



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

**Lundy Warehousing serves industry realty needs**  
**Valley View: Home for nursing, rehabilitation**  
**LCVB's 2018 Grant Application**  
**Chamber recognizes high school students**



**KENT BENNETT AND ASSOCIATES**  
**answers calling**



# The Chamber View

Vincent J. Matteo, President/CEO



So I am one day late for the deadline for my column, I am not overly concerned. Sometimes it is good to be the boss (sometimes!). Actually, I am blaming the long Thanksgiving weekend. The real question is not why I am late, but what am I going to talk about.

First, let's talk about the local retail economy. It would appear from all reports that Black Friday was a success for local retailers in general and Small Business Saturday was also successful. I spoke to several shop owners and shoppers and all said the business was fairly brisk – especially in downtown Williamsport on Saturday. That is good news. I also heard from some shoppers who went to the Lycoming Mall on Black Friday who said they were actually surprised at how busy it was, especially considering the loss of Macy's and Penney's and now the pending closing of Sears as well. These are dark days for the traditional department stores many of us grew up with. When we were younger many of these stores abandoned the American downtown and now, shoppers are abandoning them for the perceived convenience of online shopping. While the big boxes such as Walmart and Lowes appear to be thriving, the general department stores are quickly becoming a

thing of the past - at least in small town America. I was talking to a chamber member yesterday and he was wondering what would eventually come along and replace the Amazons of the world. As he was saying, it will not be in our lifetime, but it will happen – change is inevitable in whatever we do – business is no different. We as consumers really make the decisions.

My last column came out the day before election day so the results were not in yet of course. There were really no big surprises. I want to congratulate all the winners and wish them the best. Despite all the negative news right now, public service is still a noble pursuit and those who run with the commitment to serve to the best of their ability, honestly and openly, should be thanked for their service.

As far as the two somewhat competing ballot initiatives in Williamsport, it comes as no surprise that both passed. In an off year election when turnout is traditionally low, those who believe strongly in something are more apt to turn out to vote and that is what I think happened here. Let's be honest, there was no real campaign for or against either of the two questions so supporters who are ardent about a topic will come out to vote. It is just the way of things. The real vote will come when both or either are placed on a ballot to see if the citizens of Williamsport will want

to change to either Home Rule or a Council/Manager form of government. I am not aware that either of the groups have held their first meeting yet and I am not even sure who would call the first meeting since no one was elected as the Chair of either group. Regardless, I am sure meetings will start shortly. It is my hope that all the meetings will be open to the public and run with full transparency. I am also hopeful that members of both groups are entering their discussion with open minds. While some people have expressed strong doubts that it is the case – I am ready to give them the benefit of the doubt. Let's take a wait and see. However, I would urge all residents of the city to pay close attention to what goes on during the discussions. Literally, the future of this great city is being discussed.

So, another year is quickly coming to an end. When this edition of the Chamber Connection is out, it will already be December 4th. Certainly hard to believe. Like in many businesses, this is a particularly busy time of year at the Chamber since we are still working on programs and projects for 2017 while we are actively planning for 2018. Right now we have volunteers and staff working on our Plan of Action and budget for 2018. I believe 2018 will be an exciting year for the Cham-

ber and all its affiliates. Before the year even begins we know a new, great event will be coming here – the Drums Corps Associates World Championships over Labor Day weekend. Thanks to the hard work of our Visitors Bureau, the organizers of this event have committed to bringing it here along with thousands of enthusiasts. Our hotels, restaurants and literally our streets will be filled with the sound of music. It will be a tremendous boost to our local economy. As usual, I expect our Board to develop an aggressive plan of action for all of our organizations and this will not be the only new items.

Next year will be an important year not only for our organization, but for the Commonwealth as well. This year was an off year election, next year is anything but. We will have a Governor's race that should prove to be exciting. Several candidates are

running for the Republican nomination to challenge the likely Democratic Nominee Governor Wolf. We will have a race for U.S. Senator between incumbent Robert Casey and a yet to be determined Republican Nominee and, the entire U.S. House of Representatives as well as the Pennsylvania House of Representatives will be up for election. Yes, while this past November may have been lackluster, by the time election day 2018 comes around, I am sure everyone (except marketing companies and media outlets) will be sick of the television, radio and newspaper advertisements. Despite that, we all need to pay attention to what the candidates will say and then vote.

I want to close out this column by wishing everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. And that's the Chamber View.

## Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce Staff Main Office - 570-326-1971

<b>President/CEO</b> .....	Dr. Vincent J. Matteo
570-320-4201 - vmatteo@williamsport.org	
<b>Editor</b> .....	Sharon Jones
570-320-4202 - sjones@williamsport.org	
<b>STAFF</b>	
<b>Executive Vice President, Economic Development &amp; Executive Director, Lycoming County Visitors Bureau</b> .....	Jason Fink
570-320-4213 - jfink@williamsport.org	
<b>Vice President &amp; Chief Financial Officer</b> .....	Nancy Eischeid, CPA
570-320-4206 - neischeid@williamsport.org	
<b>Executive Secretary</b> .....	Cindy Robbins
570-320-4201 - crobbs@williamsport.org	
<b>Financial Assistant</b> .....	Lori Knowlden
570-320-4205 - lknowlden@williamsport.org	
<b>Leadership Lycoming/Special Events Coordinator</b> .....	Sharon Jones
570-320-4202 - sjones@williamsport.org	
<b>Tourism Coordinator</b> .....	Regina Kennedy
570-320-4208 - rkenedy@williamsport.org	
<b>Membership Relations Coordinator</b> .....	Carroll Pawlikowski
570-320-4209 - cpawlikowski@williamsport.org	
<b>Receptionist</b> .....	Amy Hamm
570-326-1971 - ahamm@williamsport.org	

