



Chamber Connection

March 2026
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Welcome New
Chamber Members!

Upcoming PM
Exchanges

Leadership Lycoming

Upcoming Ribbon
Cuttings

Member Renewals



Aspire Wealth Group proud of family services

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

This past weekend got me very excited for spring and warmer weather, even if it was only one of the two days that we had almost 60 degree weather and the very next day waking up to white on the grass and a day in the 30s. It's now March and that means all the great things about spring; baseball and softball, track and field and all the other activities we enjoy in warmer weather are starting to ramp up. This winter was great for snow enthusiasts, which I'm all glad for them, but now it's time for us to enjoy all the trappings we get to experience with flowers starting to bloom and trees budding for leaves in the coming months.

Last month we heard from Governor Shapiro, his proposed budget for 2026-27, which is targeted to be approved by June 30. That's at least what is statutorily supposed to occur but as we've seen, it doesn't always happen that way, like last year for instance. We'll hope that it doesn't occur this year as it was costly to several local agencies in the Commonwealth who had to borrow money to maintain services for the populations that they serve.

The Governor's proposed budget came in at \$53.3 billion in spending for the upcoming fiscal year. This is roughly a 5.4% increase from what was passed for our current budget. This is about 2.4% more than the rate of inflation for 2025 which was at 3%. Looking at the current inflation rate for February we were at 2.4%. We've seen the rate of inflation drop from where it had been trending the past couple of years, which does cause the question of why we're looking to spend so much more and where are we looking to spend the money. So let's take a look at where some of that spending is going to be placed.

As with prior budgets, the Governor is looking to spend \$50 million more for basic education, \$565 million for the Ready to Learn grant, and \$50 million for special education.

One could make the argument that the state should spend more on funding public education given that it ranks 42nd to 46th in the nation for the state's share of funding. Depending on what index you look at, the percent of spending from the state budget is approximately 35% to 38% of what it costs on a per student spending basis. However, as well Pennsylvanians know, that is not the primary funding mechanism for paying for our children's' education as the local property tax is the primary way we pay for it. When this gets factored in, we climb into the top 10 state for total per student spending of somewhere between \$21,441 to \$22,500+. It does cause the question as to the need to spend at a time that we don't have the projected revenue to cover this sizeable increase in education spending.

It appears that for public safety there is an allocation of \$1.6 billion for the State Police. The budget provides a 9.4% increase, around \$117 million, for the Pennsylvania State Police which is aimed at increasing trooper numbers.

The proposal includes a \$1 billion investment in a new critical infrastructure fund. To support public transit, the plan proposes transferring additional sales tax revenue to the Public Transportation Trust Fund, aimed at providing stable, long-term funding for transit systems across the state.

The proposal includes \$100 million for "Innovate in PA 2.0" to strengthen Pennsylvania's technology, life sciences, and manufacturing sectors by expanding venture capital access, supporting clinical trials, and building workforce pipelines. Recent multi-billion-dollar investments from companies like Lilly and Johnson & Johnson highlight the momentum in this space, with ripple effects benefiting related businesses such as West Pharmaceuticals.

The plan also prioritizes housing through the state's first Pennsylvania Housing Action Plan, addressing a critical need for new market-rate housing. Projects like the proposed development in Wolf Township aim to meet demand, as many individuals relocating for jobs in Lycoming County have struggled to find suitable housing locally and have chosen to live in neighboring counties instead.

The plan proposes investing \$1 billion in critical infrastructure, including housing development and preservation, through the Pennsylvania Program for Critical Infrastructure Investment. This funding aims to address one of the biggest barriers to housing projects, the high cost of installing essential utilities and infrastructure. While housing is a key focus, the broader multi-billion-dollar budget increase includes many other spending areas. Naturally, the major question is how it will be funded. There does not appear to be a proposed tax increase on residents.

Instead, the proposal looks to generate approximately \$1.88 billion through the legalization and taxation of marijuana, a tax on skill games, and closing the Delaware Loophole. The remaining revenue would come from the Rainy Day Fund, with a proposed withdrawal of \$4.58 billion from the roughly \$7.5 billion available. While elements like housing investment are appealing, drawing down more than half of the Rainy Day Fund raises concerns about long-term sustainability.

If similar spending continues in future budgets, the fund could be depleted, potentially forcing difficult decisions in 2028-29, including possible tax increases. Much remains uncertain, and the final outcome will determine whether the state can balance investment priorities with fiscal responsibility.



LOCAL BUSINESS. LOCAL SUCCESS.

