



Chamber Connection

December 2025
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LEGACY MEMBER

Shali Rose Co. Boutique & Jem Medical Piercing



FEATURE MEMBER

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SMALL BUSINESS

Water Wheel Carriages

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

So, where did 2025 go? It feels like I was just getting started with the year, and we're now in December. I definitely miss when it seemed like our days lasted forever and it felt like you were waiting forever for the next holiday or big occasion in your life.

Earlier this week, I was with a few Business PA officials (formerly known as the Governor's Action Team), meeting with the owner and touring the Chance Aluminum plant in Williamsport. During the parking lot conversation after we finished, one of the officials that came from Luzerne County asked me about the "No Kim Development" signs that he saw when coming through the eastern end of the county. He said it always catches his eye when driving through the area and was curious about what it was all about.

I told him it involved a housing development, and he smiled and said he thought it might be an industrial development project. He then mentioned that it's one of the key factors holding some of the projects back in this region because we lack the newer market rate housing, which comes into play when industrial locators look at communities for site selection.

This then led me into a further discussion with him about an editorial piece that was passed along to me earlier in the week that spoke to what we are facing in our area regarding housing. The only difference is this was focused on the Geneva, NY market, which I'm fairly familiar with having enjoyed the Seneca Lake Wine Trail many times over the years.

Josh Durso wrote the column titled, "Why the 'good old days' aren't coming back without new neighbors." He starts off the column by noting that small businesses in New York don't fail because the area suddenly becomes more expensive. His view is that these businesses fail because the communities around them have fewer people than they used to and that's because too many places fight harder against new housing than they ever did against actual economic threats.

That caught my attention because I see this fairly regularly reported whenever there's a proposed housing development in our county. We only need to look to recent efforts in the Loyalsock and Wolf Township areas.

Durso mentioned that smaller communities in the New York region block growth for the sake of nostalgia. Those that speak to the nostalgia cite that small businesses struggle today because taxes are higher and there's more regulations. If that were the case, those are factors that could be overcome, as we see small businesses being able to compete on pricing. Where the small businesses struggle is not having enough population in a given area, which means more people, more families, and more workers that all translate to more consumers.

Tying into the nostalgia is the fight by local residents to preserve the character of the area in which they live. Some of the statements made at public meetings by those that make this "nostalgia" argument cause me to wonder if people appreciate what property rights are for the owners. Hearing people comment about the fact that they will lose grounds that they've hunted, walked, or hiked on make me pause and wonder if they have ever asked permission to do any of these things. Having grown up in the rural part of our county, we used to call that trespassing.

As people fight these new market rate (yes, market rate) housing developments, they aren't preserving anything. All they're doing is slowly allowing for the decline in population of our area.

Talk to businesses that struggle to get people to move here from other areas of the country. Most people don't want to live in a 70-, 80-, 90- or 100-year-old home. They want something that is new, or at least newer, that doesn't need regular maintenance. Living in a home that is over 90 years old, I can attest to the many things that need attending in comparison to the home I grew up in that was built by my parents in the mid-1970s.

We need new people to move and live here, and new housing is one of the key factors to get them here. Without new housing, we can expect to see our youth slowly trickle away with our population continuing to decline.

As that happens, we'll see taxes slowly rise because government and school districts won't have the same residential populous to tax in generating revenue for basic services. New people offer us opportunities to grow and add exciting amenities to our area.

Wouldn't it be great to see more commercial and retail options in our area, other than being all jumping for joy for the latest Wawa or Chick-fil-A? We should all want more and better. I can tell you that population is a key factor to getting more and better commercial and retail investment.

People have asked me what drives my work and I always tell them the number one thing is that I want my kids to come back to Lycoming County after college to live here. The only way to keep our youth here is to give them things that are new, and that includes new housing and new people that bring new ideas and new business opportunities to all of us.

The writer of the Geneva piece's last paragraph was as follows and it rings true for much of our area. It went, "The truth is straightforward. The "good old days" weren't magical. They weren't even especially unique. They were just full of people. And in the end, that's still the one ingredient no community can live without." You can read his entire column by going to <https://joshdurso.substack.com/p/why-the-good-old-days-arent-coming?triedRedirect=true>.



LOCAL BUSINESS. LOCAL SUCCESS.