## Watch for the Upcoming 2018 PM Exchanges

**YWCA Northcentral PA**  
Thursday, January 18

**Lundy Construction**  
Thursday, June 28

**UPMC Susquehanna**  
Thursday, February 8

**American Rescue Workers**  
Thursday, July 12

**Thomas T Taber Museum**  
Thursday, February 22

**Stallion Oilfield Services**  
Thursday, July 26

**L3 Electron Devices**  
Thursday, March 8  
(rescheduled from 2017)

**River Valley Health and  
Dental Center**  
Thursday, August 9

**The WorkCenter**  
Thursday, March 15

**Lakeview Apartments**  
Thursday, September 13

**Mel's Deli**  
Thursday, April 12

**Riverview Bank**  
Thursday, September 27

**Chef Hosch & Ann Catering**  
Thursday, March 26

**Farrington Place**  
Thursday, October 11

**New Trail Brewing Co.**  
Thursday, May 10

**Williamsport Country Club**  
Thursday, October 25

**Bush House Estate/  
Montoursville Area  
Chamber of Commerce**  
Thursday, May 24

**Holiday Inn**  
Thursday, November 18

**Dunkled Acres**  
Thursday, June 14

**Williamsport/Lycoming  
Chamber of Commerce**  
Thursday, December 20

# Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce 132nd Annual Meeting & Awards Banquet



**Thursday, January 25, 2018**  
**11:45AM - 1:30PM**

**Genetti Hotel**

Registration Opens at 11:15AM

**Join us as we review the accomplishments of 2017 and look ahead to developing an even better Lycoming County in 2018.**

### Awards to be presented

**Phillips/Plankenhorn Small Business of the Year award**

Sponsors:



**Large Business of the Year Award**

Sponsor:



**Emerging Business Award**

Sponsor:



**President's Award**

For more information or to make a reservation, call the Chamber at 570-326-1971 or register online at [www.williamsport.org](http://www.williamsport.org).

## You can WIN BIG

Looking for stocking stuffers or something for the hard-to-buy-for person, maybe for your paper carrier or a small thank you gift? Then these raffle tickets will help

you finish your shopping list and are better than lottery tickets! Everyone will have 31 chances, and maybe more, to win on one ticket! When the ticket number matches the PA Lottery Pick 3 Evening number, lucky winners will be paid \$25-\$250!

To purchase your ticket, visit the Chamber offices at 104 West Fourth Street in downtown Williamsport.

**Leadership Lycoming**

Rules: All numbers played straight. Winning number Based on the PA Lottery Pick 3 Evening Number only. Winners paid two weeks following the drawing.

**EACH TICKET COST \$5.00 - ONLY 1000 TICKETS SOLD**

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

Proceeds support the Leadership Lycoming Program Lic. No. 368

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
THANK YOU	\$30	\$50	\$25	\$45	\$30	\$40
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
\$35	\$50	\$25	\$35	\$40	\$25	\$25
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
\$45	\$35	\$30	\$45	\$50	\$40	\$250
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
\$30	\$25	\$50	\$30	\$35	\$25	\$25
28	29	30	31	#000	JANUARY 2018	
\$40	\$45	\$40	\$35			

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Email \_\_\_\_\_

**#000**

## 10<sup>th</sup> Annual

# Denim & Diamonds



**February 3, 2018**  
**Holiday Inn Downtown**  
**6:00 pm — 11:00 pm**

**Reservations and Sponsorships  
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Enjoy an evening with your Chamber friends, multiple food stations and a variety of awesome desserts to satisfy all dessert connoisseurs. Back again this year; Daddy-O and the Sax Maniax. Watch your mailing for more information.

Call the Chamber at 570-326-1971 for more information or visit [www.williamsport.org](http://www.williamsport.org) to register online.

# Welcome New Chamber Members!

## CleanSlate Centers

Lisa Vollman  
329 Pine Street  
Williamsport, PA 17701  
570-505-8332  
www.cleanslatecenters.com  
*Healthcare-Drug & Alcohol  
Rehabilitation Services*

## Covenant Builders, Inc.

Earl Neff  
443 Broad Street  
Montoursville, PA 17754  
570-368-3026  
www.covenantbuilder.com  
*Contractors-Remodeling/  
Revovation/Improvements*

## Hibu, Inc.

Michael Caschera  
2822 Euclid Avenue  
S. Williamsport, PA 17702  
570-352-4523  
www.hibu.com  
*Marketing*

## Kenneth G. Daniels Investment & Wealth Management

Ken Daniels  
353 Pine Street  
2nd Floor, Suite 1  
Williamsport, PA 17701  
570-327-1680  
www.kendanielsen.com  
*Investments/Financial & Estate  
Planning*

## TCC Verizon Wireless

Sean Morgan  
1025-A North Loyalsock Avenue  
Montoursville, PA 17754  
570-980-9759  
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## Chamber Members...