Member Renewals

First-Year Renewals

Ausley Construction Company
Mileto's Sub Shop
RTG Solutions
WVIA/WVYA Public TV and Radio

Members 2-5 Years

Basil Wood Fired Kitchen & Lounge
BAYADA Home Health Care
CPRS Physical Therapy
Fair Play Distillers
Hull's Landing Restaurant
MicBee Transportation, LLC
Mountain View Christian School
Rose Valley Campground
Tammy Rupert - Thrivent
W.B. Konkle Memorial Library

Members 6-10 Years

A1 Stop/Beer Here
Blair Brothers Goldsmiths
Central PA Tennis Center
Dadant and Sons
Edward Jones - Phil Sunderland
Horizon Farm Credit
Keystone Wood Products Association
LG Settlement Services, LLC
M&M Paving and Excavation
Moon Wolf Group
South Williamsport Borough
Student Transportation of America
Transport Custom Designs, LLC
U-Haul Company of Northeast Pennsylvania
Wine & Design
Xtreme Truckin, LLC

Thank you to all of our Chamber members
that renewed their membership between
January 31 and February 26.

Members 11-20 Years

Central Contracting
Comfort Keepers
Hoopla's Family Fun & Longshots Grill
Kliney's Home Furnishings
Lang's Chocolates
Phoenix Rehabilitation and Health Services - Jersey Shore
Prime Pensions, Inc.
Service 1st Federal Credit Union

Member 24 Years

Steve Waldman Electric Inc.

Members 31-40 Years

Bearing & Drive Solutions
Interior Construction Specialists, Inc.
Station House
Walmart

Members 41-50 Years

White Deer Golf Course
Young Industries Inc.

Members 51-60 Years

Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield
M&T Bank

Member 70 Years

PPL Electric Utilities
Spartronics
UPMC

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Williamsport Sun-Gazette, March 2026

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Contact Valentino Acuna for more information.**



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ChamberofCommerce**



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**@Williamsport/Lycoming
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Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce

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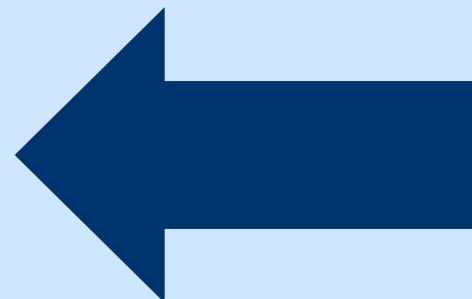
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**BE SURE TO CHECK OUT THIS
MONTH'S CHAMBER MEMBER
DISCOUNT**



Chamber Member Discount

Working to meet the needs of our members



Merchant Payments Group will cover/reimburse a Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce member's annual chamber dues (up to \$300) when they sign up for credit card processing with Merchant Payments Group.
(Available on a case by case basis. This will apply retroactively if the member has already paid dues for the year)

Merchant Payments Group covers/reimburses the chamber member 50% of their chamber dues every year, when they remain active with both the Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce and Merchant Payments Group.

*Stipulations apply. The program is based on monthly processing volume and requires a minimum average of \$5,000 per month in credit card transactions.

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Welcome New Chamber Members!



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Lycoming County PA
(570) 220-2773

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eXp Realty

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Tyler Wildgust

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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.

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New Members January 31 through February 26



Nonprofit group JUMP: Every child is special

By MARK MARONEY

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Every child, no matter their circumstances, is special and deserves an opportunity to succeed.

That is a premise believed strongly by those who run the Juvenile Uplifting Mentoring Program Inc., or JUMP, according to Intisar Martin, a spokeswoman.

JUMP is a nonprofit organization and member of the Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce that provides uplifting mentoring, especially for youngsters who are at risk or who might otherwise fall through the cracks, and for families in need.

Through mentorship, education, and comprehensive support services, JUMP is able to accomplish the task.

Its format uses evidence-based programming, and adding compassionate mentorship - to build a strong community.

"We are dedicated to uplifting at-risk youth and families in our community through comprehensive support, mentorship, and life-skills development," Martin attested.

Every child is special

Every youngster deserves the opportunity to reach his or her full potential, regardless of their circumstances, she noted.

JUMP team members work to transform their lives and create pathways of opportunity for those youngsters doing so through mentorship, skill-building, providing family support and community engagement.

"We are building a brighter future - one young person, one family, one community at a time," the organization stated.

With a clear vision of building a community where every young person has the support, skills, and opportunities they need to thrive.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Volunteers at a JUMP event.

