

CHAMBER CONNECTION

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

Chamber Member! Don't miss this month's Holiday PM Exchange, December 19th.

Leadership Lycoming lottery tickets are on sale; chance to win every day in January!

Congratulations to the "Students of the Quarter" on their academic achievements!



Plankenhorn Stationery celebrates 120th Anniversary



The Chamber View

Jason Fink, President/CEO

The elections are over and we are moving into the heart of the holiday season with Thanksgiving just past and Hanukkah and Christmas coming later this month. Before moving past the elections, it should be noted that we are going to see some change at the County and local level. Joining incumbent county commissioners Tony Muscare and Rick Mirabito is Scott Metzger. Numerous local races were settled as well with the most notable being the race for mayor in the City of Williamsport. Derek Slaughter will be the new mayor of the City come January.

It'll be good to have this change at these various positions as they will bring new thoughts and ideas as to how local government should function in serving their constituents. The Chamber looks forward to working with all those elected this past November in helping to grow and enrich Lycoming County.

Speaking of change, there's a few things that are occurring in the retail world that should be concerning to us. I got a call earlier this week from someone asking about what's going on with all of the retail closings here in the market. This individual was disappointed to see all that we've lost so far and I too, and know others as well, share this feeling. The challenge is that a fair amount of the blame lies with us the consumer. The retailers are following our buying patterns. It's something they've been doing for decades (and most likely centuries). Back in the 1970s

and 1980s, we started shopping at the malls so downtown stores were vacated. Today, it's happening once again with shoppers spending more online than at the malls and other retail outlets. If consumers quit shopping online, retailers will notice and adapt accordingly by opening up brick and mortar stores.

While it might be convenient to sit inside your home and buy from your computer or cell phone, it does nothing to help out your local economy. Both large and small businesses that operate from bricks and mortar stores here pay local property taxes. They employ local people who also pay local taxes and spend their money on other goods and services here in the community. Granted, there are times that you can't find that item here and it does make sense to order it online. However, if it's something that you can find here then please shop here and support our economy. Amazon and all of the other .coms won't be paying local property taxes this spring like we will so let's do what we can to support who's in our community.

One other request that I have is from helping out a small business that had an issue associated with a customer complaint that went public. I won't rehash the details only to say that it was for something that is a common business practice in having someone pay you for providing them with a product. The customer didn't feel they should have been charged for it and was upset about

it along with the fact that they were charged more for using a credit card. Customers need to educate themselves on things such as merchant service fees as those credit card rewards programs aren't paid for by you or the credit card companies. They're paid for through fees assessed on merchants accepting your cards. You may have noticed a number of businesses in the area have a cash fee and a credit card fee for products and services rendered.

Before going too much further down the path, the point of bringing this up is if you have an issue with a company, speak to them first before going online or writing that letter to the editor to complain. The vast majority of business owners and their employees want to do right by their customers. From time to time, I've had to speak to a business about an issue someone's brought to my attention involving them. There's not one time that I can think of where the company didn't take serious this issue and want to address it for their customer or change the manner in which they were handling a business situation.

As I get to the end of my column, I want to wish you from the Chamber team here a wonderful Christmas and Hanukkah and prosperous start to your new year. Lycoming County is a great place to live and we are fortunate to have the quality of life found in our community. Thanks to everyone for their efforts to help grow what we enjoy here.



Montoursville Chamber of Commerce

Broad Street Mini Park Project
Brick Paver Order Form
Limited time only—get your brick now
Engraving Information 4"x8" Bricks may have up to three lines of text with up to 17 Characters per Line
(this includes spacing and punctuation).

For more information on purchasing a brick, contact the Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce at 570-326-1971 or download application at www.williamsport.org.



CLOSED

Buy Local or Bye-Bye Local.

When you don't shop local, you impact not only the owner and those employed at the local business. You also affect the local tax base and the overall viability of our Lycoming County community.

Give USPS, FED EX and UPS a break and go buy what you need for the holiday season yourself. Our local economy will appreciate it more than Jeff Bezos will.



williamsport.org • 570-326-1971 • 102 W. Fourth St., Williamsport

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Call for exhibitors!

SCIENCE FESTIVAL

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

Pennsylvania College of Technology

FIELD HOUSE

9 a.m.–2 p.m.

Sneak peek for 5th grade classes (up to 1,500 students expected)

5–8 p.m.

Open to the public

Science Festival is geared toward elementary and middle school students and their families. Hands-on activities and demonstrations should be STEM-related and encourage exploration in the STEM fields of study.

Don't miss out on this great opportunity to spark excitement about STEM (science, math, engineering, and technology) in our youth.

Reserve your FREE booth today.

Booths are limited and available first come, first served.

Yes, we would like to exhibit.