Do you have a new business, location or special occasion for your company?

Are you interested in a ribbon cutting or open house?

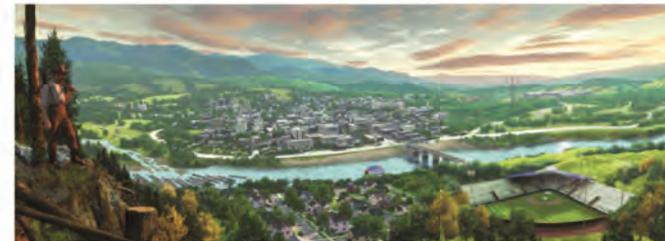
Contact Carroll Pawlikowski for more information at 570-326-1971.

Interested in joining the Chamber?  
Call Carroll Pawlikowski  
at 570-326-1971

Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce

Limited Edition

## "DAWN of a NEW ERA"



A beautiful addition to any office, this art depicts the wonders of the past, present and future of Lycoming County.

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Call the Chamber office or stop in during normal business hours at 102 West Fourth Street, Williamsport to see a sample piece or pick up your print. Any questions, call 570-326-1971 or email chamber@williamsport.org.



## Chamber Member Discount

*Working to meet the needs of our members*



### Vision Care

Vision Max offers all Chamber members and their families

- ◆ 20% discount on eye exams
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For more information please contact:

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

## Chamber Members, Join Us...

### Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce PM Exchange

Thursday, December 14, 2017

5:00-7:00pm

102 West Fourth Street, Williamsport

Come celebrate the holidays with the Chamber of Commerce and its Lycoming County Visitors Bureau. You might even see Santa!



### YWCA of Northcentral PA PM Exchange

Thursday, January 18, 2018

5:00-7:00pm

815 W. Fourth Street, Williamsport

Kick off the YWCA's 125th Anniversary with a History Mystery Birthday Party! Explore the building and hunt for clues, identify folks in historical photos, and create new memories at the Victorian photo booth. Birthday hats optional!



Call the Chamber of Commerce today at (570) 326-1971 or visit www.williamsport.org to make your reservations.

For a complete list of upcoming Chamber events, visit [www.williamsport.org](http://www.williamsport.org).

## Robert M. Sides Family Music Centers Hosts PM Exchange



*Thank you to Robert M. Sides Family Music Center for hosting a PM Exchange. Attendees were given the opportunity to walk around the facility on their own or with a staff member. The New Horizons, a senior community band, played for attendees. Presenting a Certificate of Appreciation is Barb Wascher Membership Development and Retention Committee, to Alysha Sides Greevy and Peter Sides for hosting a wonderful and very informative evening!*

## The Pajama Factory Hosts PM Exchange



*Thank you to the Pajama Factory for hosting a wonderful PM Exchange. Attendees gathered in the ClearStory event venue and had the opportunity to tour the Williamsport Country Kitchen and were guided on a tour which showcased studios and loft spaces. Presenting a Certificate of Appreciation is Victor Borgess, Membership Development and Retention Committee, to owner Mark Winkleman. Thank you for hosting a great evening!*

## Lycoming County Visitors Bureau Announces 2018 Travel and Tourism Application Deadline

The Lycoming County Visitors Bureau is pleased to announce the next round of the Lycoming County Travel and Tourism Grants funding. Grant applications became available December 1st and are due to the Lycoming County Visitors Bureau by 4:00pm on January 15th, 2018.

Funding is to assist with non-profit organizations in their travel and tourism related activities and is to be used for underwriting the expense of promotional and publicity initiatives by those assets for the purpose of increasing tourism within Lycoming County. Awards are granted on a competitive basis.

Grant funding is limited to non-profit organizations and prefer-

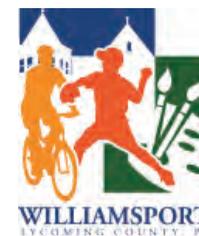
ence will be given to the assets that demonstrate the ability to attract patrons from outside Lycoming County.

Organizations meeting the criteria for the grant are strongly encouraged to apply for this funding. Applications and guidelines may be obtained by going to the Visitor Bureau website site, [www.vacationpa.com](http://www.vacationpa.com), or the Chamber's website, [www.williamsport.org](http://www.williamsport.org). They can also be obtained by calling the Chamber at 570-326-1971.

Those organizations that have questions or need assistance in completing the application can contact Jason Fink with the Visitors Bureau at 570-326-1971.

Since 2000, the Lycoming

County Visitors Bureau has granted out through this program over \$1.2 million to 50 non-profit organizations conducting travel and tourism related events and activities here in Lycoming County.



Missed a Chamber Connection newsletter in 2017? And you don't know where to go to find one? You can visit our website, [www.williamsport.org](http://www.williamsport.org) and click on the Chamber Connection box.

Or you can search for the Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce on facebook and look in our albums. There you will find 2017 Chamber Connections.

Oh, and don't forget to like us!

# LEGACY MEMBER

## Lundy Warehousing serves industry realty needs

By CARA MORNINGSTAR  
cmorningstar@sungazette.com

Lundy Warehousing, 25 W. Third St., has been servicing the Williamsport area's needs for industrial realty for many years.