Our impact is real: Changed lives, stronger families, safer communities, and a more hopeful future for all.

JUMP serves youth and families in Lycoming County, with a particular focus on those at-risk or facing challenging life circumstances. Those enrolled include youngsters from families in need of support and resources - with emphasis on young people seeking positive role models and skill development.

In doing so, communities are working to build safer, more resilient neighborhoods, and it is working.

So far, hundreds of youth and families have been served annually through diverse

programming in critical areas such as community safety, where there has been training of community members in life-saving skills. These skills include cardiopulmonary resuscitation or CPR, automated external defibrillation AED training, Stop the Bleed, Narcan administration, and epinephrine use.

Among the programs has been youth development and providing positive peer mentorship, educational support and positive activities that build confidence, character, and capability, Martin noted.

They include family support and ensuring those in need receive guidance to strengthen family units and create stable home environments.

This venture has been able to succeed through partnership networking and collaborating with local organizations, businesses, and agencies to maximize community impact

Best of all, there has been evidence of measurable outcomes with knowledge and skills gained.

"Our participants demonstrate increased competency in critical life skills, from emergency response to conflict resolution, preparing them to be confident contributors to their communities," Martin said.

Youngsters and community members gain the knowledge

and certifications to respond in emergency situations, which creates a safer community for all.

Additionally, participants report improved decision-making, increased goal-setting, and stronger resistance to negative peer pressure through sustained mentorship relationships.

For the families, such connections provide more access to vital resources and support networks, thereby reducing isolation and building resilience through community partnerships.

The benefits are many. To include:

- Reduced involvement in high-risk behaviors
- Improved school attendance and academic performance
- Increased high school graduation rates
- Greater post-secondary education and employment readiness
- Strengthened family relationships

"Our programs honor the di-

verse backgrounds and experiences of the families we serve, creating inclusive environments where everyone belongs," according to Martin.

In collaborative fashion, the program works alongside local schools, law enforcement, health providers, social services, and community organizations to provide comprehensive, coordinated support.

"We listen to youth voices, honor their experiences, and empower them to lead change," Martin said.

Our programs build lasting capacity in individuals, families, and communities—creating ripple effects that extend far beyond initial participation.

Its strategic partnerships with organizations including: CPR211; West Branch Drug & Alcohol Commission; American Red Cross; local schools and educational institutions; law enforcement and emergency services; healthcare providers and community health organizations, faith-based organizations and civic groups

"These collaborations allow us to leverage resources, expand reach, and provide comprehensive services that address the complex needs of youth and families," the group stated.

Looking forward, as JUMP continues to grow and evolve, it will remain committed to:

- Expanding program reach to serve more youth and families;
- Developing innovative interventions that address emerging community needs;
- Building sustainable funding streams to ensure long-term program stability;
- Strengthening evaluation systems to demonstrate impact and drive continuous improvement;
- Amplifying youth voices in program design and community decision-making.

For more information visit JUMP's website: www.juvenileupliftingmentorprogram.org.

At A+ Home Healthcare, ‘you’re the boss of your services’

By **MATTHEW COURTER**
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Located at 1460 Washington Blvd, Williamsport, A+ Home Healthcare LLC, is an agency dedicated to putting the power of choice firmly in the hands of those needing assistance in their everyday lives due to illness or injury.

The company was founded in 2012 in the Jamison area by current Chief Operating Officer Danielle Young at the behest of extended family member and company owner, Sean Lawrence, due to having a disabled family member in need of assistance, according to Williamsport Regional Manager Trista Musser.

The city’s branch was established in October 2020, and Musser was hired as its first recruiter the following January.

While quickly rising as A+’s top recruiter, Musser would take on additional duties as Quality Management Supervisor and case management before being promoted to her current position in April 2025.

The company’s primary focus at the moment is on providing personal assistance services to those Medicaid waiver participants

While many agencies hire as many caregivers as possible and work to find participants to match those caregivers with, A+ tends to do the opposite, Musser said.

“Around 90% of our participants come to us with a caregiver that they want to hire, sometimes a family member who’s maybe been caring for them for a long time, they just haven’t been being paid,” Musser explained.

A+ works to get those “informal” caretakers get paid for the work they’ve already been performing.

“If they want to maintain that exclusive relationship, we don’t meddle with that, and people really appreciate having that autonomy to direct their own services, as op-



The officers of A+ Home Healthcare at 1460 Washington Blvd, as seen on Google Street View.