Company _____

Address _____

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 & First Year Initiatives, DIF 129 ctfyi@pct.edu

Pennsylvania College of Technology

One College Avenue | Williamsport, PA 17701

Or sign up online at pct.edu/scifest

2020 Business Partner in Education Award

The Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce is accepting nominations for the Nineteenth Annual Business Partner in Education Award. The award will be presented at our Education Celebration on March 5, 2020 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Williamsport Country Club. The deadline for the application is Friday, January 24, 2020.

The Chamber has long recognized the importance of the business community partnering with the education community. At our Education Celebration, we will be recognizing not only the educators and students from our area schools, but we will also be recognizing one business that demonstrates how area businesses can partner with our future business leaders.

This is a wonderful opportunity for businesses to highlight their local involvement in the education community. The partnering of businesses with the area school districts helps to ensure the professional development of today's students and tomorrow's business leaders and deserves to be recognized!

Visit our website at www.williamsport.org to view the eligibility criteria & application

Additional information can be obtained by contacting Sharon Jones at sjones@williamsport.org or (570) 326-1971

2019 FAM Tour Wrap-Up

The Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce, Department of Community and Economic Development, Office of International Business Development and Governor's Action Team hosted their 3rd site consultant FAM (familiarization) tour during the Championship Weekend of the Little League World Series. Funding for the program was from the Lycoming Economic Development Foundation Fund through the First Community Foundation Partnership of Pennsylvania, Liberty Group, Penn College, Lycoming College and UPMC Susquehanna.

Consultants had the opportunity to meet and hear from officials with the Lycoming Economic Development Foundation, SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority, Lycoming Valley Railroad, UPMC Susquehanna, Lycoming College, Penn College, and RETTEW Associates. In addition, they had the opportunity to see and learn about industry and the local

community with tours of LeClerc Foods USA, Panda Patriot, Penn College, UPMC Susquehanna and Lycoming College/East End Corridor Development. In addition, they had an opportunity to catch a couple of games over at Little League.

There were 9 participants this year. We had 2 representatives from the international community participating representing a Taiwanese medical device manufacturer and a Japanese health care provider. The remaining were site consultants from New York, New Jersey, Ohio and Texas.

In November, we were able to host a return visit by the Taiwanese firm that brought with them a senior official from Taiwan. The Chamber is actively working with the others that participated in this year's tour while also keeping in touch with those who have participated in previous ones.



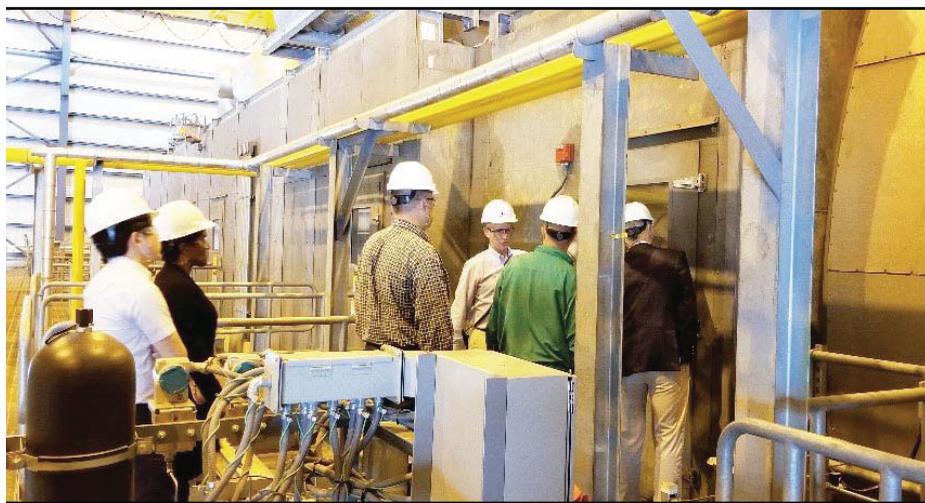
EVENT COORDINATED BY

 **Pennsylvania College of Technology**
A Penn State Affiliate



 **LYCOMING COLLEGE**

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December & January PM Exchanges...

Williamsport Sun-Gazette

Thursday, December 19, 2019

5:00 – 7:00 pm

252 West Fourth Street, Williamsport

WILLIAMSPORT SUN-GAZETTE

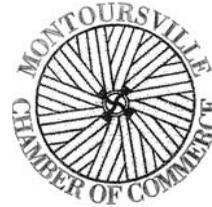
The Williamsport Sun-Gazette is excited to once again host the Holiday PM Exchange. They are looking forward to sharing the holiday spirit with lots of great food, drink, prizes and surprises. Merriment and good cheer will highlight this festive, fun-filled evening. Circle this date on your holiday business calendar.