"We are looking of commercial and industrial space," said Don Lundy, Lundy Warehousing president.

The main property, which is at the 200 block of Arch Street, has some history in the area.

"The origination of this property goes back to the mid 1800's," he said. "What they used to do here at this property was as they used to float the logs down the Susquehanna River, we're at the tributary of Lycoming Creek ... They used to float them back up and we used to have a planting mill over at Building 18."

From primarily lumber, the space then became geared for the steel industry.

"Sweet Steel was the manufacturer here from the

1920s until the early 1970s ... They manufactured railroad iron and angle iron," he said.

He said the property was then owned by the Jersey Shore Steel Schultz family before his grandfather purchased the property in the 1970s.

"This is a family operation," he said. "My grandfather bought the industry property here in the early 1970s to relocate Lundy Lumber."

So, Lundy Lumber moved in and continued to grow to keep expanding. They decided to open the space up to more industry and allow other companies to come into the area.

"We have Your Building Center which is still here today ... We have about five or six different manufacturers, distribution centers here," Lundy said. "Williamsport Steel Containers, Universal Well Service, Frito Lay, Exeter Pipe and Supply, AT&T and a few others." Having industries like this available in the area provides jobs for people.

"I figure there's between 500 and 1,000 people that went to work underneath roofs that we own," he said.

Your Building Center, 280 Arch St., has been a long-term tenant for many years.

"One of the things we've done for a very long time is that regardless of what your space needs are, we can take care of it," Lundy said. "In close family connection to Lundy Construction, anything you want, we can take care of it in-house ... Lundy Construction and our operations are all in the same family."

With larger industrial companies, some of them need specific specializations built in the spaces they use. Their construction company is able to provide custom needs for their tenants.



CARA MORNINGSTAR/Sun-Gazette

Displays are ready for customers to explore inside of Your Building Center, one of the Lundy Warehousing buildings at 280 Arch St.

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249 Broad Street Montoursville, PA 17754

"Right now, we've got a job going on," he said. "Dave Hertwig and Charles Imbro set up a brewery. All they had to do was sign a lease, and we'll take care of the rest ... We're going to build a brewery for them."

The new brewery, called the New Trail Brewing Co., will be located along Arch Street once construction is complete.

"We have to be very thankful for the natural gas industry these days," Lundy said. "We're more thankful to have it than not to have it ... It's an industry driven to our back door step by mother nature."

He said he enjoys working in the Williamsport area for his business, both for what the city has to offer and for its small town feel.

"Williamsport itself, you tend to go back to things that are familiar," he said. "You go down to a local restaurant and people know who you are. There's a lot to say for that."

For more information, contact Lundy Warehousing at 570-327-4541.

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**Yes, we would like to exhibit.**

Company \_\_\_\_\_

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Contact name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

How many tables (6' x 30") will you need? \_\_\_\_\_

How many chairs will you need? \_\_\_\_\_

How many electrical outlets will you need? \_\_\_\_\_

Additional setup requirements \_\_\_\_\_

**Return completed form to**

- College Transitions, DIF 129
- Pennsylvania College of Technology
- One College Avenue
- Williamsport, PA 17701
- 570.327.4527 (fax)
- [collegetransitions@pct.edu](mailto:collegetransitions@pct.edu)
- Or sign up online at [k12.pct.edu](http://k12.pct.edu)

# FEATURE MEMBER

## Kent Bennett and Associates answers calling

By **MIKE REUTHER**  
mreuther@sungazette.com

**K**ent Bennett has worked in the insurance business since 1974 and has seen the changes in the industry.

He's been through the industry's evolution from big office corporate insurers to the now more prevalent independent agencies such as his own.

"You do have to change with the times," he said.

Bennett, who heads up Kent A. Bennett & Associates, has found a niche selling insurance in Montoursville.

He enjoys helping clients with their insurance and investment needs.

"We do life and health insurance and investments," he said. "We do Medicare supplements. We do pensions and 401(k) rollovers."

No matter the need of a customer, his agency is there to help people.

And that means providing good service.

He got started in insurance working in sales for American General in 1974.

He said that experience gave him a good foundation and learning curve for his career.

"I had a good trainer," he recalled. "He taught me the value of doing good service."

It's an approach to business he has carried over to his agency.

Many of his clients have been with him for many years, and that customer loyalty trickles down to their children and even grandchildren.



MIKE REUTHER/Sun-Gazette

**Kent Bennett, of Kent Bennett & Associates, pauses from a busy day at his business. Bennett launched the agency in 1983.**

"Part of the reason we are here is to help people," he said.

His agency offers many different products from

various carriers.

His approach, he said, is matching products with the individual needs of clients.

Bennett said he and Barry Rake, a longtime associate with the business, work well together.

"Barry relies a lot on me in the investment area," he said. "I consider him our senior life guy."

Rake said it comes down to sharing a similar philosophy of the business, including being good to the customer.

Bennett credited his small office staff for helping successfully run the operation.

And he's not eyeing retirement just yet.