PHOTO PROVIDED

posed to having us say, ‘well have this stranger available, but they’re only available these times, because that’s not really what these services are about,’ Musser said.

“They’re receiving these services because they’re no longer able to do things on their own, and some of those are really sensitive, like using the bathroom and bathing, so they don’t want a stranger coming in trying to help them with those things, they want somebody they feel comfortable with,” she said.

A+ also assists caregivers whose loved one or participant has passed away, get matched with a new participant if they are interested in continuing to provide their services..

“We have a handful of caregivers that have been on with us since the beginning, and it’s really nice being able to help them make those connections,” Musser said.

“And we do provide them with

a certain level of training so that they’re familiar with assisting participants with activities of daily living, like housekeeping, bathing and toileting,” she added.

Additionally, A+ provides assistance with navigating the sometimes confusing process of getting placed on the medicare waiver program.

“We collaborate with a pretty large nonprofit organization to assist with getting participants on the waiver program, because it can be overwhelming, and usually people have to go through the area agency on aging to get on the waiver program and it can take a long time because of the influx of people trying to receive these services. But through our collaboration, we’ve been able to connect up with those people who are able to expedite the process,” Musser said, noting that it can take upwards of 8 to 12 months for placement on the program.

“With our collaborator, Unit-

ed Disability Services, we’ve seen them get people on the waiver program in as little as 12 weeks,” she said.

“It takes a lot of the burden off of them, so that they’re not just handed a huge packet of information that says, do this, do that,” Musser added.

Fully invested in helping those in need, A+ Healthcare regularly works with other area agencies to make sure those needs are met.

“We’re not just about growing, growing, growing, and bringing on as many people as we can, and being the biggest in the area. If we can’t help you, we want you to get the help that you’re entitled to with these services,” Musser said.

“I’ve personally called other agencies to help some of our participants find coverage when their primary caregiver might not be available,” she added.

“We’re competitors, yes, but at the end of the day we’re all in

this field to help people,” Musser stressed.

Still, that dedication to maintaining their participants’ level of comfort is something that makes them stand out in the industry.

“Our big thing is, you tell us what works for you. How can we help you? You got these services, because you need help,” Musser said.

“We always joke with our participants and say, ‘you’re the boss of your services. We just sign the paychecks,’” Musser said.

“And we take pride in taking care of our caregivers as well, because you really have to have that level of empathy and caring nature,” she said.

“Our first priority is taking care of the participants and making sure their needs are met, but also making sure that our caregivers feel appreciated and taken care of as well,” Musser said.

To that end, A+ provides annual wage increases, bonuses and paid time off, and rolled out new and improved health benefits to their caregivers in 2025, Musser said.

“We want to make sure that, over time, you’re growing with us, because with all the time that you put in with A+, you’re gaining experience and knowledge,” she said.

“We send out birthday cards to every single participant and caregiver that we have on with us. We just had a caregiver the other day let us know that their dog passed away, so we automatically got that sympathy card started, just making sure that our caregivers also feel heard, acknowledged and taken care of,” Musser said.

“At the end of the day, they look to us a lot here in the office, and we look to them a lot to take care of people, so we want them to feel like they can lean on us too,” she said.

For more information, please visit the A+ Healthcare website at www.aplushomecareonline.com/home-health-care-services or give them a call at 570-955-1443.

New Love Center: ‘Deeper than just handing out food’

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

After nearly being shuttered in 2014, The Love Center was resurrected as The New Love Center by a dedicated group of community members who saw the immense service it provided to the surrounding community.

“Something that sets us apart from others is we are faith-centered, but we are community based. It comes down to the simplicity of that we’re just dedicated to serve individuals and families experiencing food insecurities across Clinton and Lycoming counties,” Executive Director Holly Beaver.

Unlike many pantries where participants simply pick up a pre-packaged box of goods, people visiting the pantry are given a shopping cart and afforded the ability to pick up goods that fit their needs.

“We’re very intentional with planting volunteers around our pantry because honestly, for a lot of folks that come to see us, it’s much broader than food insecurity. Some of them just need someone to talk to, and a prayer,” Beaver said.

There’s no application to receive assistance from the pantry, as it is open to anyone facing food insecurity, though a quick registration is run through during a patron’s first time visit.

“That’s really just to gather information that helps me when we go after grants and things like that,” she said.

Two additional programs are offered for those in need of more intensive support.

“We’ve all been there, and it’s basically those households that are employed that really are choosing whether to buy their groceries or pay that medical bill or their rent,” Beaver said.