Montoursville Chamber of Commerce/ Savoy Contract Furniture

Thursday, January 23, 2020

5:00 – 7:00 pm

300 Howard Street, Montoursville



The Montoursville Chamber of Commerce invites you to join them at Savoy Contract Furniture as they showcase businesses associated with the Montoursville Chamber. Get to know our Chamber members by visiting displays, take a tour of Savoy Contract Furniture and register for a chance to win door prizes.



Upcoming 2020 PM Exchanges...

East Lycoming School District

Thursday, February 6, 2020

5:00 - 7:00 pm

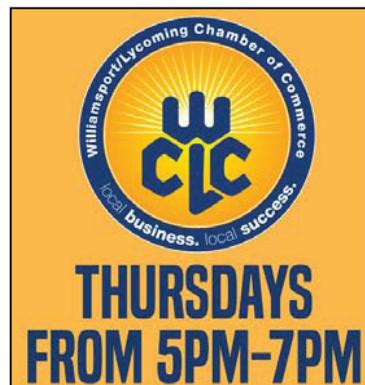
349 Cemetery Street, Hughesville

Lycoming Engines

Thursday, February 20, 2020

5:00 - 7:00 pm

652 Oliver Street, Williamsport



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

Welcome New Chamber Members!

Bald Birds Brewing Company

Mr. Joseph Feerrar
220 Shaffer Lane
Jersey Shore, PA 17740
(570) 971-2877

www.baldbirdsbrewing.com
Breweries/Distilleries/
Wineries

Beagle Media, LLC

Ms. Teresa Capuzzo
39 Water Street
Wellsboro, PA 16901
(570) 724-3838

www.mountainhomemag.com
Magazines

Referred by Chamber member:
Duane Meixel, The Crazy Tomato

Laziza Phakwan Restaurant

Mr. Yousaf Basir
427 West 3rd Street
Williamsport, PA 17701
(570) 651-9534
Restaurants/Cafes/Taverns

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Williamsport/Lycoming
Chamber of Commerce

Lycoming County Visitors Bureau Announces 2020 Travel and Tourism Grant 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 are available December 1st and are due to the Lycoming County Visitors Bureau by 11:59pm on January 15th, 2020.

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 preference 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 Visitors Bureau website, www.vacationpa.com, or the Chamber's website, 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 \$1.4 million to over 50 non-profit organizations conducting travel and tourism related events and activities here in Lycoming County.

For a complete list of upcoming Chamber events, visit www.williamsport.org

PM Exchange

The Flatiron Salon



Thank you to The Flatiron Salon for hosting a fabulous PM Exchange at 901 Hepburn Street, Williamsport. The salon offers services including haircuts & styling, professional makeup services, massages, waxing, manicures, pedicures, and spray tans. The evening was full of fun and delicious food for Chamber members to relax and enjoy. Receiving the certificate of appreciation is Cassidy Logue Mayo, accompanied by her staff. Presenting the certificate is Barbara Wascher, Membership Development and Retention Committee, Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce.

Upcoming Ribbon Cuttings & Open Houses

First Commonwealth Bank

Ribbon Cutting and Holiday Open House!

Wednesday, December 11, 2019

251 South Market Street, Williamsport

Ribbon Cutting: 4:00 pm

Open House: 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

The Break Room of Williamsport

Ribbon Cutting and Holiday Open House!

Sunday, December 15, 2019

1009 Washington Blvd, Williamsport

Ribbon Cutting: 11:00 am

Open House: 11:00 am - 4:00 pm

Special Events Committee

Chamber Members, are you interested in planning special events and networking with other professionals in your community? If so, please consider applying for the Chamber's new Special Events Committee.

Contact Alex Lehman, Leadership Lycoming & Special Events Coordinator at 570-320-4216 or alehman@williamsport.org for an application and additional information.

Ribbon Cuttings

Callahan's Antiquities



Congratulations Callahan's Antiquities, located on Broad Street in Montoursville, on your 15 year anniversary and ribbon cutting ceremony. (from l to r) Taryn Mueller, Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce; Representative Garth Everett; Michael & Dolores Callahan holding their two beautiful children; and Jason Fink; Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce.

Laziza Phakwan Restaurant



Congratulations on the grand opening & ribbon cutting of Williamsport's newly opened dining establishment, Laziza Phakwan Restaurant; located at 427 West 3rd Street, Williamsport. Serving up Pakistani, Indian & American Cuisine, 7 days a week. (From l to r): Kayla Petruskevich, friend; Shannon Kent, server; Amanda Basir, owner; Yousaf Basir, owner; Rashid Iqbal; and Jason Fink, Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce.

Local bank focuses on community engagement

By MALLORIE McILWAIN
mmcilwain@sungazette.com

Woodlands Bank, located on East Third Street, has been working for nearly 30 years to bring a community aspect to banking in the Williamsport and surrounding areas according to Jon Conklin, president and CEO.