Member Renewals

First-Year Renewals

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Special Olympics PA – Susq. Valley Region 3

Members 2-5 Years

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Beauty In The Making
Concepts Design Group
First Heritage Federal Credit Union
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Jackass Brewing Company
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*This annual legislative breakfast continues
to be a meaningful opportunity for state
leaders, local officials, and business
professionals to come together and engage
in productive dialogue about issues
impacting Lycoming County.*

Thank you to all of our Chamber members that renewed
their membership between October 29 and November 21.

Learn more on Page 11



Chamber Member Discount

Working to meet the needs of our members



**Chamber Members: Enjoy a 10%
discount off all published fares
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**Log in to the Chamber Member Info
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Williamsport/Lycoming
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Interested in being featured in the Chamber Connection?
Contact Julia Mertes for more information.

Welcome New Chamber Members!



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Call the Chamber's Membership Director,
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Apply online at www.williamsport.org.



FEATURE MEMBER

New leadership for local Salvation Army programs

By **PAT CROSSLEY**
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The new divisional leaders of the Salvation Army, Lt. Colonel Edgar George Jr. and Lt. Colonel Barbara George bring with them 17 years of experience which they shared that they use to address the often diverse needs of people in the Eastern Pennsylvania and Delaware Division they serve.

The Salvation Army Williamsport and the Salvation Army Lock Haven are part of this division.

Edgar will serve as Divisional Commander providing oversight for the division's corps community centers and operations, ensuring services reach individuals and families in need. Barbara, in her role as Divisional Director of Women's Ministries and Officer Development, will oversee programming, ministry development and social services across the region.

The division includes 42 corps, the Philadelphia Kroc Center, the Camp Ladore, Retreat and Conference Center in Waymart, Pennsylvania, 94 officers and more than 1,200 employees serving 39 counties in Pennsylvania and Delaware. It encompasses both rural and urban areas.

"My wife and I have come from diverse backgrounds. First of all, she's from the inner city. I'm not. We have served in various places, more inner city than not really but what we really focus on is equipping our officers, the local leaders, to figure out what the army needs in those specific situations. We have some that are a little more comfortable in the urban areas, some that are more comfortable in the rural areas, and we just seek to meet the needs



PHOTO PROVIDED

Lt. Colonel Edgar George Jr. and Lt. Colonel Barbara George.

of these specific communities," Edgar said.

Barbara added that "our Salvation Army personnel are as diverse as the people we serve, as well as our employees. And so oftentimes in the areas we have 42 centers around eastern Pennsylvania and Delaware, oftentimes the people that are employed there are local people, so they were familiar with their needs they have a unique understanding of individual culture, whether it's rural or suburban or urban, and are better able and equipped to meet the needs of those communities."

They both emphasized that the Salvation Army has always been called to serve the "most vulnerable in our population."

"Depending on the specific community, it may look a little different,

but some of the things that we're really working hard at is food insecurity. Solving food insecurity, working with other agencies to do that as well," Edgar said.

"Clothing assistance, housing insecurity is a big problem," he continued. "Whether it's keeping folks in the homes that they are living in—apartments or their homes—helping them with rental assistance or utility assistance is a big one as we approach the colder months, or emergency shelters."

"The other thing is we do all kinds of daily programs and weekly programs. We have after-school programming for children, senior programs, all of that on site. We have summer day camps to help give children a safe, supervised place to be while school is off," he

added.

As a church, the Salvation Army also brings a spiritual component to their programs.

Barbara added that food and housing insecurity also creates a toll on people both emotionally and spiritually.

"The constant worry of where the next meal is going to come from or when am I not going to be able to pay the rent or how do I keep my oil tank filled really wears a person down. Not just the physical need of a person, but the emotional and mental impact that takes," she said.

"So our spiritual and emotional programs are certainly a priority for a need for us at this point now, just to help people cope," she added.

"No one wants to be faced with, do we buy food and feed the family, or do we fill the oil tank? But we can't do both, and so as the Salvation Army we step in and help them make that choice, because that's really not a choice. Feed the family or leave the oil heat on. Nobody wants to be faced with that, and so we help with that," Edgar said.

One of the things that the Georges said that they wanted to also focus on was strengthening the division's youth outreach. They shared what they might look like as they begin their new post.