“There’s such a huge stigma around food distributions and food pantries, and that is something that I’m really working hard to remove,



Volunteers at the New Love Center in Jersey Shore.

PHOTO PROVIDED

because there really should be no embarrassment at all. Because, let’s face it, times are just tough right now,” she said.

Pantry distributions are held every other week and are posted to the pantry’s Facebook page, which also highlights community partners.

“We always distribute Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and the first Saturday of the month.

In addition to their brick and mortar location, 263 Henry St., Jersey Shore, The New Love Center operates a mobile pantry that visits three locations in Clinton County and four in Lycoming County, including Muncy Cogan House, Lairdsville and Trout Run.

“We help the folks up into the mobile and we have three volunteers stationed throughout to help them get everything they need,” Beaver explained.

The center also hosts a cafe that opens at 8 a.m. for coffee and fellowship, and 11 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Monday through Friday at space that they rent from Trinity Episcopal Church, 176 Mt. Pleasant Ave., Jersey Shore.

The cafe typically serves between 14 and 1,500 people monthly, Beaver said.

“There’s no financial requirement. You could be a county commissioner or a neighbor that’s just facing hard times. So we open our doors to everybody,” she said.

A new initiative named Compassion Corner Healthy Snack Program rolled out by the center aims to help elementary students thrive in the classroom by keeping hunger at bay.

“Snacks were not even part of school when we went. But, so many studies show that it helps them focus,” Beaver, adding that children coming from families experiencing food insecurity often experience other issues including behavioral problems and bullying.

“We put so much on our teachers to come up with snacks for those kids, and while that’s very thoughtful and the right intentions are there, children receiving their snacks only from teachers are already being identified differently from those bringing snacks to school,” she said.

Through the program, the center

serves roughly 1,200 children daily with healthy snacks, pencils with encouraging messages and stickers. The program has already resulted in declining discipline referrals, according to a school principal, Beaver said.

“When emotions are running high, they’ll ask, ‘do you need to go out to the snack cart,’ and there they’ll find a healthy snack,” she said.

Beaver stressed that the center would not be able to provide all it does without the support of community partners, including the Williamsport/Lycoming County Chamber of Commerce, some of the members of which have volunteered their time.

“Jersey Shore is great about sending sports teams to us. Renovo sends their students out to work on our mobile pantry, as have the Lock Haven University wrestlers, and it’s been a wonderful opportunity,” she said.

In 2025, the center had over 3000 volunteers donate their time, adding up to around 11,000 hours, serving 49,788 area residents, Beaver said.

One new volunteer got involved to fill both her need for socialization while helping her community.

“We could not do it without volunteers, they are truly the heart of our operations,” she said.

Along with volunteers, Beaver stressed the need for continued support by way of food and monetary donations.

The center spends between \$24 and \$26,000 each month on food, totaling around \$400,000 yearly.

“People think the pantry’s food is free, and while it’s free to our neighbors, it does come with a cost to us,” Beaver said.

“That’s a mindset that we need to change,” she said.

As a rule of thumb, all donations are accepted, though expired goods are discouraged.

“We understand they’re still good, and can be used, but I want our neighbors to feel that they’re just not getting someone’s food that’s dug out the back of their cupboard,” Beaver said.

Donations of food items can be placed into drop boxes at the center, which are checked each morning and night.

Donations can also be made online or by dropping off, or mailing a check to the center, Beaver said.

For Beaver, The New Love Center is all about showing the love of Christ to their neighbors.

“We never know what shoes we’re going to be walking in next week, a month from now, a year from now, we just never know,” she said.

“Our neighbors come in here and just know that you’re not going to be judged. For our team, our volunteers and our neighbors, we’re all in this together, and that’s what I love about this organization. It does go much deeper than just handing out food,” Beaver said.

For more information on The New Love Center, please visit www.facebook.com/thenewlovecenter.

Aspire Wealth Group proud of family services, other services

By **MARK MARONEY**
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On the business card of those working at Aspire Wealth Group are the words: Real Strategies. Real Possibilities.

For the entire Aspire Wealth Group team, located locally at the office at 190 Choate Circle, Suite B, Montoursville, those words represent what they want for their customers.

“My team provides comprehensive wealth management and financial planning services, specifically including investment management, retirement planning, financial planning, estate planning implementation, and education planning,” said Jason Dugan, Aspire Wealth Group president, a Certified Financial Planner and Private Wealth Advisor.

“Our team consists of 13 professionals (advisors, operations, marketing, and investment analysts),” he said.