The bank's doors opened on Oct. 10 of 1990 after a group of locals got together to discuss the banking industry at the time and how they wanted to get back to "community banking."

At the time, there were local financial institutions in every community, but now that is hard to come by.

Today, the bank is successful and growing in the industry as smaller community banks are merging to meet the demands of commercialization.

"It was just a small building here with only nine or ten employees," Conklin said. "The building has been added onto and we have seven branch locations from Lock Haven to Hughesville."

Conklin had a background with public accounting and got to know Woodlands and other local banks through his history before starting at Woodlands in 2010 as the Chief Financial Officer.

He stated that he found what he really enjoyed about banking within Woodlands and soon became the CEO and President in 2013.

"This is where I wanted to be," he said.

No matter the growth, Woodlands' goal has always been to remain an independent, "community focused financial institution" according to Conklin.



PHOTOS PROVIDED

Left, Woodlands Bank held an American Red Cross Blood Drive at their Loyalsock Office. Right, Woodlands Bank holds volunteer days at local organizations. Below, this year, employees volunteered at the Central PA Food Bank and Greater Lycoming Habitat for Humanity. Below, Woodlands Bank donates \$13,000 to the Montoursville Area School District.



"We continue to do what we do, which is a true community bank business model," he said. "Woodlands still exists because the goal that still remains today is to do what we can to remain independent in the community. That desire still exists."

The bank does traditional banking with small business

lending as well as commercial lending, home equity loans, mortgage loans and regular accounts for deposits, saving and checking.

Though using traditional methods of banking and lending, Woodlands also works to remain relevant with Apple and Samsung pay, person to person

payments and other means of mobile banking options.

Conklin believes that Woodlands sets itself apart from other banks in the local area due to its "proximity to its customers and communities".

"The folks that make those (financial) decisions are here, you see us at the grocery store,

you see us out at community events and organizations," he said. "It's our ability to take some more risk with customers that might not look stellar on paper, but we know pieces of them and we know their character because we know them personally. It allows us to provide that financing for businesses and residences. We know our customers, their businesses and we know how they fit in the community and the prospects for success."

He added that the bank contributes to a lot of local schools with donations, helping with stockmarket games and even financial literacy curriculum. The bank also sponsors Little League teams, Uptown Music Collective and local universities with labs and programs.

"It's part of our main focus," he said. To be intertwined with our communities. We encourage our employees to get involved in their communities on a personal basis"

PRESS RELEASE: SOUTH WILLIAMSPORT, Pa. - This holiday season, visitors across Central Pennsylvania are encouraged to stop at the World of Little League® Museum and Official Store for a variety of exciting events and opportunities to experience with their families.

“The holiday season is always an important time for families to spend together and we wanted to find a way to provide our visitors with a great way to not only learn about the history of the Little League program, but also have the chance to spend time together and help those in need,” said Lance Van Auken, Little League Vice President and Executive Director of the World of Little League Museum. “From a chance to meet Santa to our annual Toys for Tots donation drive, our visitors will be able to join in on the holiday festivities and create a season to remember at our Museum.”

Below are some of the upcoming events this holiday season at the World of Little League Museum:

Toys for Tots Donations (November 1 to December 13)

For the 14th straight year, the World of Little League Museum also will be participating in the Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program this holiday season. Each visitor who brings a new, unwrapped toy with

a value of at least \$10 to the Museum between now and December 13, will receive one free Museum admission for later use as a thank you for supporting the local Toys for Tots program.

Toys collected at the Museum will be given to the American Rescue Workers and the Salvation Army for local distribution in Williamsport, South Williamsport, Loyalsock Township, Cogan Station, Trout Run, and Linden.

In addition to the toys donated at the World of Little League, children in Greater Lycoming County benefit from Toys for Tots donations at area collection centers. Last year, more than 18,000 toys were distributed throughout the local Williamsport community with more than 2,000 children being supported in those efforts.

Checks and money orders made payable to Toys for Tots should be sent to Bill Dougherty, 500 Quail Lane Cogan Station, Pa., 17728. Those will then be sent to the headquarters of Toys for Tots in Quantico, Va. The funds will then be placed into Mr. Dougherty’s account so he can buy toys for age groups that the five distribution sites are short of for the holidays. Local Toys for Tots campaigns are conducted in more than 800 Communities.

Santa Visit (December 8 from 12-3 p.m.)

On Sunday, December 8, visitors to the museum will have the opportunity to take their picture with Santa from Noon until 3 p.m. All visitors will receive free admission to the Museum during Santa’s visit and can earn a free pin with any Museum Gift Shop purchase that day.