"The future of the Salvation Army, the future of the world lies in our young people, right? It's not tomorrow, it's today. And you know, we live in a society where increasingly, with digital communication, the need for more personal and face to face interaction is prominent. So in our centers, we've encouraged our Salvation Army unit to really think outside the box. What can we offer the young people of to-

day that would bring them together face to face, be able to address the challenges of youth today, whether that's a drop in center or a basketball or gym program, or we offer music and craft programs and creative arts programs in many of our centers, if not all of them," Barbara said.

"We're trying to empower our local Salvation Army officers on the ground to think creatively and do an outreach to the youth in their community. Now, some of our places are very active with youth programming, but in the places where we're not, that's a priority for us," she said.

"I'm a product of the scouting program. I happen to be an Eagle Scout with three Eagle Scout sons, and credit the scouting program in part for the leader that I am today. I would love to afford other children, boys and girls, that kind of opportunity. Give them a great appreciation of the outdoors, but also help form them as the leaders that we need. As my wife said, not tomorrow, today," Edgar said.

The Georges also seek to expand the engagement of the Salvation Army within the communities they serve so that, as Barbara said, "if the Salvation Army were to close up in any of our communities where we have a building and a presence, that the neighborhood would feel that."

"We want to make sure that our local units are so engaged with the community in whatever need is expressed that it would be a travesty if the Salvation Army ever left town... We want to make sure that communities are not only aware of our presence and what we bring to the table, which many, many are in relation to

(See NEW, Page 10)

LEGACY MEMBER

Shali Rose Co. Boutique and Jem Medical Piercing meets challenge

By **MATTHEW COURTER**
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In a world of stereotypes, finding clothing that fits just right and boosts confidence can be a near impossibility, but for Ali Wileman, of Shali Rose Co., providing that service to local women and mothers is a challenge she met head on.

"I wanted to be able to raise our kids while they were young, and not be putting them in constant daycare or childcare," said Wileman, who was working as a full-time ICU RN at the time the idea for the store began to formulate.

Shali Rose Co. Boutique, 217B Broad St., Montoursville, opened in 2019, utilizing Wileman, her husband, Shane and daughter Ali to create its moniker.

"My mom had a big craft store that I grew up in, so she was a big influence because she had that small business experience, which kind of helped me into starting this," Wileman said.

"The biggest reason I went for clothing was because I was never your stereotypical model size, and I always struggled finding clothes that were comfortable, but still cute," Wileman explained.

"My biggest thing is textures and how things fit on the body. I want people to feel good about what they're wearing," she said, noting that her customers range from teens to those in their 70s and 80s.

"I have one lady that comes in every couple of weeks with her walker, but then I have people that are my age, in they're 30's, so I think it's kind of cool that the styles and quality of the clothing I bring in is so versatile for the age groups that are going to wear it," Wileman said.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Items for sale at Shali Rose Co. Boutique and Jem Medical Piercing.

A brand Wileman is particularly proud to offer is that of the Judy Blue Jean Co.

"Judy Blue Denim is the one jean that literally contours to every figure you have. They fit every woman perfectly, and they have this amazing stretch and comfort that they just instantly boost your confidence when you put them on because you're comfortable in them," she said of the brand.

"When someone gets in a new pair of denim and truly feels that it's possible to be comfortable in jeans, they're more inclined to really enjoy tops that they're picking out as well, especially moms, because we carry most of our weight in our midsection, so when I have a good pair of jeans on that, I really

feel not only secure in, but super comfortable, I'm more inclined to pick out an overall cute outfit," Wileman said.

"I carry tons of styles from skinny to wide leg, crops, boot cuts, boyfriend fit, all of the styles," she said.

Wileman stressed that sizing across all of the clothing in her shop are consistent, whether it be dresses, shirts, sweaters or anything else.

"Most of my stuff runs a little big and they're very stretchy, so women can size down and it feels good to see a lower number on your clothing," she said.

Shali Rose Co. also boasts a wide variety of children's clothing.

"We carry bamboo jammies and twirl dresses and baby gifts and

outfits that are going to last, that are good quality, that aren't necessarily the things that you're going to find at Kohl's, Walmart or Target. I try to bring in things that are different, that are unique, that are something that is quirky but cute," Wileman said.

"I always try to emphasize that this is probably one of the most kid friendly stores that you're going to find. My store is like a safe place for moms," Wileman added.