When did Aspire Wealth Group, which also has an office in Sewell, New Jersey, begin serving its customers in Lycoming County?

“I joined Raymond James Financial Services and established Aspire Wealth Group in 2011, marking the beginning of the practice’s service to clients in the region,” Dugan said.

Financial managers, truly, enjoy their careers because it’s about helping others to achieve their financial goals and dreams.

“My team genuinely enjoys their work because it allows them to build meaningful, long-term relationships with the individuals and fam-



PHOTO PROVIDED

Back row from left to right: Drew Newcomb, Derek Snyder, Chris Jackowski, Chris Confer, Chase Snyder, Joel Appleman. Front row from left to right: Amanda Butler, Keely Swartwood, Renee Hitchner, Jason Dugan, Katherine Campbell, Sammara Vecchio, Jo’nelle Fetzer

ilies we serve,” Dugan said. “Their roles give them the opportunity to guide clients through major life transitions such as retirement, the loss of a loved one, business sales, or educational planning while providing clarity, confidence, and strategic direction,” he remarked.

Moreover, “they take pride in seeing how thoughtful financial planning can positively reshape a family’s future, and they find deep fulfillment in helping clients reach milestones that truly matter,” Dugan observed. “This sense of purpose, combined with a team culture grounded in integrity, compassion, and client-centered service, is what makes our work rewarding day after day,” he noted.

What can the average in-

dividual worker, family, and retiree gain by engaging Aspire Wealth Group?

“We offer something increasingly rare in today’s financial landscape: personalized, relationship-driven guidance designed to support clients through every financial chapter of life,” he said.

“At our core, we focus on providing clear, actionable planning that helps people make confident decisions about their futures,” he added.

For individual workers, this often means developing a structured financial strategy—one that brings clarity to budgeting, saving, and investing, he said. “Our advisors help clients articulate their goals and navigate the complexities of the modern financial world with tailored

goals and navigate the complexities of the modern financial world with tailored investment and planning guidance,” he added.

Strong on family support services

Families, meanwhile, gain support that extends well beyond investments.

“My team works with clients as they prepare for milestone moments such as purchasing a home, planning for a child’s education, or building long-term financial security,” Dugan said.

“We emphasize close, ongoing relationships, getting to know each family personally to ensure that their plan evolves alongside life’s changes,” he said.

Retirees, meanwhile, also benefit from strategies designed to protect what they’ve worked a lifetime to build.

“We provide guidance on income distribution, portfolio sustainability, and estate planning implementation, key components for those seeking stability and peace of mind in retirement,” Dugan explained.

Across all groups, the

overarching value is consistency: a dedicated team committed to helping clients “live their best life” by offering clarity, structure, and ongoing support in a world where financial decisions can feel overwhelming, he said.

What are the investment trends in 2026?

2026’s investment landscape is defined by five dominant forces:

1. AI evolution (broadening to new sectors)
2. Electrification & power infrastructure boom
3. Slowing but stable global growth
4. Moderate U.S. equity returns driven by earnings
5. Fixed income anchored by income, not price gains

The overarching message for this year is this:

Be selective, stay quality-focused, embrace the AI-electricity megatrends, and prepare for more volatility than the past two years.

However, the aforementioned trends are general market outlooks, not personalized advice, Dugan noted.

Dugan, upon request, offered three confidence-building highlights for prospective clients:

1. Proven excellence at
- (See ASPIRE, Page 10)



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(From Page 9)

scale: Repeated Chairman's Council qualification at Raymond James underscores sustained performance and client-first practice management.

2. Depth of credentials & oversight: CFP®/AIF® designations plus multi-license coverage reflect a comprehensive, fiduciary-minded approach to planning and investment oversight.

3. Award-winning team leadership: A recognized Best-In-State team with specialized roles (CFP®s, CFA, FPQP®, operations) supporting consistent, high-touch service.

A multi-team approach

"Our clients don't just work with one advisor; they're supported by an entire team. I'm proud of the balance we've

built between seasoned CFP® professionals, investment research, and an operations group that obsesses over the details. That teamwork is why families trust us through each life transition," Dugan said.

How does membership in the Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce benefit Aspire Wealth Group?

"Being part of the Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce gives us a meaningful boost in the community," he said.

"For starters, the Chamber helps get our name in front of the right people through member-only referrals as well as listings in the Membership Directory and the widely used Visitor's Guide, all of which strengthen our local visibility," he stressed.

