room that is available as well as the capability for holding virtual meetings in the cafe area. And of course, there is the panoramic view of the mountains with the sunrise as an added benefit the cafe offers.

With only one flight going out and coming in during the day, again, Bartholomew needed to get creative.

"I like to joke that I'm like a well diversified portfolio. We have the cookies that we do in other lo-

cations. Our Simply Saver cookie bundles, and then we sell them at different shows and stuff like that. And then we started doing the caterings. Then we have the cafe open sporadically, mostly for our regulars. We're usually open on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings and Thursday afternoons. But our main thing right now is promoting the Air Market that we started on Saturdays," she said.

From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. On Saturdays, Bartholomew and her staff, which she brings in for the day, run the markets which offer local vendors an opportunity to sell their products.

She wanted to emphasize that no employees of the airport are involved with the markets.

"It is completely staffed by us here at Simply True North, and mostly we set it up at the time for the last two or three years when we didn't have flights," she said.

"I was taking the cookies and we were running to craft shows, and we were running to markets, and we were running all over the place, and we have this beautiful space here. So the concept was to help other small local businesses by them coming in, setting up vendor spots on Saturday, and then I do a full buffet breakfast and lunch," she explained.

There is enough space to fit about 12 vendor tables inside and ten along the outside walkway. The numbers have fluctuated with the seasons, but they have had up to 30

vendors at the market.

On Aug. 22, the cafe is hosting what they're calling the "Runway to Fun."

"At this point. We're up to 16 vendors signed up, and then we are also doing things like we've asked to have one of the fire trucks brought down, so we're calling it Touch a Truck. You know, having the kids come out and get pictures taken with the truck. We're gonna also try to promote some pin exchanges and stuff like that, since it will be during Little League," she said.

With all that going to go on at the cafe, Bartholomew still maintains that concept of "a simple place to savor moments."

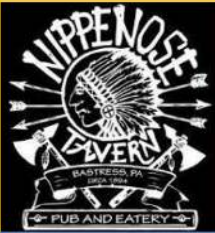
"We want that feeling of like you know life's crazy out there. Come on in, enjoy the view, take a moment.. So you won't find the hustle and bustle. I never have any intentions of really being an extremely busy restaurant. It's more like that little cozy, quiet place where you can kind of hide away, get a nice little sandwich, soups, fresh baked cookies, and just escape life a little bit for a moment," she said.

The last rebranding of the cafe to Simply True North came after Garner's passing. They had always joked that they wanted to franchise and open in Alaska. They also liked that the name referenced Jesus as the true north.

Referring to Garner, Bartholomew said, "When he passed, I just felt that it was either give up completely and not keep going, close up, or keep going and kind of remarket and dedicate and stuff. So the simply true north is definitely that concept—a little tribute to him, she added.

Check out the cafe's Facebook page, Simply True North N Gifts for more details about the August event.

# Upcoming PM Exchanges



## Nippenose Tavern

**August 6, 5-7 PM**  
6391 PA-654 Hwy  
Williamsport, PA 17702

Join us for our next PM Exchange at Nippenose Tavern on Thursday, August 6, from 5:00–7:00 PM! Connect with fellow Chamber members, expand your professional network, and enjoy an evening of great conversation in a relaxed atmosphere. Whether you're a familiar face or attending for the first time, we look forward to seeing you there!



## Wine & Design

**September 10, 5-7 PM**  
357 Market Street  
Williamsport, PA 17701

Get creative while making new connections at our September PM Exchange! Join us at Wine & Design on Thursday, September 10, from 5:00–7:00 PM for an evening of networking, conversation, and community. It's a great opportunity to build relationships with fellow Chamber members in a fun and welcoming setting. We hope to see you there!