Over the summer, Wileman added yet another service to her store's roster, pediatric ear piercing.

While looking for a practice to pierce her three-year-old's ears, she came across Blomdahl USA, a medical ear piercing company that requires its dealers to hold an RN Physician certification, something that was a perfect fit for Wileman.

Jem Medical Piercing, named after their children Jack and Emma, was Wileman's answer to that search.

"I'll pierce two to three months and up. I prefer them to have at least their first round of vaccines before they come in, but they're not required. I trust a mom's judgment," she said.

Blomdahl's equipment is the result of a collaboration between a dermatologist and a physician, Wileman said.

"The studs are a little bit longer, which allows them to shift independently in the ear, where typical piercings, you'd have to twirl the backs, because they can get embedded in the back of the ear, and it kind of delays the healing," she explained, adding that the gauge is bigger than typical earring studs to allow for better healing when switching them out at six weeks.

"They offer medical grade plastic and medical grade titanium op-

tions, and their jewelry is 100% nickel free. They're manufactured in a plant where they manufacture sterile implants," Wileman said.

To help those children that are a bit timid, Wileman offers "bears with super powers" that give them strength and certificates once the piercing is finished.

With Christmas right around the corner, Wileman is gearing up for her third annual men's night event.

"Ladies can come in or go to our website and make a list, and my husband usually runs the register, and we do free gift wrapping gift bags, and have beer for the guys so that they can come in and pick out something that she picked out without her knowing the exact item," she explained.

Originally from Mifflin County, Wileman and her husband met while both were attending Pennsylvania College of Technology, and despite originally planning to move to Lancaster, fell in love with Montoursville, something she strives to express through her boutique.

"I want everyone to know that it's a safe place, where anyone is welcome. I want them to feel comfortable the moment they come in the door," she said.

"If they feel comfortable independently, shopping, that's great, but if they want my help, I'm here to help them find something that they truly feel beautiful in," Wileman said.

"If someone is looking for somewhere that they can find clothes that fit them comfortably and they feel good in, then I would love for them to stop by and help them," she said.

For more information about Shali Rose Co. Boutique and Jem Medical Piercing, please visit their website at www.shaliroseco.mys-hopify.com or across social media.

NEW MEMBER

Beauty In The Making offers unique items

By **MATTHEW COURTER**

mcourter@sungazette.com

The holiday season has arrived and with it, the search for that perfect gift, and for those looking for something truly unique, Beauty In The Making, 27 S. Main St, Hughesville, might just fill that need.

“The idea of this store is to find very one-of-a-kind items that you would find in travels through a small town or a big town, that almost tell a story or become part of your story,” said owner Leenie Newell.

“Each item may not feel like it’s brand new, even though it is, a lot of things are handmade around the world,” she added.

After previously operating a wedding business in Miami Beach, Newell moved to the area four years ago, and opened Beauty In The Making roughly a year later.

“We prayed, and we asked God to lead us to the right place, where we could come and be part of the community and bring some value to the community and and where we can flourish as an interior design firm and home decor store,” she said.

At the time, Newell and husband of five years, David were living in the Milton area, and after a trip to Hughesville, found the property where their shop resides.

“It needed a lot of work, but it was the right price point. So we rolled over her sleeves,” she said, adding that the property doubles as two AirBnB units.

Unlike many retailers, Newell does not utilize suppliers, instead scouting for the items in her shop from across the country and even the world.

“I travel quite a bit extensive-



Some of the decor for sale at Beauty In The Making.

PHOTO PROVIDED

ly through the United States and through the world, and especially California,” she said.

“When I moved here, I already had an idea of what I wanted to sell. I like transitional styles to where it can fit anywhere. I love to see pieces that are not just beautiful, but functional,” Newell explained.

“We just added these flameless candles that are stunningly beautiful from Denmark, and they are the number one selling flameless candles in Europe, so we tried to have not just unique, one of a kind items, but also items that elevate your lifestyle,” she said.

“We want people to feel like when they receive a gift from Beauty In The Making, that it was thought out, and not just a gift that someone gave to check their list,” Newell said.

“We also sell local artists, but

those that align very closely to our vision,” she added.

Though the goal of any business is to make money, Newell stressed that she and her husband want people visiting their shop to experience a sense of peace and inspiration.