Bennett, 68, gets away from the office about 16 weeks a year, enjoying his time off tooling around

(See KENT, Page 9),

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# FEATURE MEMBER

## Kent Bennett and Associates answers calling

MIKE REUTHER/Sun-Gazette

**Christina Rafter talks on the phone from her desk at Kent Bennett & Associates, Montoursville. The agency offers insurance and investment services to clients.**



(From Page 8)

the U.S. with his family in an RV.

He's been to every state except Washington and Oregon.

Bennett and Rake simply have a love for what they do.

"I am working because I want to, not because I have to," Bennett said.

Rake, 75, also has no desire to pack it in anytime soon.

Whatever I enjoy, I keep doing it," he said.

The Williamsport Sun-Gazette is printed on newsprint which contains recycled material





**Valley View**  
Rehab & Nursing Center

*Valley View Rehab & Nursing Center*



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  - Short Term Rehab Wing
- Hospice/Palliative Care
- Respite Services
- Long Term Care
  - Extended Care Rehab

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Valley View Rehab & Nursing Center is a non-for-profit organization, locally owned and operated by Lycoming Community Care, Inc.  
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The Leadership Lycoming Class of 2018 had the opportunity to ride along with the Williamsport Police Department as a lead into their Law Enforcement & the Judiciary Day. The class visited the courthouse and sat in a courtroom with Lycoming County Judges Butts, McCoy, Lovecchio, and Gray, learning everything about being a judge and what responsibilities they each have. The class heard from Steve Shope, Project Bald Eagle, about the many drug addictions in our county and spoke with probation officers, Ed McCoy and Denny Stahl. After a session of speaking to Captain Miller and the District Magistrates, the class had the opportunity to tour the Lycoming County Prison. With a brief lesson on active shooters and ALICE from Detective Willy Weber, Deputy Sheriff Kurt Ulmer spoke to the class about conceal and carry gun rights. Thank you to the Lycoming County Courthouse, Lycoming County Judges, Community Arts Center and the Lycoming County Prison for allowing the class to spend valuable time learning about law enforcement and the courts during this day.

Thank you to Laura Klyn, BLAST IU17, Jason Fischer, The Muncy Bank & Trust Company, and Brian Schurr, Pennsylvania College of Technology for being class reporters.

**Thank you to our hosts:**  
**Lycoming County Courthouse**  
**Lycoming County Judges**  
**Community Arts Center**  
**Lycoming County Prison**



*The Leadership Lycoming Class of 2018 with Lycoming County Judges Lovecchio, McCoy and Butts.*



*Right, District Magistrate Christian Frey addresses the class after lunch discussions with District Magistrates Solomon, Lepley and Whiteman.*

*Below, the class speaks with Captain Jody Miller, Williamsport Police Department, about their police ride-alongs and other related topics.*



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Leadership  
Lycoming

## December Chamber Business Spotlight



There are over 900 member businesses in the Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce. This month we are featuring **Holiday Shopping Opportunities**. We encourage you to shop with these Chamber members in our community.

**Antiques & Moore/  
Starving Marvin Tack Store**  
(570) 323-1099

**Art of Kathleen B. Bonnell \*\***  
(570) 433-4434  
[www.ArtofKathleenBBonnell.com](http://www.ArtofKathleenBBonnell.com)

**Avu Goldsmiths \*\***  
(570) 772-8788  
[www.avugoldsmiths.com](http://www.avugoldsmiths.com)

**Beiter's Home Center \*\***  
(570) 326-2073  
[www.beiters.com](http://www.beiters.com)

**Ben Franklin Store \*\***  
(570) 546-8272  
[www.shopbenfranklin.com](http://www.shopbenfranklin.com)

**Cheri's House of Flowers \*\***  
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[www.cherishouseofflowers.com](http://www.cherishouseofflowers.com)

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**Eagles Mere Merchants Assoc.**  
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[www.glfameshoppe.com](http://www.glfameshoppe.com)

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[www.guildstv.com](http://www.guildstv.com)

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[www.gustoniangifts.com](http://www.gustoniangifts.com)

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[www.jlwintersjewelers.com](http://www.jlwintersjewelers.com)

**Janet's Floral Creations \*\***  
(570) 326-7393  
[www.janetsfloral.com](http://www.janetsfloral.com)

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(570) 323-6320  
[www.langsctocolates.com](http://www.langsctocolates.com)

**Le Chocolat \*\***  
(570) 322-5544  
[www.chocolatesandtreats.com](http://www.chocolatesandtreats.com)

**Lowe's**  
(570) 368-6300  
[www.lowes.com](http://www.lowes.com)

**Patinaz \*\***  
(570) 321-1944  
[www.patinazboutique.com](http://www.patinazboutique.com)

**Lycoming Mall \*\***  
(570) 546-6879  
[www.shoplycomingmall.com](http://www.shoplycomingmall.com)

**Nevills Flowers LLC \*\***  
(570) 368-2649  
[www.nevillsflowers.com](http://www.nevillsflowers.com)

**Otto Bookstore \*\***  
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[www.ottobookstore.com](http://www.ottobookstore.com)

**Patinaz \*\***  
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[www.puritycandy.com](http://www.puritycandy.com)

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## Chamber Hosts DEP Secretary for Morning Breakfast

DEP Secretary Patrick McDonnell, recently spoke to a Chamber audience at the Williamsport Country Club on efforts to align DEP and economic development to foster greater investment opportunities for Pennsylvania.