In addition to Santa visiting, a holiday train display featuring a model version of the Union Pacific Big Boy Locomotive will be at the Museum on December 8. A Union Pacific Big Boy engine will be touring the United States this year to commemorate the 150th year of the completion of the transcontinental railroad and a model train will be making a stop in Williamsport to celebrate Santa’s visit.

Throughout the upcoming holiday season, the museum will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, except for Thanksgiving Day (November 28), December 24, 25, 31, and January 1, when it will be closed. Please contact the museum (570-326-3607) or check its digital sign or Facebook page at Facebook.com/LittleLeagueMuseum for updates on store specials, weather alerts, and more.

For more information contact:

Kevin Fountain, Director of Media Relations, Little League Baseball & Softball. E-mail: kfountain@LittleLeague.org; Website: www.LittleLeague.org; Office: 570-326-1921, ext. 2325; Cell: 570-295-7728



December 1st - April 1st

MONDAY	10:00am - 4:30pm
TUESDAY	10:00am - 4:30pm
WEDNESDAY	10:00am - 4:30pm
THURSDAY	10:00am - 4:30pm
FRIDAY	10:00am - 4:30pm
SATURDAY	10:00am - 3:00pm
SUNDAY	CLOSED



Missed a Chamber Connection newsletter?

You can find past issues on our website at

www.williamsport.org

or

search for the Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce on Facebook and look in our albums.

There you will find all 2019 and previous Chamber Connections.

Oh, and don't forget to like us!

FEATURE MEMBER

Plankenhorn Stationery celebrates 120th anniversary

By MALLORIE McILWAIN
mmcilwain@sungazette.com

Plankenhorn Stationery is celebrating its 120th anniversary on Dec. 10 after starting the business in 1899 and being the first chamber member of the Board of Trade in 1900.

Locals can celebrate with Christopher M. "Chris" Plankenhorn, president, Charles C. "Chip" Plankenhorn, secretary/treasurer and Charles M. "Charlie" Plankenhorn at the business on West Fourth Street during the day. The business will have different raffles including giving away a new office chair, sales including 120 reams of paper at \$1.20 a piece and an art demonstration from the art supplier.

Gary Chrisman from KISS 102-7 will also be doing a live remote from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Together, the five staff members from the store have 182 years of office supplies experience and counting. With that experience and quality customer service, the Plankenhorns work to maintain customer satisfaction throughout the years.

"Not only have the neighbors come and gone, but so have the customers," Chip Plankenhorn said. "At 120 years you don't keep the same clients. You deal with that every day but you try to keep the customers you have happy and satisfied and then they tell people and hopefully you grow that way."

"The retention of customers is probably due to good customer service," Chris Plankenhorn said. "They spread the word for us as opposed to us hammering our name all the time."

Plankenhorn also works to create a space of familiarity and efficiency with printing, office supplies, art supplies and furniture in one place.

"People know when they call here that they are talking to the same people."



MALLORIE MCILWAIN/Sun-Gazette

From left to right, Charlie Plankenhorn, Chip Plankenhorn and Chris Plankenhorn outside their store on West Fourth Street. The photo at left shows a historic look of the front of the 120-year-old business.

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(See PLANKENHORN, Page D9)

PHOTO PROVIDED

Plankenhorn Stationery celebrates 120th anniversary

(From Page D8)

There's a Plankenhorn in the building as long as the store is open," Chip Plankenhorn said. "If they need printing and office supplies, it's a one-stop shop."

"It streamlines their ordering process," Chris

Plankenhorn said. "They can get printing, office supplies and furniture."

The two also added that the delivery is free and is usually within the next day or up to a week for printing and furniture. Plankenhorn also puts the furniture

together for those who order it.

"We don't just deliver a box," Charlie Plankenhorn said.

"We try to help to the best of our ability," Chip Plankenhorn said.

Together the Plankenhorns have served as board members of the Chamber, are active in their churches, have sponsored Little League teams, worked with the United Way and work to keep a connection to the Williamsport community.

"We have always been connected to the community," Chris Plankenhorn added. "We never served together but we have served separately to hopefully positively impact the community."

The banners at left celebrate the fact that Plankenhorn Stationery has been open for more than 100 years. The photo at bottom left shows a historic look at the interior of the West Fourth Street store.



MALLORIE MCILWAIN/Sun-Gazette



PHOTO PROVIDED

"DARK WEB. SCHMARK WEB. MY TECHNICAL TEAM MAKES ME A FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH."