“Those two things are very important. Whether they buy or not, that’s secondary. We want to make sure we have an outing for people to be inspired and relaxed,” she said.

“I love to go to small shops myself when I travel, and just get lost in the items and think of their stories. Sometimes I make up my own stories, like where this came from, or what is this made out of. I just love that feeling of connecting with artists or creators, and being able to do that for this community means so much to us,” Newell said.

As the business has quickly become popular, Newell stressed that

they exist to be part of a reciprocal relationship with the community, something she is proud to continue building.

“For me to come in where I know no one and create relationships and get to know people, it takes a lot more than if I grew up here all my life and already had a thousand connections with people or through Facebook,” she said.

“We didn’t start with any of that. We came here and just worked really hard. Nobody even knew we were working hard behind these walls,” Newell said, while giving credit for their quick success to the surrounding community.

“Even though it looks like we’re spearheading this whole thing, it takes a community to bring about all that we’re doing,” she said.

“We are very grateful to be here in our community. We have Kathy’s

Cafe that has been here for over 20 years right next door, Mark’s Outfitters who have been across the street for over 50 years and Shelia Barto’s Jewelry & Gifts for over 20 years and Hess & Hess, P.C. Lawyers, so we have some businesses that are surrounding me that have such a strong foundation to the community,” Newell said.

“We’re excited to be in a place where we can have that strong connection with the community, and we’re happy to support the community in any way that we can, and we want to serve it through those genuine connections,” she said.

Newell said that their focus on bringing together a well rounded, unique inventory makes Beauty In The Making the perfect shop for anyone seeking that perfect gift, Christmas or otherwise.

We gather unique finds, such as home decor, kitchen items and outdoor living,” she said.

“All of the things we have are made with either clay, cloth, wood, metal, stones or leather, and they’re selected because they’re timeless, they’re beautiful and they’re functional, and the purchaser’s lifestyle can be elevated, and tell their story. We’re hoping that people will buy things that connect them to themselves,” Newell said.

“Every time somebody comes through the door, we try to welcome them and to allow them to have a unique experience. And we hope that when they leave, they have found beauty, some inspiration, a belonging, some joy and that we have touched them in a special way,” she said.

For more information on Beauty In The Making, please visit www.beautyinthemaking.com.

Water Wheel Carriages offers fun excursions

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

A horse-drawn carriage ride is perhaps one of the most relaxing journeys to take, especially during the holidays.

"Our business offers a ride in one of our horse-drawn carriages that actually becomes a relaxing journey and a chance to immerse yourself in the local beauty of our valley with a carriage ride experience," said Joyce Lutz, co-owner of Water Wheel Carriages, a business at 103 Watson Road, Allenwood. She operates the business with her husband, Eric, who is a main coachman, and with occasional help from a family friend, Emma.

"We have a couple of routes that leave from our location and cover dirt roads and connecting township paved roads," she said.

With stops at a local Amish supply store and a produce stand the regular journey takes about two-and-one-half hours, she added.

Although offering a few different routes, the purveyors who guide Richard and Prince, their steady horse team, offer different kinds of rides and themes.

"They are full brothers 12 and 13 years old," Lutz said of Richard and Prince, who are a Percheron/ Belgian mix.

"They have a very strong bond and do not like to be separated," she said. "It took well over a year to gain their trust and establish a bond," she added. "They started out



PHOTO PROVIDED

Water Wheel Carriages is based in Allenwood.

as Amish work horses, but they seem to enjoy the attention and perks of their new occupation."

Eric serves as the coachman and caregiver of the horses, while Joyce acknowledges she handles the scheduling, and will go along on the larger group rides to attend to the participants and act as a second driver should some need arise.

As stated, they have occasional help from Emma, who Joyce said she is grateful to have as a friend as she offers some social media help and fresh ideas.

The horses were purchased in February 2023, with the first official ride happening that July.

The horses remain on site, so as to serve the immediate Elimsport area,

but customers hail from Williamsport, Bloomsburg, Lewisburg, and Hughesville, but they've had visitors from other states who are visiting family or attending the Little League World Series.

Their staging area for the rides is at the Watson Road, Allenwood address. It is just off Route 44, two miles north of Elimsport.