# 2026 PM EXCHANGES

|              |                                        |
|--------------|----------------------------------------|
| August 6     | Nippenose Tavern                       |
| September 10 | Wine & Design                          |
| September 24 | Fairfield by Marriott                  |
| October 1    | Innovative Manufacturers' Center (IMC) |
| October 22   | Leadership Lycoming                    |
| November 5   | Pennsylvania College of Technology     |
| December 3   | Miele Group                            |
| December 17  | East Lycoming School District          |

## CONGRATULATIONS TO JULY'S RIBBON CUTTINGS AND GROUND BREAKINGS!



Boot Barn



River Valley Regional YMCA  
Eastern Lycoming Branch



Register online at [williamsport.org](http://williamsport.org). For questions, please call 570-326-1971





# GRAND SLAM PARADE!

Come to Williamsport on Tuesday, August 18th at 5:00pm to welcome the 20 teams here for the 79th Little League® World Series. Over 100 entries with plenty of entertainment will be parading the streets of downtown Williamsport. The parade runs from Maynard to Market Street on West Fourth Street in Williamsport. Headlining this year's parade is our Grand Marshal, Dodgers and Padres great Steve Garvey.

THIS EVENT IS  
BROUGHT TO THE  
COMMUNITY BY:



Official Health Care Sponsor:



Broadcast TV Sponsor:



Steve Garvey - Hall of Fame Sponsor:



Parade Pin Sponsor:



Pepsi Bottling  
of Williamsport

High School Band Sponsors:



Float Safety Sponsors:



Award Sponsors:



Entertainment Sponsor:



Barricade Sponsors:



Float Sponsors:



Division Sponsors:



T-Shirt Sponsor: M&T Bank



Lycoming County  
Visitors Bureau

Stay up to date on Lycoming County events!

visitlycomingcounty.com



Or call us at

1-800-358-9900



# WILLIAMSPORT WELCOMES THE WORLD!

Join us on Friday, August 28<sup>th</sup> from 5PM-9PM in downtown Williamsport for the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Williamsport Welcomes the World street festival



THIS EVENT IS BROUGHT TO  
THE COMMUNITY BY THE  
PARTNERSHIP OF:



Lycoming County  
Visitors Bureau



OFFICIAL HEALTH CARE SPONSOR:

**UPMC**  
LIFE CHANGING MEDICINE

PIN SPONSOR:

**West**



Lycoming County  
Visitors Bureau

Don't miss our special autograph session with 2026 Baseball Hall of Fame  
inductee and Atlanta Braves great

## ANDRUW JONES

that evening from 5:30PM-6:30PM to sign FREE photos!

### HALL OF FAME BALLPLAYER SPONSORED BY:



### OFFICIAL T-SHIRT SPONSOR:



### ENTERTAINMENT SPONSORED BY:



### KIDS ZONE SPONSORED BY:



Stay up to date on Lycoming County events!

[visitlycomingcounty.com](http://visitlycomingcounty.com)



Or call us at

1-800-358-9900

# WELCOME LEADERSHIP LYCOMING CLASS OF 2027

Alicia Boyer, *Dwell Orphan Care*  
 Angela Ward, *Northwest Bank*  
 Ashley Boschi, *River Valley Health*  
 Brayden Bartlett, *Lycoming Engines*  
 Brianna Stetts, *PA National Guard*  
 Cooper Lytle, *The Dunn Group*  
 Curtis Anthony, *JAC's Produce & Food Service*  
 Erin Shultz, *Pennsylvania College of Technology*  
 Erin Welch, *Susquehanna Health Foundation/UPMC*  
 Garrett DeWald, *Bi-Lo Supply*  
 Heidi Hanes, *Lycoming Engines*  
 Ian Plankenhorn, *Hartman Group*

Jarod Schreiber, *Geisinger*  
 Jennifer Aldridge, *Lycoming- Clinton Joinder Board*  
 Matthew Buck, *UPMC*  
 McKenzie Seyler, *HOPE Enterprises*  
 Megan Fisher, *Edward Jones*  
 Nancy Hakes, *West Pharmaceuticals*  
 Nicole Remley, *C&N Bank*  
 Noah Bower, *East Lycoming School District*  
 Ryan Eck, *Wienken Wealth Management*  
 Taigen Tebbs, *Little League International*  
 Tess Fagle, *Geisinger*  
 Tiffany Tyhanic, *Pennsylvania College of Technology*  
 Todd Wright, *River Valley Transit*

## 2026 BASEBALL PIN COLLECTION



### SCAN TO EXPLORE THE COLLECTION

Visit participating member businesses this summer to collect pins on the Visitors Bureau website!

102 W. Fourth Street, Williamsport, PA 17701

<http://www.visitlycomingcounty.com>

Sponsored by



# GAVL



**Connect with us on Instagram, Facebook, and LinkedIn! Interested in being featured in the Chamber Connection? Contact Jarett Dorman for more information.**



**@WilliamsportLycoming  
ChamberofCommerce**



**@Williamsport/Lycoming  
Chamber of Commerce**



**@williamsportlycoming  
chamber**

*From Jason Fink's Desk - President/CEO of the Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce*

### Check out this month's featured member discounts



#### **Positive Medium:**

Web Page Design & Website  
Hosting Services

**Free** website Search Engine  
Optimization (SEO) evaluation

**25%** recurring discount for  
AudioEye Accessibility  
Compliance

**50%** recurring discount for  
Managed WordPress Hosting

For more information contact:  
Chris, Aaron or Kristy at Positive  
Medium  
(570) 844-0050  
Located in The Pajama Factory



#### **SCI Inc:**

*We provide quality customer  
service along with innovative  
technology solutions to meet  
our clients' needs.*

**10% off depot computer  
& printer  
repair services**

For more information contact:  
Sales at  
(570) 323-0089  
1316 Commerce Park Drive,  
Suite 1  
Williamsport



#### **Wine & Design:**

Teamwork looks even  
better with a paintbrush in  
one hand and a glass in  
the other!

**Chamber Members,  
enjoy 10% off your  
Team Building Party**

357 Market Street  
Williamsport, PA 17701

Contact Stefanie Allison  
570-846-0993  
williamsport@wineanddesign.com



View all 33 Member  
Discounts at  
<https://williamsport.org>



Interested in offering  
a discount?  
Contact the Chamber  
to participate.  
[chamber@williamsport.org](mailto:chamber@williamsport.org)  
570-326-1971



# LEADERSHIP LYCOMING

## Class of 2027 Sponsorships Available

### SUPPORT. CONNECT. PROMOTE.

Supporting Leadership Lycoming means investing in the future of Lycoming County and the strength of our entire community. As a sponsor, you play a vital role in shaping and developing emerging leaders who are passionate about making a lasting impact where we live and work. Your support not only helps cultivate leadership skills and civic engagement, but also positions your business or organization as a committed community partner.

#### ANNUAL SPONSORSHIP PACKAGE \$2,000

- Logo on all program day materials and social media
- Prominent feature in the graduation program sponsor recognition section
- One program day presentation
- Full-page flyer in the WLCC e-marketplace (month of your choosing)
- Final 3 "table" sponsorship package

#### TOP-TIER BUSINESS SPONSORSHIP PACKAGE \$600

- Logo on program day agenda and social media
- Recognition in the graduation program
- Opportunity to attend your sponsored day to speak or network over lunch

#### MID-TIER BUSINESS SPONSORSHIP PACKAGE \$300

- Logo on program day agenda and social media
- Recognition in the graduation program
- Opportunity to join program day lunch

#### INDIVIDUAL SPONSORSHIP PACKAGE \$100

- Logo on program day agenda
- Recognition on social media



For sponsorship questions,  
contact Sydney Sellers  
at (570) 320-4216 or  
[ssellers@williamsport.org](mailto:ssellers@williamsport.org)