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Leadership Lycoming Program Day

Law Enforcement and the Judiciary

The Leadership Lycoming Class of 2020 had the opportunity to ride along with the Williamsport Police Department in preparation for their Law Enforcement & the Judiciary program day. The class visited the Lycoming County Courthouse and met with Lycoming County Court of Common Pleas Judges including President Judge Butts, Judge Reynolds and Judge Linhardt. The class also heard from Court Administrator, Adrienne Stahl and Facility Canine Handler and the Executive Secretary to Judge McCoy, Jerri Rook. The class learned the responsibilities each speaker has in their role and the operations of

the courthouse. They also learned about Lycoming County's Adult and Juvenile Probation offices from Ed McCoy, John Stahl and Matt Stanzione. The class then walked to the Michael Ross Room at the Trade & Transit Centre II for a session on transition and re-entry back into the community with Ian Nutt and Deenie Keeler, JusticeWorks Youth Care; Nicole Miller and Molly Kirby, Transitional Living Centers; Michael Boughton, GEO Group; along with a guest who has completed Transitional Living Centers' program and is now successfully engaged in the community.

After a session of speaking

with Chief Damon Hagan about their police ride-along experiences and lunch with the Magisterial District Judges, the class had the opportunity to tour the Lycoming County Prison. To end the day, the class learned more about the different roles in the criminal justice system with a panel discussion including Detective Willy Weber, Bail/Release Program Manager Harry Rogers, Sherriff Mark Lusk, Chief Public Defender Nicole Spring and District Attorney Elect Ryan Gardner.

Thank you to the Lycoming County Courthouse, Lycoming County Court of Common Pleas Judges, Trade & Transit Centre II

and the Lycoming County Prison for allowing the class to spend valuable time learning about law enforcement and the judiciary system during their class day.

Thank you to Jessica Probst, River Valley Regional YMCA; Toby Schwartzman, James V. Brown Library and Mallory Weymer, Lycoming College for being class reporters.

Special thank you to our program day sponsor, Ralph S. Alberts Co., Inc.



(above) The Leadership Lycoming Class of 2020 learning about the judicial system from Lycoming County Court of Common Pleas Judges and Facility Canine Handler. The class had the opportunity to ask questions and hear how passionate the judges are about making a positive difference in our community.

(right) Chief Hagan takes time to talk to the Leadership Lycoming Class of 2020 about the complexities of the work police officers manage day in and day out. He explains the changes and needs of the office and the importance of staying informed.



www.leadershiplycoming.org

(below) Transition and re-entry back into the community after incarceration is very important, and Lycoming County has great resources available. Thank you to the GEO Group, JusticeWorks and the Transitional Living Centers for sharing with the class the importance of their services.



(left) Jedi, the courthouse facility canine, looks on as his handler explains his important role in comforting children who are overwhelmed with the court proceedings or have experienced trauma.

Follow us



Leadership Lycoming

Leadership Lycoming Projects

Local Volunteer Opportunities

The Leadership Lycoming Class of 2020 kicked off its class project with multiple volunteer opportunities in October and November. The first project the class participated in was Family Promise of Lycoming County's Annual Coat and Blanket Giveaway on October 5. Volunteers helped set up for the event, assisted with giving out coats and blankets, grilled food to give away and tore down after the event. The second project was with the Lycoming County Master Gardeners. One class member volunteered and assisted the gardeners with preparing their gardens at the Lysock View Complex for winter. In November, class members volunteered at Sojourner Truth Ministries, where they prepared and served meals and had the opportunity to connect with the Sojourners. Class members also

assisted the James V. Brown Library in decorating for Victorian Christmas. The class will participate in three upcoming December projects. The first project is in conjunction with the Lycoming County United Way's Giving Tuesday campaign. Class members will help brainstorm creative and innovative ideas, provide social media and marketing support and participate in fundraising efforts with community connections. For the second project, class members will work with The New Love Center Food Pantry to load pre-packaged boxes of food and distribute the boxes to those in need. The last project will be with the Office of Aging's Santa's Seniors Program. During this project, the class will sort and pack items for distribution to seniors in need as well as clean up and load boxes for delivery.



(Above) Robin Holmes, BLA ST IU 17, assisting Lycoming County Master Gardener, Sharon Kuriga, in preparing the gardens at the Lysock View Complex for winter.



(Left) Jessica Probst, River Valley Regional YMCA and Wendy Weaver, Weaver Wireless Consultants bagging grapes at Sojourner Truth Ministries, Inc.



(Above) Matt Plagens, Port Elevator, Inc.; Krystal Campbell, Hampton Inn Downtown and Landon Hodges, Steinbacher, Goodall & Yurchak decorate the James V. Brown Library in preparation for Victorian Christmas.



Follow Leadership Lycoming on Facebook!



(Right) Mike Weslosky, Little League International, grills hot dogs at the Family Promise Annual Coat & Blanket Giveaway.

South Side restaurant expands clientele

By **DEREK DANNEKER**
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Aiming to keep a family-friendly atmosphere while attracting area professionals looking for an adult beverage, the owner of South Side Restaurant & Pizzeria, at 324 W Southern Ave., opened a tavern adjacent to the current location.