Type of rides

The business can provide either a shorter journey or an expanded one, which involves some picnic times.

Along the way, the carriage goes through woodlands, pastures and areas with mountain views, often stopping for curious and friendly horses, sheep, pigs, cows, and,

sometimes, an entertaining donkey.

"We often stage our rides by a pond that once had a water wheel made by my grandfather," Lutz said. "My husband would like to build another water wheel in that same spot so that was the inspiration for our name."

"We have several different conveyances," Lutz noted. The Victorian carriage can hold 12 adults. This handmade-carriage is based on the one that U.S. President William McKinley rode in 1897. It has an enlarged frame and is built out of oak wood with a cherry floor.

"This carriage is popular for a group celebrating a birthday or having a reunion or other small groups," Lutz said.

Secondly, the "sweet-

heart carriage" is a private vis-a-vis - which is perfect for a couple or two couples facing each other, and popular for anniversaries.

Third, the business has a rustic buck board style wagon.

"We have used this with hay for children's birthday parties, and larger groups as this holds 20 adults, up to 30 with hay bales in the center," Lutz said.

And, last but not least, most recently, the couple has been putting the finishing touches of a custom-built sleigh, named "Belle."

"We are very excited about this new addition," Lutz said, adding how Belle is based off of a design the couple found from Norway (Yes, the home to reindeer).

In the design of this sleigh, it is wheelchair accessible.

"We are hoping to open up this experience to those in wheelchairs who normally would not be able to have such an experience," Lutz said.

Additionally, the business can customize the rides to include a picnic, special photography, or other requests.

"Recently, we had a husband and wife celebrate their 25th anniversary," Lutz said. "She wore her wedding gown on the ride and had a photographer take pictures along the way."

Shared experiences

A typical ride is exciting for the business's clients as most times this is a new and different experience for them.

The Victorian carriage is the favorite of most of the guests, including families who want to share this experience.

"Pictures are always a must before they load up," Lutz said, adding, "and most like to say 'Hi' to the horses."

After loading up, "we take a leisurely walk down the lane reminding people this was the way traveling was done about 100-plus years ago," she said. "After we emerge onto the back roads, we trot along enjoying the breath-taking scenery, which people miss due to their fast-paced lifestyle."

Trotting along over the (See WATER, Page 10)

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New leadership for local Salvation Army programs

(From Page 6)

our social services, but we also are encouraging again our local Salvation Army leaders to have their finger on the pulse of unmet needs in their community. Lots of communities have food pantries. Lots of communities can help with grants for rent and utilities. What are we missing? That's what we're encouraging our salvation armies to do—get out in the community. What are we missing that your community needs, that we may be able to address," Barbara said.

"It's also an effort to be collaborative in how we work. We realize that as the Salvation Army, we can't meet all the needs, and we need to know all our community partners. We need to be at the table with all our community partners so that collaboratively, as a community, we can meet the needs of the people," she added.

As the holiday season progresses, the work of the Salvation Army increases, with programs such as toy and food distributions as well as the appearance of the familiar bell ringers at various locations in the area.

"Christmas is our busiest time of year in many, many ways.

All of our centers participate in bell ringing; all of our centers participate in toy distributions; all of our centers participate in food distribution. So all of those things are happening simultaneously," Barbara said.

"I can't help but think about food distributions, whether it's Thanksgiving or Christmas, but on-site feedings and all of those we have skeleton staff. I like to refer to it as a smaller staff. So we rely very heavily on volunteers, whether it's to ring bells to raise the money to provide all these services," Edgar said.

"You should know, the money at the kettles is not just for Christmas. It goes to help our year round service. But you know, we rely on volunteers to ring the bells. We rely on volunteers to help us cook and feed. We rely on volunteers to help sort toys and distribute the toys. Some of those are not hard to find volunteers for. It's a lot of fun to give out toys to children. Sometimes we have more than what we can use. It's the rest of the year when we really could use volunteers to feed kids in an after school program, or to help put together a snack or something like that. That's as rewarding as the Christmas toys

and the Thanksgiving dinners," he said.

The Georges stressed that they appreciate the support that the Salvation Army receives every year either through donations or volunteer hours.

"We recognize we can't do it alone. We need every community to join us in this effort to make life better for the most vulnerable among us," Barbara said.