"Membership also opens the door to helpful marketing channels, like the Chamber MarketPlace Packet and the Chamber Connection newsletter. These platforms give us

additional ways to share services and stay connected with the community," he remarked.

On the networking side, the Chamber provides steady opportunities to meet people, whether through PM Exchange events, ribbon cuttings, or economic development initiatives happening throughout Lycoming County. These events help deepen relationships and keep us plugged into local business activity, Dugan said.

Finally, recognition & leadership:

Raymond James Chairman's Council (Top 100 advisors within RJFS) every year since 2019, including 2026.

Named to Forbes "Best-In-State Wealth Advisors" (multiple years) and the Aspire team included on Forbes "Best-In-State Wealth Management Teams" (2023–2026).



WILLIAMSPORT SUN-GAZETTE

LOCAL NEWS LOCAL SPORTS LOCAL VALUE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Williamsport Symphony Orchestra Presents: Video Games in Concert

Epic music from the screen to the stage—fun for the whole family

Williamsport, PA — The Williamsport Symphony Orchestra invites audiences of all ages to experience the power and excitement of video game music live in concert with Video Games in Concert, taking place Tuesday, March 17, 2026 at 7:00 PM at the Journey Bank Community Arts Center.

Conducted by Maestro Ben Firer, this high-energy, family-friendly program brings some of the most iconic video game soundtracks to life, including music from Halo, Skyrim, Kingdom Hearts, Metal Gear Solid, Castlevania, and World of Warcraft. These sweeping scores—originally composed to heighten senses of adventure, heroism, and storytelling—shine in full symphonic color when performed by a live orchestra.

Enhancing the grandeur of the evening, the Williamsport Symphony Orchestra will be joined by the Lycoming College Choir under the direction of chorus masters Patrick Chui and Adin Hinojosa. Their voices will add dramatic power and cinematic scale to selections that feature choral elements, elevating the immersive experience for audiences.

As scholar of gameplay Johan Huizinga once observed, “You can deny seriousness, but not play. Play is the exaltation of the possible.” That spirit of play animates this entire evening—celebrating imagination, creativity, and the joy of discovery through music that has inspired generations of players around the world.

Designed with families and young audiences in mind, Video Games in Concert will also feature interactive activities for kids, making it a perfect introduction to orchestral music while celebrating the games and stories many already love.

Whether you're a longtime gamer, a music lover, or a family looking for a fun and engaging night out, this concert offers an immersive experience that bridges generations and genres. Tickets are available at <https://www.caclive.com/> or by calling the Journey Bank Community Arts Center Box Office at (570) 326-2424.

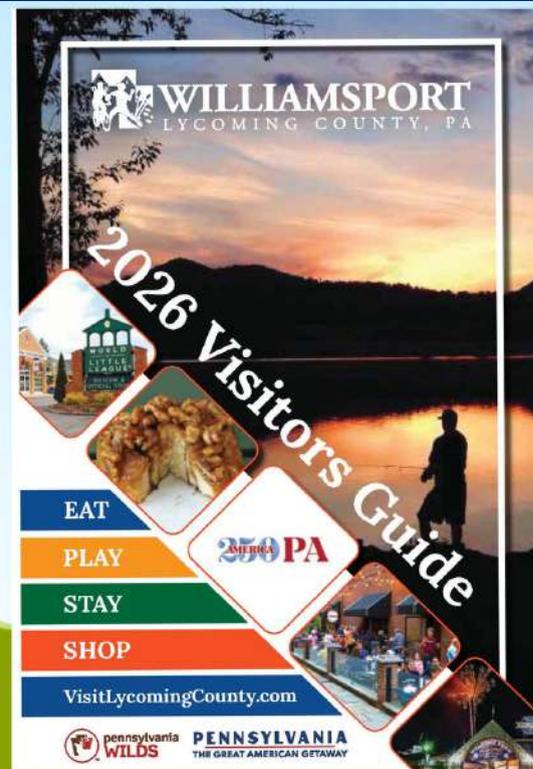
Rush tickets (free) are available the night of the show with student ID.

Special Thanks to our Sponsors: Hudock Capital Group, Lycoming College, PNC Bank, Wyrope Williamsport Federal Credit Union, and State Representative Jamie Flick.



The 2026 Lycoming County Visitors Guide has arrived! 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 2026 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.



Upcoming PM Exchanges



Jackass Brewing Company

March 12th, 5-7 PM

Jackass Brewing Company
301 W 3rd Street
Williamsport, PA 17701

Join us for an upcoming PM Exchange at Jackass Brewing Company in Williamsport! Connect with fellow professionals in a relaxed, welcoming setting while enjoying locally crafted brews and great conversation. This PM Exchange offers the perfect opportunity to expand your network, share ideas, and build meaningful connections within the community. Whether you're a longtime member or new to PM Exchanges, come unwind after the workday and experience one of Williamsport's local breweries.



PDC SPAS

March 26th, 5-7 PM

PDC Spas
200 East Church Street
Williamsport, PA 17701

PDC Spas is pleased to welcome the Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce to a special PM Exchange held at the company's Showroom. Attendees will get an exclusive look at PDC Spas' latest innovations in hydrotherapy and backyard wellness, with new advancements showcased across their hot tub, swim spa, and cold plunge collections. In addition to the newest spa designs, guests will also be among the first to experience PDC Spas Factory Showroom supply of Best Saunas Traditional and Infrared Saunas, now on display in the showroom. These additions highlight the company's expanding dedication to full-spectrum wellness solutions, combining therapeutic heat, relaxation, and modern craftsmanship. This after-hours event offers Chamber members a unique opportunity to explore PDC's American-made manufacturing quality, meet the team behind the products, and enjoy hands-on demonstrations throughout the showroom. Light refreshments and networking will round out an engaging evening focused on innovation and community connection.



2026 PM EXCHANGES

March 12 - *Jackass Brewing Company*

March 26 - *PDC Spas*

April 16 - *Barr's Ace Hardware*

April 30 - *Williamsport Area School District*

May 21 - *Larson Design Group & Eat and Run
Catering & Restaurant*

May 28 - *UPMC*

June 18 - *KVS Computers*

June 25 - *Ford Custom Build*

July 9 - *Members 1st Federal Credit Union &
Williamsport Country Club*

August 6 - *Nippenose Tavern*

September 10 - *Wine & Design*

September 24 - *Fairfield by Marriott*

October 1 - *Innovative Manufacturers' Center (IMC)*

November 5 - *Pennsylvania College of Technology*

December 3 - *Miele Group*

December 17 - *East Lycoming School District*



UPCOMING RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONIES



February's Ribbon Cutting



Ribbon Cutting

Medico Construction Equipment, Inc.

New Muncy Location

Grand Opening Celebration

Ribbon Cutting & Open House

Thursday, April 30, 2026

2 Tyler Road, Muncy

Celebration: 10am-2pm

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at 11:30am

Lanna Beauty Bar

424 William Street

Williamsport, PA 17701

Leadership Lycoming



Local and State Government Day

The day began with Lycoming County Commissioners Scott Metzger, Mark Mussina, and Marc Sortman, who discussed their roles and goals for the county. The class then visited the Williamsport Bureau of Fire, where Chief Tracey Harer and members of the B Platoon shared insight into daily operations and the challenges facing local fire departments.

The class also heard from State Representatives Jamie Flick and Joe Hamm, Mayor of Williamsport Derek Slaughter, and Matt Wise on behalf of Senator Gene Yaw, who spoke about leadership and public service. Lunch was sponsored by Malee Law Firm, with Attorney James Malee highlighting the importance of estate planning.

The afternoon featured a public speaking workshop led by the Greater Williamsport Toastmasters Club, and the day concluded with a tour of the Lycoming County 911 Center led by Interim Director Dustin Williams.

Thank you to our program day sponsors Malee Law Firm and Senator Gene Yaw and to our annual sponsors River Valley Health, UPMC North Central Pa., PPL Electric, and Hudock Capital Investments.

Apply to be in the Class of 2027!



Scan the QR code to apply or call 570-320-4216 for more information.

Applications due April 17th, 2026

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- Basket Auction & 50/50
- "Final 3" Elimination Game

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(2nd floor)
1307 Park Avenue
Williamsport, PA 17701

Tickets are limited! Call 570-320-4216 for availability

140th ANNUAL MEETING AWARDS



2025 Vince Matteo Excellence in Leadership Award - Barbara Hudock



2025 Large Business of the Year Award - The Miele Group



2025 Small Business of the Year Award - Mr. Sticky's



2025 Emerging Business of the Year Award - Ignite Business Services



Chamber members enjoyed catching up with friends and making new connections while dining on delicious food at the Tiadaghton Inn. Thank you to everyone who attended and sponsored the 2026 Jersey Shore Area Chamber of Commerce Winter Mixer.



Jersey Shore Area Chamber of Commerce

Winter Mixer

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