Brian Haller, owner, said since opening the South Side Tavern the community response has been overwhelmingly positive.

“We wanted to better compliment our food menu with a better selection of adult beverages,” he said.

The tavern offers a notably different vibe from the Italian

restaurant just a few steps away.

“Once people come in, try it and see it, because it’s got such a cool vibe they are sold right away and they become regulars,” said Haller.

For almost nine months Haller dedicated nearly every extra hour he had to renovate the space and hone its rustic, but modern aesthetic.

“It’s brand new and sparkling clean... It’s a place where professionals seem to gravitate toward,” he said. “I have a lot of business people, lawyers and doctors, that’s kind of like our clientele over there.”

Far from a place which invites the boisterous and irascible, the South Side Tavern is a relaxed setting with Four

Ultra High-Definition televisions which often play host to the “blue and white” — either Penn State or South Williamsport High School sports.

“It’s kind of like a really cool place for people who are looking for an alternative to crowded, younger bars,” said Haller.

The separation between the two, however, means that those who are normally averse to taverns needn’t be alarmed by the addition.

“If people are kind of opposed to bars, but they want to go out to eat, they can still go in the restaurant, and they don’t even know we have a tavern,” said Haller. “But if somebody wants the tavern environment, great TVs in a

cool vibe, then they can go to the other side.”

The South Side Restaurant & Pizzeria still features their homemade menu featuring their popular lasagna, chicken parmesan, pizza, cheesesteaks, subs, and salads, he said.

The bread is also homemade and always fresh, said Haller.

“We bake small batches of bread all day long so the sandwich rolls and bread that we serve are right out of the oven,” he said. “All of our dough, sauces, and entrees are made in house along with some signature appetizers, dressings, and desserts.”

The twin operations are also used to support the local community in business sponsorships such as: The South Williamsport Mummies’

Parade, The South Williamsport Marching Band Trailer, the Mounties Gridiron Club, and Little Mountaineer Little League, among many others.

Operating hours for the restaurant are 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily. While adult beverages are available all day, The Tavern is open noon on Saturdays and Sundays and at 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The Tavern is open late night Wednesday through Saturday.

Carry-out and delivery orders are also available.

The Tavern is open for party reservations in the off hours for parties or special occasions.

Those interested in more information or ordering may call 570-323-4045.



PHOTOS PROVIDED

At left, the South Side Restaurant and Pizzeria hosted all Little League World Series participants for free, here they enjoy their meal last August. Above, featuring four ultra high-definition televisions, the South Side Tavern held watch parties for all of the South Williamsport girls’ softball games in Oregon.

NEW MEMBER

Street sweeping helps businesses go green

By **DEREK DANNEKER**
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Going green is on the mind of Sweep a Lot LLC, a local professional street sweeping service and maintenance company.

“There’s a lot of good locations out there, not just for aesthetics but also the environmental impact,” said owner Robert K. Vlacich, of Montoursville. “We’re so close to the Susquehanna, which of course connects the Chesapeake. All that snow water runoff that we see goes right in.”

The business idea harkens back to when his son was in elementary school and started cleaning parking lots for Earth Day, he said.

“That was an eye-opening experience,” said Vlacich. “I get it, it’s good for the kids to learn to clean up but a parking lot shouldn’t look like that. It just kind of always stuck in my head.”

With recent stormwater mandates, many businesses are looking to limit their impact on the environment by utilizing a sweeper, undoubtedly they come to Vlacich who operates the region’s first private sweeping service.

“I got sick and tired of seeing trash everywhere,” said Vlacich, who’s done work from large industrial or commercial parking lots to lots for small businesses. “I think a lot of people don’t realize where those stormwater drains go — right to the river.”

Businesses can not only uti-

lize a sweeper for environmental reasons, but also for their own lot’s benefit.

“Whenever you have debris built up on the pavement, every time you drive over cinders or stones, it grinds into the pavement and tears it apart,” he said. “By keeping it cleaner, the parking lot lasts longer.”

Unlike most street sweepers, which brush debris towards the center and move it into a hopper, Vlacich’s regenerative sweeper effectively acts as a vacuum to remove the fine sediment that would normally be swept away in heavy rainfall events.

A clean lot also helps businesses make a good first impression, he said.

“That’s the big thing I stress. You walk up to a restaurant and the parking lot is a mess, it just kind of sets the tone,” said Vlacich. “If a business doesn’t take enough pride in their external appearance as you’re walking in, do they really care about their customers?”

Sweep a Lot does everything from a one-time clean up to keeping a routine cleaning schedule.

“We try to keep it flexible and give a good quality of service and keep it at a competitive price,” he said. “If the parking lot is empty at night, we do it at night. If it’s on a Sunday, we do it on a Sunday.”