Secretary McDonnell began his career at DEP working in the State Energy Office on energy efficiency, renewable energy, and green building projects and has worked to achieve success in the nexus between energy and environmental issues.

Thank you to the following sponsors : Energy Transfer, Williams, Alta, Eureka Resources, Chief Oil & Gas and Larson Design Group.



DEP Secretary  
Patrick McDonnell



ENERGY TRANSFER



## MCPS of Central PA Opens Williamsport Office

MCPS of Central PA has opened an office in Williamsport to offer businesses the lowest possible credit card rates.

In addition to its national outreach, MCPS has operated with great success in Union, Snyder, and Northumberland Counties and is now expanding into Lycoming County.

Michael Murphy, its regional manager, will supervise sales in the new office, which shares space at 140 West Fourth Street with the Converge Gallery/The Graphic Hive operated by John Yagodzinski, a Williamsport website designer.

"John is perhaps the most enterprising young man I have found in the Susquehanna Valley," says MCPS president Art Lieberman. "We both believe in working with local Chambers of Commerce and are members of the Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce as well as the Central Pennsylvania Chamber.

"Mike Murphy will be bringing our unique credit card approach to local businesses in the area. We simply won't be beaten on our rates, service, and reputation. Our goal is to save businesses money, and, over the past 18 years, we have perfected ways to do that."

MCPS, whose main office is in New Berlin, has signed more than 1,000 accounts in 49 states and processes over \$80 million a year in credit card transactions. The company also has an office in Huntington Beach, California, and is sponsored by Woodforest National Bank, which has branches in Walmart stores locally and at nearly 750 other Walmarts throughout the nation.

Art Lieberman also owns MCPS for Campgrounds and HotelStar PS, both of which specialize in processing credit cards for the hospitality industry. The three companies have an A+ rating with the Better Business Bureau.

## Break the Connection.



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Before It Starts.

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Support local efforts. Join the Coalition at  
[www.ProjectBaldEagle.com](http://www.ProjectBaldEagle.com)

# Avu Goldsmiths: Unique jewelry

By **CARA MORNINGSTAR**  
cmorningstar@sungazette.com

**A**vu Goldsmiths, 246 E. Church St., has been serving the Williamsport area with unique jewelry items since August 2016.

The business was started by Jennifer Parks, owner and goldsmith.

“The name of the business, Avu, it is the Finnish word for quality and value,” she said. “I didn’t necessarily want to be Jennifer Parks Goldsmith just to have a little bit of a different outlook on it than the named goldsmiths and jewelry stores in the area.”

The name helped set her business stand out.

“People like the fact that it’s short and sweet,” she said.

She said having the name represent her work has been special for her, and business has been going well.

“The main line is Avu’s jewelry, which I make. Then of course the other items we carry are jewelry and gifts from a range of different artists,” she said. “A lot are American made, but we also carry a lot of Fair Trade Federation certified products. So, it’s nice to know that if you’re not buying American, you’re buying something that is supporting a developing country and human rights as well for good working conditions, fair wages and education for kids.”

She said it’s important for the store to have these options, and she enjoys supporting good causes like fair trade.

“We didn’t go into it expecting to do that, but we found so many good products that were fair trade that it made sense to make it an important portion of the business,” she said.

The jewelry she makes shows off her personal style and has items available in sterling silver, yellow gold, white gold and rose gold.

“I personally lean toward a more natural, organic feel,” she said. “My job is to make what the customer wants, especially if it’s a custom designed piece ... But if it’s my personal preference or personal design, then definitely something more organic feeling and usually more on the feminine side.”

She has a bachelor of fine arts and over 10 years of experience as a goldsmith before opening her



CARA MORNINGSTAR/Sun-Gazette

**Shown in photo is jewelry designed by Jennifer Parks, owner and goldsmith of Avu Goldsmiths, available at Avu Goldsmiths at 246 E. Church St.**

business.

“I was able to develop my skills more so than if I had just jumped into it prior to that,” she said. “So that was nice to develop my skill. I get to come to the table with a great history of working in the industry ... It’s a nice reassurance for customers as well because I’m not just randomly deciding to do this one day. I have a vast knowledge of what I’m doing.”

She said she was grateful for her experience and time, but she has loved having her own store.

“The first year was great, and it went so much faster than I honestly anticipated it to,” she said. “It was really exciting. A lot of people said, ‘Oh, if you make it through your first year of business, you’re doing really well.’ It flew by so fast, and it went great.”

Suanne Parks, Jennifer Parks’ mother and store manager, has been helping Jennifer Parks run the business since it opened.

“It’s been a journey in the last year, even though it went fast,” she said. “I am super thankful for my mom. She’s been an integral part of the business ... I couldn’t have done it without her help. It’s always nice to have someone by your side.”

She said that it’s been a dream to have her own business.

“I’m lucky to be able to actually enjoy what I do on a day to day basis. I think that makes all the difference in how a person interacts with other people, how they feel about themselves and just in general how they feel overall. I really couldn’t imagine doing anything else,” she said. “I don’t think I would be as complete if I had to do something else ... I would feel like something was missing and be less bright. This is what I want to do.”

For more information about Avu Goldsmiths, call 570-772-8788.