Prior to this appointment, the Georges served as Divisional Leaders for the Northeast Ohio Division beginning in 2023. They previously served in the Eastern Pennsylvania and Delaware Division from 2019 to 2023, a period that included the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, with Edgar as General Secretary and Barbara as Divisional Secretary for Program. Their past leadership also includes roles at the Boston Kroc Center, in divisional youth ministries in Western Pennsylvania and in divisional roles in New Jersey. Barbara also brings an extensive background in Emergency Disaster Services.

For more information about The Salvation Army's ongoing work in Eastern Pennsylvania and Delaware, visit <https://easternusa.salvationarmy.org/eastern-pennsylvania/>.

Water Wheel Carriages offers fun excursions

(From Page 9)

roads hearing the clip clopping is incredibly relaxing, customers have said.

Riders ask basic questions, which incite relaxed conversations.

Over the roads and small stream beds, people get it, and are amazed at the relaxation of it all.

Stopping, walking and trotting

"Stopping at our local Amish-owned hardware store is dramatically more exciting when everyone is informed of their bathroom on premise," Lutz said.

Baked goods are offered as well as drinks at the store.

The horses get some rest before their journey home.

"Walking and trotting along comes to an end as we turn into our familiar lane again," she said.

The horses walk the rest of the way as they stroll into the staging area where it all began.

So far, in all rides, folks just want to hang around and thank the boys for pulling them and telling them they did a wonderful job.

Prince and Richard know they are ap-

preciated as everyone says, "that was so relaxing" before they say 'good bye.'

Reasons for starting up the business

Lutz said she and her husband, Eric, got into the business because he wanted to retire to "something."

In fact, a dream turned into reality after a conversation he had with an Amish neighbor, and previous Airbnb host.

It sparked the idea of offering hay wagon rides.

"Once he saw a picture of the Victorian carriage that we eventually bought, he knew that was special, so we literally bought the cart before the horse," Joyce said.

The carriage rides are special for so many reasons.

Not only does the couple enjoy taking the rides, they enjoy connecting with each of the guests.

The people along this route are always so friendly, she added.

"Many locals wave at us along the journey," Lutz said. "Often, different

animals along the way come up to greet us as we stop for a minute to say, "Hi."

One of the phrases they started this business with was "taking back time."

"We truly feel that, and we also know that good memories are being made. It really helps people live in the moment."

Anyone can schedule a ride by looking us up on Facebook. The pricing reflected reserves the whole carriage. Often participants divide the price up among their party. Calls can also be placed at (570) 816-8162 to make reservations. This is good if one wants to book a custom time or special ride.

"We are open Monday and Wednesday through Saturday," Lutz said.



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Upcoming PM Exchanges



The District Cinema

Thursday, December 4, 2025 from 5-7pm
965 Lycoming Mall Circle
Pennsdale, PA 17756

About: The District Cinema at Lycoming Valley features 12 screens and a casual atmosphere for cinematic entertainment. Enjoy popcorn and soda courtesy of the District Cinema at Lycoming Valley while discovering all the amazing offerings and upcoming upgrades coming to the cinema.



Miele Manufacturing

Thursday, December 18, 2025 from 5-7pm
66 Mall Parkway
Muncy, PA 17756

About: Join The Miele Group for our Holiday PM Exchange on Thursday, Dec. 18, from 5–7 p.m. at 66 Mall Parkway, Muncy, PA, as we celebrate Miele Amusements' 90th year in business! Enjoy hors d'oeuvres, drinks, tours, and giveaways while learning about all our companies—Angelina's Song, FASTSIGNS, Miele Amusements, Miele Development, and Miele Manufacturing.

We're also hosting our third annual Bike Drive and invite attendees to bring a bike to donate. Help us reach our goal of 25 bikes for the Williamsport Police Department's holiday outreach and Toys for Tots. The Miele Group is proud to be a fourth-generation, family-owned business in Muncy, PA.



Morning Member Connection

State Legislative Briefing 2025



The annual legislative breakfast brings together our state legislators, local officials, and business leaders to network and discuss current and upcoming policy issues.

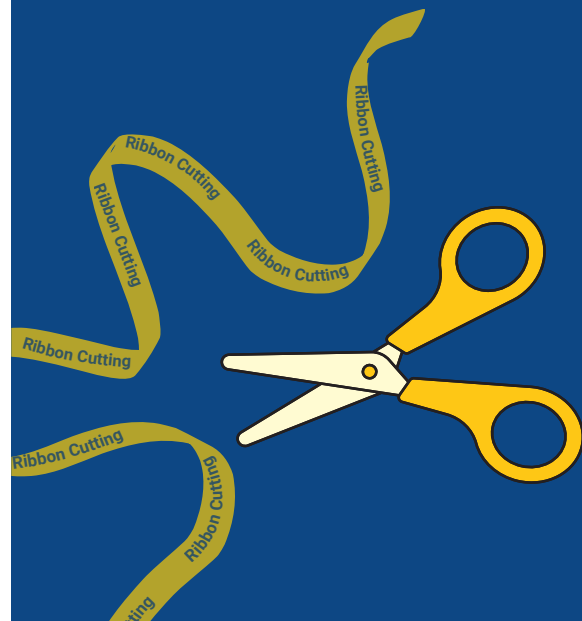
Attendees had the opportunity to hear from our state legislators about what is taking place in Harrisburg, PA, and learn about legislative initiatives being advanced or considered that may impact the Lycoming County community.

Featured speakers included Senator Gene Yaw and Representatives Joe Hamm and Jamie Flick.





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Leadership Lycoming

On November 13, Leadership Lycoming kicked off its second Program Day at the Community Theatre League. With it being many classmates' first time inside, the Q&A and behind-the-scenes tour with Board President and Founder Andrée Phillips, Executive Artistic Director Seth Sponhouse, and Executive Assistant Rubie Natal-Figueroa opened the group's eyes to a piece of the community that has provided a stage for generations of aspiring actors, directors, and more.

After a short walk, the class stepped inside Lycoming Arts, a historic and cultural center in Downtown Williamsport. Thanks to a presentation by Joy Walls, Sue Dinsmore, and Ric Jones, the class learned about the work the center does throughout the year, including First Friday, the German Christmas Market, the Firefly Science Trail, and opportunities to add to the 29 pieces of public art around the city. The group then explored the gallery, taking in artworks by local artist Austin Orelli.

Next up – a "Rich History" Panel with Dr. John Piper, Bill Poulton, and Dr. Christopher Pearl, where the class learned about county history from the Yankee–Pennamite Wars to the lumber boom. In the afternoon, Leadership Lycoming's group toured The Scottish Rite with Commander in Chief Darrin Feerarr, learning about the building and the organization's community involvement. A trolley ride then took the group to the Thomas T. Taber Museum for a presentation from Executive Director Gary Parks and a scavenger hunt.

The day's second-to-last tour was led by classmate Caleb Hipple at Wildwood Cemetery, covering its Victorian-era opening and transformations. Outside, the class walked a portion of the paved roads, learning about mausoleums, family plots, and notable burial sites.

The class wrapped up at Rosko's Brew House with a tour of the renovated space and culvert.

Thank you to our annual sponsors – [River Valley Health](#) and [UPMC North Central Pa.](#) – and to our Program Day sponsor, Evergreen Wealth Solutions.

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Leadership Lycoming

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Leadership Lycoming is a program of the Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce

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2026 PM EXCHANGE CALENDAR

- January 15** - Albright Studio Photography
- January 29** - Williamsport Scottish Rite & River Valley Internet
- February 19** - Brick Mill Craft Furniture
- March 12** - Jackass Brewing Company & West Branch Susquehanna Builders Association
- 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
- May 28** - UPMC
- June 11** - KVS Computers
- June 25** - Ford Custom Renovation
- July 9** - Members 1st Federal Credit Union & Williamsport Country Club
- August 6** - Nippenose Tavern
- September 10** - Wine & Design
- October 1** - Innovative Manufacturers' Center (IMC)
- November 5** - Pennsylvania College of Technology
- December 3** - Miele Group



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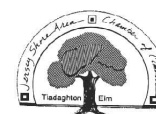
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\$10/person
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The departure times for December 4th–7th are:

5:45 PM	6:00 PM	6:15 PM
6:30 PM	6:45 PM	7:00 PM
7:15 PM	7:30 PM	7:45 PM
	8:00 PM	

Dec 5th & 6th will have additional departures at:

8:15 PM	8:30 PM	8:45 PM
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