In the future, Vlacich said he hopes to expand his business, in part with municipal contracts as boroughs and townships move away from buying their own street sweeper.



PHOTOS PROVIDED

Above, utilizing a regenerative sweeper, Robert K. Vlacich, owner of Sweep A Lot, said the truck vacuums the pavement to remove gravel and lengthen the life of the lots. Below, Robert K. Vlacich, owner of Sweep A Lot, said his want to clean up the parking lot trash and thereby the river, led him to start his business.



“I’m curious to see where it goes,” he said. “As demand increases, I’ll be here for it.”

Sweeps a lot currently

operates in an hours drive radius of the city.

Those interested may contact Vlacich at 570-916-0551,

SweepALot.PA@gmail.com,
or
www.facebook.com/SweepALotPA.

Member Renewals

Received between November 1 through November 27



**Thank you to our
renewing members!**

We do appreciate your membership and involvement in the Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce!



Members 60+ Years

Fink's Paint Store, Inc.
Little League International
Lycoming College
Sun-Gazette Company
The Hartman Group
W. R. Sims Agency, Inc.

Members 45-59 Years

D & M Tool and Machine Company, Inc.
Frito-Lay, Inc.
Grampian Hills Apartments
KBF Print Technology
Pennsylvania College of Technology

Members 30-44 Years

All Round Tire Company
Allison Crane & Rigging
Anthony H. Visco, Jr. Architects
Aquarius Pool & Patio, Inc.
Blaise Alexander Chevrolet, Inc.
Community Theatre League
Crockett Financial Services
EconoLodge Williamsport
Hope Enterprises, Inc.
Jersey Shore Borough
Jersey Shore State Bank
Klein & Rizzo, Inc.
Lundy Warehousing, Inc.
Lycoming County United Way, Inc.
Montgomery Plumbing Supply Company t/a
Bi-Lo Supply
Montoursville Area School District
North Central Sight Services, Inc.
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Robert H. Fredrickson, D.D.S., M.A.G.D.
STEP, Inc.
Tony's Delicatessen
Weather Control Company
YWCA of Northcentral PA

Members 25-29 Years

D.A.D.'S Landscaping
Dental Care Associates
Durdach Bros., Inc.
Home Service Beverage/First Ice
Kent A. Bennett & Associates, Inc.
Lycoming Career & Technology Center
Muncy School District
Old Corner Hotel

Perkins Family Restaurant & Bakery, Inc.
Real Estate Excel - A Girio Realty Co.
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The Wholesale Chef
Roche Financial, Inc.
Tory Leather
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Members 20-24 Years

Attractive Alternatives
Compu-Gen Technologies, Inc.
East Lycoming School District
Hans CedarDale Satellite, Inc.
Janney Montgomery Scott, LLC
Lyco Lube Xpress
Lycoming Physical Therapy, Ltd.
Lycoming Valley Railroad Company
Pennram Diversified Mfg. Corp.
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RDJ Enterprises
Richard A. Beatty, DMD
South Williamsport Area School District
West Branch Valley Federal Credit Union
Williamsport Scottish Rite

Members 15-19 Year

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DeWald Chiropractic
Elery W. Nau, Inc.
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Hudock Capital Group LLC
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(Winners are paid two weeks following the drawing)

Leadership Lycoming

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

Proceeds support the Leadership Lycoming Program LIC No.642

Su	M	T	W	T	F	S
JANUARY 2020 #000						
			1	2	3	4
\$40	\$35	\$50	\$25	\$35	\$40	\$25
\$25	\$45	\$35	\$30	\$45	\$50	\$40
\$30	\$25	\$30	\$250	\$35	\$50	\$25
\$40	\$45	\$25	\$40	\$30	\$35	THANK YOU!

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#000

**Contact Leadership
Lycoming to
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Leadership Lycoming is a program of the Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce



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Rory Oden
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YOUR LOVED ONES
A FUN-FILLED
HOLIDAY SEASON
AND A HAPPY
NEW YEAR!**

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AT YOUR CHAMBER!**



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JANUARY 24-26, 2020

HOURS: JAN 24TH: 6PM - MIDNIGHT

JAN 25TH: NOON - MIDNIGHT JAN 26TH: 10AM - 2PM

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***CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT**

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TO MAKE RESERVATIONS AT ANY OF THE LISTED HOTELS, PLEASE CALL AND ASK FOR THE "WILLIAMSPORT WINTER CLASSIC" RATE.

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- TOWNEPLACE SUITES: 570-567-7467**
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- BEST WESTERN: 570-326-1981**
- GENETTI HOTEL, SURESTAY COLLECTION BY BEST WESTERN: 570-326-6600**
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- HAMPTON INN DOWNTOWN: 570-323-6190**

FOOD AND DRINKS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AT THE LIBERTY ARENA FOR THE DURATION OF THE EVENT.