CARA MORNINGSTAR/Sun-Gazette

**Jennifer Parks, owner and goldsmith of Avu Goldsmiths, works on some jewelry inside her shop at 246 E. Church St. recently.**

# NEW MEMBER

## Valley View: Home for nursing, rehab

By **MIKE REUTHER**  
mreuther@sungazette.com

Valley View Nursing Center, nestled in the rural landscape of Lycoming County, provides a comfortable home for seniors.

The 163-bed facility includes long-term care and short-term rehabilitation services.

“We will be celebrating our 25th anniversary this April,” Administrator Lou Ann Simpson said.

Some 200 Valley View employees are involved in various facets of health care, including nursing, therapy and services.

Most recently, the facility at 2140 Warrensville Road, Montoursville underwent renovations, including “a complete remodel” of the dining room and kitchen areas.

Valley View offers its residents a variety of activities and has sitting rooms and lounges and a spacious center courtyard that provide comfortable relaxing spots.

“We think it’s a beautiful location,” Simpson said.

Twenty beds comprise the rehabilitation unit for temporary residents looking to eventually rejoin the community.

“We have a lot of really good outcomes,” Simpson said. “The goal is to get them in and out.”



MIKE REUTHER/Sun-Gazette

**Valley View Nursing Center offers a pleasant retreat for long-term care and short-term rehabilitation. Pictured in photo below left are Mary Jane Bennett, (center), a resident of Valley View, and her visiting daughter, Jane Anderson, and granddaughter, Francesca Finicle.**



Among those residents is Jack Callahan, of Montoursville, who underwent knee surgery this year.

“The care is excellent from top to bottom,” he said. “You can’t beat it.”

Verna Myers, 74, of Clarkstown, who was injured in an automobile accident, is also undergoing therapy and looking to get back on her feet.

“My care is great,” she said.

The full range of rehabilitation services include occupational, speech and physical therapies.

Programs designed to fit an individual’s specific needs can work toward improving balance, body mechanics,

life skills, communication, and cognitive abilities.

Valley View also has a 20-bed dementia unit.

“It’s typically full,” Simpson said.

Jillian Garman, campus admissions director, said Valley View residents are involved in the community.

Toys for Tots and other community outreach programs offer opportunities for residents to give back.

Valley View also receives its fair share of support from local businesses and organizations which make donations.

The many volunteers who lend a hand to Valley View are an integral part of its operation, according to Simpson.

They do everything from helping with bingo to accompanying the residents on shopping trips and other activities outside the facility.

Simpson noted that the nursing care industry is in the midst of change as increasing numbers of the elderly are receiving home care.

“You just don’t have the referrals you used to have,” she said. “The trend right now in the industry is to see more short-term care.”

# Member Renewals

Received between October 28th and November 22nd

Thank you to our renewing members. We do appreciate your membership and involvement in the Chamber!

## Members Over 50 Years

Eck's Garage, Inc.  
Little League International  
Lycoming College  
PPL Electric Utilities  
Spitler Funeral Home, Inc.

## Members 21-50 Years

Casale & Bonner P.C  
Community Services Group  
D & M Tool and Machine Company, Inc.  
Durdach Bros., Inc.  
Ettinger's Landscaping Services and  
Garden Center  
Faxon Cleaners, Inc.  
Lundy Warehousing, Inc.  
Lycob Lube Xpress  
Lycoming Valley Railroad Company  
Moff & Associates  
Old Corner Hotel  
Oregon Hill Wine Company, Inc.  
Pudgie's Pizza  
R & J Ertel, Inc.  
Real Estate Excel-A Girio Realty Co.  
Refrigeration Service Co., The Wholesale  
Chef  
Robert H. Frederickson, D.D.S., M.A.G.D.  
Seewald Laboratories Inc.  
South Williamsport Area School District  
Tory Leather  
Van Campen Motors Inc.  
Vinnie's Italian Eatery  
Weather Control Company  
West Branch Valley Federal Credit Union  
Wilkinson Dunn Company  
Williamsport Scottish Rite  
Williamsport Symphony Orchestra  
YWCA of Northcentral PA

## Members 10-20 Years

Access Self Storage  
Advanced Real Estate Settlement  
Services, Inc.  
Anesthesia Associates of Williamsport  
Brite Laundry Center  
Buttorff's Hardware, Inc.  
Cascade Financial  
Choice Carpet Cleaners, Inc.  
Comfort Keepers  
Discovery Machine, Inc.  
First United Methodist Church  
Glass & Burns Inc. DBA Catherine Burns  
Insurance Services  
Happy Acres Resort

Holy Cross Orthodox Church  
Ichiban - Japanese Cuisine  
J & M Construction Specialty, Inc.  
Loyalsock Township School District  
PALCO Federal Credit Union  
Padgett Business Services  
RDJ Enterprises  
Tasseron Sensors, Inc.  
The Muncy Bank & Trust Company  
The Olde Barn Centre/Antiques and Such  
WAT a Division of South Jersey Federal  
Credit Union  
Webb Weekly

## Members 6-9 Years

American Red Cross-Northcentral PA Chapter  
Cummins Sales & Service  
Dominic's of New York  
Gateway Cafe  
Halliburton  
Ken's Lawn Care  
McCain Industrial Services  
MoJo Active  
Planet Fitness  
T-Ross Brothers Construction, Inc.  
The Amber Rose Bridal  
The Clothier  
Zartman Construction, Inc.

## Members 5 Years & Under

AC Cruz State Farm Agency  
ACE Answering Service  
Accelerated Speed Dynamics, Inc.  
Aerotek Inc.  
Art of Kathleen B. Bonnell  
Casales Sub Shop  
Crippled Bear Inn  
Crystal Lake Camps & Ski Center  
Energy Transfer Partners  
Erb's West End Family Market and Catering  
Gold Leaf Frame Shoppe, LLC  
Goodwill Industries of North Central PA  
HairScape 2000 by Bethany  
Liberty Arena/Fly World Trampoline Park  
Lycoming Arts  
McNees Wallace & Nurick LLC  
Nippenose Valley Village  
St. John Neumann Regional Academy  
Simply Savor Cafe  
Sprinkled Sweet Bakery and Artisan  
Creamery  
State Farm-Stacey Harer, Agent  
Susquehanna Gallery & Frame Shoppe  
Wheeland Lumber Co., Inc.  
Woodrich - "Trees for Life"

## Updated Member Records

Business referrals are a valuable, business-increasing benefit of Chamber membership. We would like to include you in this process as we refer members in responding to inquiries and want to give the most accurate information.

If you have recently moved or had a change of staff members, updated email or web address, call the Chamber to update your records. Or if you would just like to verify your account information, call the Chamber at 570-326-1971.

Thank you for your cooperation!



## Lycoming County Visitors Center Winter Hours

<b>Monday</b>	8:30 am	to	4:30 pm
<b>Tuesday</b>	8:30 am	to	4:30 pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	8:30 am	to	4:30 pm
<b>Thursday</b>	8:30 am	to	4:30 pm
<b>Friday</b>	8:30 am	to	4:30 pm
<b>Saturday</b>	9:00 am	to	3:00 pm
<b>Sunday</b>	11:00 am	to	3:00 pm

Visit us online at :  
[www.vacationpa.com](http://www.vacationpa.com)



# Chamber recognizes high school students

The Education Committee of the Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce would like to recognize the following students for being chosen as the Student of the 1st Quarter for their high school and for their hard work and achievements. Congratulations!



*Emily Detweiler  
Hughesville High School*



*Annalise Eiswerth  
Jersey Shore Area High School*



*Grace Schreckengast  
Loyalsock Township High School*



*Noah Eshenaur  
Montgomery High School*



*Olivia Evans  
Montoursville High School*



*Coleman Good  
Muncy High School*



*Fisher Brown  
South Williamsport Area High School*



*Josiah Reid  
St. John Neumann Regional Academy*



*Mary McMahon  
Williamsport Area High School*

## Chiropractic Care

*by David G. Wascher, DC, PC  
Wascher's Chiropractic Center*

### A Little Holiday Humor

Here are some signs that you may have eaten too much on Thanksgiving!

- Paramedics bring in the Jaws of Life to pry you out of your recliner.
- Your doctor tells you your weight would be perfect for a man 17 feet tall.
- You decide to take a little nap and wake up in mid-July.
- The "Gravy Boat" your wife set out was a real 12' boat.
- Representatives from the Butterball Hall of Fame called twice.
- You are responsible for a slight, but measurable shift in the earth's axis.

- Pricking your finger for a cholesterol screening only yielded gravy.
- You're sweating cranberry sauce.

In this complex world – let us just take a minute and reflect on the good that is happening in our homes, our communities and our world. May the joy, peace and blessings that come with the seasons of Thanksgiving and Christmas be exceeded only by your good health in the coming year!

*The views expressed in this article may not necessarily be those of the Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce.*

### Revolving Loan Fund

The Industrial Properties Corporation, Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce and the City of Williamsport are committed to assisting small businesses with their economic development projects. From building renovations, expansion/working capital to equipment purchases, the Revolving Loan Program can provide the finances you need to increase business and ensure economic prosperity.

Information and applications are available online:  
[www.williamsport.org](http://www.williamsport.org)

For more information please contact:

Nancy J. Eischeid, CPA, Vice President & Chief Financial Officer  
Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce  
Phone: (570) 320-4206  
Email: [neischeid@williamsport.org](mailto:neischeid@williamsport.org)

The Staff of the Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce would like to wish you and your family Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!!

# THIS HOLIDAY SEASON



# WIN BIG WITH LEADERSHIP LYCOMING!

## TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE NOW!

For \$5.00 you can have a chance to win every day in January.

Leadership Lycoming is selling raffle tickets for the month of January. Each numbered raffle ticket will give you 31 chances to win. When the PA Lottery **Pick 3 evening number** is drawn and it matches your number, then you win that day's prize. Prizes range from \$25 to \$250.

(Winners are paid two weeks following the drawing)

**Leadership Lycoming**

**Rules:** All numbers played straight. Winning number based on the PA Lottery Pick 3 Evening Number only. Winners paid within two weeks following the drawing.

**EACH TICKET COST \$5.00 - ONLY 1000 TICKETS SOLD**

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

Proceeds support the Leadership Lycoming Program Lic. No.368

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	21 \$30	22 \$25	23 \$50	24 \$30	25 \$35	26 \$25
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Leadership Lycoming is a program of the Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce