

# It's YOUR BUSINESS

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

Volume 6, Issue 2 - February 2021



## Help from a PAL, pg. 3



# CENTRAL PA

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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## Staff

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<b>Michael Porter - Education Coordinator</b> mporter@centralpachamber.com
<b>Jessica Williams - Finance &amp; Membership Director</b> jwilliams@centralpachamber.com

## The Inside Scoop

Who couldn't use a pal in time of need? Well, there is another option for our Central PA Chamber members!

Late last year, we had our first success story with the new Chamber program. Thank you to Ann Hilliard of RE/MAX Bridges and Milton Savings Bank for officially being the first participants! We hope this is a sign of more to come because this program can truly help anyone seeking a business loan. Read our feature, starting on the next page, for more information.

With a new year, there's been a shift among the Central PA Chamber Board of Directors. You can see there are some new names and new officers next to this writing, and you can read all about it on page 11.

On page 10, our President & CEO Tea Jay Aikey reminds you to be kind whenever the chance arises. We have been through a lot collectively, but you just never know where people were coming from as individuals. Grace and understanding goes a long way, and it's definitely a step in the right direction to show unity as we move forward together in this ever-changing world.

On page 4, catch up on the latest businesses and organizations to join the Central PA Chamber. And, on page 5, get to know some of your fellow members a little bit better in the Member Spotlight. This month features United Plate Glass and SEDA-COG.

Member events are remerging, albeit in a different form. See what's happening, starting on page 6.

And, find out who's been hired and who's raising the bar in this month's Members Recognized section, starting on page 12.

Enjoy the issue!



Jeff Shaffer, Editor  
Communication Director  
[jshaffer@centralpachamber.com](mailto:jshaffer@centralpachamber.com)



A&A Construction and Services  
Ann Hilliard - RE/MAX Bridges  
Century 21 Mertz & Associates  
Coldwell Banker Penn One Real Estate  
Davis, Davis & Kaar  
Decal Dynasty  
Evangelical Community Hospital  
Green Ridge Graphics  
Heaven's Best Carpet Cleaning  
Hosterman Photography & Design  
i3 Point-of-Sale  
iHeartMedia  
Interaction Dynamics Group  
Jersey Shore State Bank  
La Primavera Italiano Ristorante  
Lawton Insurance Agency  
Lewisburg Pharmacy  
LIVIC Civil  
Mifflinburg Bank & Trust  
Milton Savings Bank

North Central Sight Services  
North Shore Railroad  
On Fire Promotions  
PenTeleData  
PPL Electric Utilities  
Raceway Mobile Storage  
Riverwoods Senior Living Community  
Safeguard Business Systems  
Service 1st Federal Credit Union  
Service Electric Cablevision/SECV8  
Seven Mountains Media  
Susquehanna Fire Equipment Company  
Susquehanna Valley Limousine  
T-Ross Brothers Construction  
The Daily Item  
The Standard-Journal  
The Wealth Factory  
Unique Inspirations Limited  
Watson Dental  
Weaver Wireless Consultants

The President's Club is an exclusive sponsorship program created to prominently recognize companies that contribute to the Central PA Chamber over and above their annual membership investment. For more information, call 570-742-7341.

## It's Your Business Deadlines

### March Issue

News/Ads Feb. 12 -- Flyer Inserts Feb. 19

Interested in advertising in this publication?  
Contact Jeff at [jshaffer@centralpachamber.com](mailto:jshaffer@centralpachamber.com) or  
call 570-742-7341

Find FREE copies of *It's Your Business* at these  
Chamber member locations (availability may vary):

### Lewisburg

Country Cupboard ■ Lewisburg Borough ■ Lewisburg Hotel  
Lewisburg Pharmacy ■ McCann School of Business & Technology

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A+ Office Outlet ■ Forest House Hotel

### Milton

Arrowhead Drive-Inn Restaurant ■ Baldwin & Baldwin  
Central Vision Eyecare ■ Milton Public Library ■ Pinpoint Federal Credit Union

### Northumberland

RE/MAX River Valley Realty ■ W and S Distributors

### Sunbury

Eclipse Craft Brewing

### Watson town

Watson Inn



With the help of a Central PA Chamber PAL (Pledged Asset Loan), Dave and Ann Hilliard were able to close on the new location of RE/MAX Bridges at 2006 W. Market St., Lewisburg, and keep cash on hand to make necessary renovations.

# Help from a PAL

**MILTON** - The Central PA Chamber would consider itself a "pal" to its members. Now, it's just in a whole new way.

At the end of 2020, the Chamber fulfilled its mission in getting one of its newest programs off the ground to further help member businesses and organizations.

Ann Hilliard, owner of RE/MAX Bridges - Lewisburg (as well as RE/MAX Bridges - Watsonstown and RE/MAX River Valley Realty), along with her husband Dave, closed on a loan with Milton Savings Bank to purchase a former restaurant at 2006 W. Market St., Lewisburg. As early as March, it will become Ann's newest office.

Where the Central PA Chamber helped was by opening a certificate of deposit with Milton Savings Bank, serving as a Pledged Asset Loan (PAL) and freeing up some of the Hilliards' cash for various renovation projects to make the location ready and open for business.

"That little bit extra certainly did help," Ann said. "It really was a pretty streamlined process, and if you are considering a purchase for your business, I'd strongly encourage you to reach out."

All Central PA Chamber members and member financial institutions are eligible to participate in the PAL program, which was a project of the Chamber's Business & Finance Committee and supported by the organization's longtime investments.

In December, Chamber President & CEO Tea Jay Aikey and Board Treasurer Cheryl Rheppard signed for the certificate of deposit at Milton Savings Bank.

"I was excited to sign the security pledge, which helps our member secure a mortgage loan to help grow their business," Rheppard said. "The PAL program is a fantastic benefit the Central PA Chamber of Commerce offers to its members."

Lisa Grant, VP/Chief Lending Officer with MSB, said they were proud to be involved.

"We're pleased to be a part of this program for the Central PA Chamber," Grant said. "It's a great opportunity for our customers and Chamber members. It gives them the opportunity to make a down payment, which they may not have had."

A Chamber PAL could be as high as 10 percent of the business loan, not to exceed \$25,000. There is a cap on the total loan amount available, so don't delay if interested.

"Our Pledged Asset Loan program is for anyone," Aikey said. "It could be the young owner of a successful business who doesn't have a lot

**CENTRAL PAL**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
Pledged Asset Loan

See "PAL" (on page 10)



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\*Family Law \* Business Law \* Personal Injuries \*

37 N. Arch Street, Milton, PA  
P.O. Box 319

Phone: 570-742-8777 Fax: 570-742-6155



## New Members

### The Laundry Room of Lewisburg

325 N. 10th St., Ste. 500

Lewisburg, PA 17837

570-685-6666

lyle.brouse@yahoo.com

Lyle Brouse - Owner

<https://www.facebook.com/The-Laundry-Room-of-Lewisburg-LLC-103952004811910>

### The Laundry Room of Milton

5100 State Route 405

Milton, PA 17847

252-515-6025

thelaundryroomofmilton@yahoo.com

Jessica Brouse - Owner

<https://www.facebook.com/The-Laundry-Room-of-Milton-LLC-760069097491569>

*Our laundromats are a modern day experience. We offer the most Earth-friendly equipment available with low energy and low water consumption. We have the best prices and most convenient 24/7/365 facility in Northumberland and Union counties. We pride ourselves as being the cleanest and having the most amenities available, including: lounges with comfortable seating, satellite TVs, air conditioning, a kids play area, dry cleaning & wash dry fold drop-off.*

### Bush House Estate

231 S. Lycoming Mall Road

Muncy, PA 17756

570-971-0336

info@bushhouseestate.com

Carmen Bush - Property Manager & Venue Coordinator

<https://bushhouseestate.com>

*Bush House Estate is a 9,000 square-foot mansion dating back to 1847. It was renovated in 2014 to operate as an event venue with the addition of a 40'x80' tent. In 2018, four overnight rooms were renovated to offer as lodging for guests.*

### Arrowhead Drive-Inn Restaurant

8215 State Route 405

Milton, PA 17847

570-742-9702

arrowheadest.1947@gmail.com

Alicia Hoffman - Owner

<https://www.facebook.com/arrowhead1947>

*The Arrowhead Restaurant has been a part of Milton's history since 1947, and true to our heritage, we take pride in offering a hot meal at an affordable price on a daily basis for our customers to enjoy. The Arrowhead is also home to the famous pig-in-the-blanket - a tenderized pork sandwich that is sure to have your taste buds jumping for joy.*

### Edward Jones - Danville

358 Mill St.

Danville, PA 17821

570-357-6324

Regina.Kotzer@Edwardjones.com

Regina Kotzer - Financial Advisor

<https://www.facebook.com/ejadvisorreginakotzer>

*Financial planning and full service investment advisory services.*

### Zook's Enterprises

9100 State Route 54

Watsonstown, PA 17777

570-701-7155

davidzook023@gmail.com

David Zook - Owner

*Construction and small odd jobs.*

## Membership Renewals

(As of Jan. 19, 2021)

Art of Floating  
Borough of Milton  
Borough of Turbotville  
Bucknell SBDC  
Bucky Allis  
Camp Koala  
Central Susquehanna  
Builders Association  
City of Sunbury  
Cole's Hardware, Inc.  
- Danville  
Cole's Hardware, Inc.  
- Lewisburg  
Delaware Township  
Supervisors  
Evangelical Community  
Hospital  
Greater Susquehanna Valley  
YMCA - Mifflinburg Y  
Center  
Greater Susquehanna Valley  
YMCA - Milton Branch  
Greater Susquehanna Valley  
YMCA - Sunbury Branch  
Heritage Springs  
Memory Care Inc.  
Innovative Manufacturer's  
Center (IMC)  
Interaction Dynamics Group  
Jodie Bryant - Coldwell  
Banker Penn One  
Kelly RV Inc  
Kevin M. Welch, DPM  
Lemur Tree Care LLC  
Megan Dugan  
- State Farm Insurance  
Milton Steel Company  
Nailed it Business Services  
Northumberland County  
Housing Authority

Pennsylvania Chamber  
Insurance  
PPL Electric Utilities  
Safeguard Business  
Systems  
SEDA-Council of  
Governments  
(SEDA-COG)  
Senator John Gordner's  
Office  
Service 1st Federal  
Credit Union - Bloomsburg  
Service 1st Federal  
Credit Union - Danville  
Service 1st Federal  
Credit Union - Danville  
Main Branch  
Service 1st Federal  
Credit Union - Elysburg  
Service 1st Federal  
Credit Union - Lewisburg  
Service 1st Federal  
Credit Union - Mifflinburg  
Service 1st Federal  
Credit Union - Milton  
Service 1st Federal  
Credit Union  
- Shamokin Dam  
Service 1st Federal  
Credit Union - Sunbury  
Service 1st Federal  
Credit Union -  
Williamsport/Loyalsock  
Suburban Propane  
Susquehanna Broadband  
The Coup Agency  
- Milton & Lewisburg  
Turbotville National Bank  
Union County  
Housing Authority  
Union Dental Health  
Union Dental Health  
- Main Location

*Find the latest member news  
on our  
Facebook page and at  
[www.centralpachamber.com](http://www.centralpachamber.com).*



Nate Lawrence, General Manager

nate@upgpa.com

(570) 286-6791

www.upgpa.com

#### What makes your business unique?

We are a full service glass shop that handles anything from walk-in repairs (including screens, window glass and stove door glass), residential custom shower glass, sneeze guards as well as large commercial glass projects.

#### How do you market your business?

Google ads, social media and our best form of marketing is referrals from our happy customers.

#### What is your Mission Statement?

To live up to our tagline: Good People. Installing Trust. On Time.

#### How many does your business employ?

20 team members

#### Finish this sentence – “On a day off I...”

Spend as much time as possible with my incredible wife and kids. Plus, I also coach youth football.

#### Words to live by?

I try to live my life by the golden rule – by treating others how I would like to be

treated.

#### What are your top 3 company priorities?

We are currently focused on achieving three years with no accidents. We are also focused on creating more opportunities for our team members through continued growth so that our entire team finds enjoyment in their jobs.

#### What characteristics do you look for in employees?

Is the potential team member a good person? All other skills can be learned.

Liz Herman, Communications Manager

eherman@seda-cog.org

(570) 524-4491

www.seda-cog.org



#### What makes your organization unique?

We bridge the gaps between businesses and their goals. We're helping businesses get COVID-related grants during this time of crisis. Many businesses that can't get traditional financing from banks can obtain great loans through our partnership since we spread the risk. We connect businesses with government bid opportunities and international export markets. We offer natural gas service where it's ordinarily unaffordable and rail service to businesses with our award-winning private-public partnership. We're developing high-speed internet service where it currently isn't available. We're meeting your business needs.

#### How do you market your business?

Press releases, social media and advertisements.

#### What is your Mission Statement?

SEDA-COG enhances the quality of life and economic advantage for residents and businesses in 11 central Pennsylvania counties through its vital partnerships and initiatives.

#### How many people does your business employ?

Around 90.

#### Advice to those who own a business?

You can turn to SEDA-COG for funds to start, stabilize or grow your business. From financing to selling to the world's largest marketplace (the government) to exporting internationally, we can help you meet your goals.

**Want to appear in the  
Member Spotlight?**

**E-mail Jessica Williams at  
jwilliams@centralpachamber.com  
for details!**

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# What's Happening

Ronald McDonald House Danville

## ADOPT A ROOM

\$5,000 for one of our 17 guest rooms  
 \$10,000 for one of our 2 efficiency apartments  
 5 year sponsorship

The Adopt A Room program allows you, your company, or organization to be the sponsor of one of the 17 guest rooms / 2 efficiency apartments in the Ronald McDonald House of Danville. Your gift helps offset the cost to operate a guest room throughout the year, and provides families with much more than just a roof over their heads. You are helping provide support, home-cooked meals, and relief from their stressful situations.

The 2019 Ronald McDonald House of Danville stats:

**5,765**  
NIGHTS  
of lodging  
  
**13,111**  
GUESTS  
stayed at the House  
  
**\$15**  
Suggested donation, 77%  
of families did not self-pay

**Why do families stay at a Ronald McDonald House?**  
 Children whose families stay at the Ronald McDonald House of Danville tend to be the sickest, have traveled the furthest distances for care, and spend the longest time in the hospital. The House allow families to access the best medical care for their child, and being nearby helps children heal and cope better.

For more information on the Adopt A Room Program, or to tour the House, call Ginetta Reed at 570-271-7937 or email [greed@rmhdanville.com](mailto:greed@rmhdanville.com)

rmhdanville.com • 570-271-6300  
 100 North Academy Avenue & Tremblak Way  
 Danville, PA 17822

## Camp Koala Virtual Camp 2021

### Story Time with Karson

**Tuesdays, 5-5:45pm**

**February 9, 16, 23 and March 2**

Due to Covid-19, our in-person activities have been moved online, in order to keep all of our campers and volunteers safe. This virtual, ZOOM camp, will be offered to all grieving kids ages 6-12, at no cost. Registration is required and a link with login info will be sent to each camper.

This online story time will feature a variety of kids books geared toward the grieving child. Participants will have the opportunity for a short discussion after each reading, and can choose to participate or simply relax and enjoy hearing the story. This laid back group will have a relaxed atmosphere, and is perfect for the newly bereaved child who may just want to simply listen and learn, your participation level is up to you!

**Leader: Karson Keisinger, MLIS, MA, Public Librarian and long-time Camp Koala Big Buddy**

Register Here: <http://www.campkoala.org/campers/>

or email us for a virtual camp application:

[www.campkoala.org](http://www.campkoala.org) email: [director@campkoala.org](mailto:director@campkoala.org)

BUFFALO VALLEY RECREATION AUTHORITY PRESENTS



# FAMILY VARIETY SHOW

SATURDAY, MARCH 6TH  
 SHOW STARTS AT 7PM

DINNER AND DESSERT PROVIDED BY  
 THE LEWISBURG HOTEL AND BELLA'S  
 BLISS BAKERY

★ AUCTION

TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE NOW BY GOING TO  
[HTTP://BVREC.ORG/2020-VIRTUAL-GALA-TICKETS-FAMILY-VARIETY-SHOW/](http://BVREC.ORG/2020-VIRTUAL-GALA-TICKETS-FAMILY-VARIETY-SHOW/)

★ LOCAL  
 TALENT  
 SHOWCASE

YOU MAY BID ON AUCTION ITEMS AND MAKE  
 DONATIONS AT:

[HTTPS://APP.GALABID.COM/BVRA\\_GALA/ITEMS](https://APP.GALABID.COM/BVRA_GALA/ITEMS)



## Engaging Main Street

A virtual cohort  
 business growth  
 program

[WWW.COVIATIONCENTER.ORG](http://WWW.COVIATIONCENTER.ORG)  
This program funded in part through DCED PA Engage.

### Key Topics

Vision & Mission  
 ↓  
 Understanding & reaching your customer  
 ↓  
 Valuing your product  
 ↓  
 Understanding your money  
 ↓  
 Employee lifecycle

Valued at  
**\$2,500**

After discount  
**\$200!\***

\*If a business in Pennsylvania.

**MARCH 24, 2021**

Wednesday evenings  
 for 10-weeks

## REGISTER TODAY!

[www.covationcenter.org/cohorts](http://www.covationcenter.org/cohorts)

This program is offered to businesses nationwide.

The Engaging Main Street cohort is a business growth initiative, which includes some state funding and is focused on helping businesses assess their needs and assist them through referrals and direct technical assistance. The Covation Center is taking a "Main Street" approach, reaching out to small businesses nationwide.



# Weis Center offers free virtual performances

LEWISBURG - The Weis Center for the Performing Arts at Bucknell University is offering virtual performances in spring 2021. The virtual performances, called Weis Center Streams, are free thanks to the generosity of sponsors, but registration is required by calling the Campus Box Office at 570-577-1000 or online at [Bucknell.edu/Box-Office](http://Bucknell.edu/Box-Office).

Sponsors for the spring performances include: Gary and Sandy Sojka, Nancy and Sam Craig, Martha and Alan Barrick and Coldwell Banker Penn One Real Estate, Chanin Wendling and Karl Voss and family, Evangelical Community Hospital and Geisinger.

From Feb. 8 to 21, STONO/Step Afrika (World Music and Dance) will be offered with unlimited access. There will also be a pre-performance talk with the artistic director and a post-show talk with members of Bucknell and the central PA community.

Step Afrika! is a dance company dedicated to the African-American tradition of "stepping". Their dance style is a fusion of South African gumboot dance and African American stepping. Step Afrika! blends percussive dance styles practiced by historically African American fraternities and sororities; traditional African dances; and an array of contemporary dance and art forms into a cohesive, compelling artistic experience. Performances are much more than dance shows; they integrate songs, storytelling, humor and audience participation. From Feb. 24 to March 2, This is Me: Letters From the Front Lines created by DIAVOLO (Contemporary Dance Film) will be offered. There will be a pre-performance panel discussion with Artistic Director Jacques Heim and community members. The performance is dedicated to the heroism of frontline workers.

DIAVOLO is a creative movement production company that pushes the envelope of innovation by creating unique live & cinematic experiences. Using custom-made architectural structures, DIAVOLO intersects storytelling, movement and architecture with an inventive and visceral approach.

The 2020 premiere of This is Me: Letters From the Front Lines is a dance film exploring how the current climate of isolation has encouraged us to look within ourselves. We follow the paths of military veterans and first responders as they share what it means to be a true warrior - to be on the front lines - and fight the invisible enemy that



From Feb. 8 to 21, STONO/Step Afrika (World Music and Dance), will be offered free with unlimited access. Register at [www.bucknell.edu/boxoffice](http://www.bucknell.edu/boxoffice) or call 570-577-1000.

all humanity is currently battling.

At 7:30 p.m. March 13 and 2 p.m. April 11, Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Cetner Front Row National (Classical), will be offered. The first performance in March will feature Alessio Bax & Lucille Chung (pianos). It will include: Mozart - Concerto in E-flat major for Piano and String Quintet, K. 449 and Bartók - Sonata for Two Pianos and Percussion.

In April, Gloria Chien (piano) will be featured and the program will include: Field - Nocturne No. 2 for Piano, Liszt - Grand duo concertant 'Le Marin', and Mendelssohn - Quartet in C-minor, Op. 1.

In addition to Weis Center Streams, the Weis Center is professionally producing a weekly video performance series called Weis Center Sessions and a snaptalk series called Weis Center Snaps, both featuring members of the Bucknell community. All videos are available for free on the Weis Center's web site and social media channels. For more information about Weis Center Streams, Sessions and Snaps, go to [Bucknell.edu/WeisCenter](http://Bucknell.edu/WeisCenter) or search for the Weis Center on Instagram, Facebook, Twitter or YouTube.

Date	Event	Location	Time	Cost
2/10/21	Lean Manufacturing Level One Certification	Penn College, One College Avenue, Williamsport	8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	\$1,495
2/10/21	Legal Aspects of COVID-19 Vaccination for Employers	Webinar	10 to 11:15 a.m.	Free
2/18/21	What You Need to Know and Do Now to Prepare for DoD CMMC Requirements	Zoom	1 to 2 p.m.	Free



**Lauri Moon**  
**Manager, Training & Outreach**  
**570-329-3200 ext 8085**  
[www.imcpa.com/events](http://www.imcpa.com/events)



**Small Business Development Center**  
**Bucknell University**  
**570-577-1249**  
[www.bucknell.edu/sbdc](http://www.bucknell.edu/sbdc)

Date	Event	Location	Time	Cost
2/9/21	Business Startup Basics for Central PA	Online	10 a.m. to 12 p.m.	Free
2/25/21	Patent 101 and Other Intellectual Property for Small Business	Online	9 to 10:30 a.m.	Free

Have you dreamed of being your own boss for many years but don't know where to start?...  
*Start with the Bucknell SBDC!*



# Re-imagined Celebration of the Arts

LEWISBURG - The Lewisburg Arts Council is pleased to announce its re-imagined Celebration of the Arts for 2021!

Although two high-profile events - the Lewisburg Arts Festival and Lewisburg Live! - will not take place due to coronavirus risk and planned construction in the Borough of Lewisburg, they expect to offer plenty of arts opportunities to engage and inspire the community during the two-week 2021 Lewisburg Celebration of the Arts.

From Friday, April 23 through Saturday, May 8 outdoor activities including demonstrations and workshops will encourage art-lovers to view and do, while virtual activities will allow people to watch, listen and create in the comfort and safety of their own homes.

The Arts Council welcomes suggestions and volunteers to help transform how the arts are celebrated in the Susquehanna Valley. If you are interested in helping, e-mail: [info@lewisburgartscouncil.com](mailto:info@lewisburgartscouncil.com).

Watch for details throughout the spring as more events are finalized. You can learn more at [www.lewisburgartscouncil.com](http://www.lewisburgartscouncil.com), on Facebook and Instagram.

Free pizza and soda from 12 to 2 p.m.  
Free dryer use all day!

## Ribbon Cutting

The **LAUNDRY ROOM**  
of LEWISBURG

**CENTRAL PA**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

12 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 14 @ 325 N. 10th St., Ste. 500, Lewisburg

**SECV INTERNET**

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- Interested in a training opportunity?
- Ready to gain hands-on experience?

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### The AMP Program will:

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- give you the knowledge and skills to begin a manufacturing career
- help fill the expected need of 4.6 million manufacturing job openings
- provide the opportunity to network with manufacturing leaders
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Participants will have a YES Career Counselor and access to the resources of the PA CareerLink®.

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to the future

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College of Technology  
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## Support your favorite businesses...



## Leave a review!



**Reviews on reputable web sites go a long way in helping businesses gain recognition and new customers!**

**CENTRAL PA**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE





# American Red Cross

The need is constant.  
The gratification is instant.  
Give blood.™

redcrossblood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS

## Blood Drive Central PA Chamber of Commerce

Smith Room – 30 Lawton Lane - Milton

March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021

10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Call 1-800-Red Cross (1-800-733-2767) or visit redcrossblood.org and enter: PAchamber to schedule an appointment

### SEDA-COG YOUR GRANT ONE STOP SHOP



#### WHY SEDA-COG?

- \$120 BILLION SECURED
- 1,000+ PROJECTS
- 34 YEARS
- 12 DEDICATED STAFF

#### WE GET PROJECTS FUNDED & DELIVERED

We secure grants and deliver projects with our full suite of grant services.

#### APPLICATION

We write & secure grants for you!

#### COMPLIANCE

We know the in's and out's of each step & make it easy for you!

#### ADMINISTRATION

We work the project A-Z from application through project close-out!

#### RACP

Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP):

Funding for large construction projects that create jobs and enhance the economy.

#### GRANTS WE SECURE

- RACP
- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
- Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)
- Economic Development Administration (EDA)
- H2O & Small Water & Stream
- DCNR (C2P2)

## Chamber Blood Drive



Thank you to Delmer and Junita Bender of Birch & Beam Custom Homes and the other 30 donors who turned out for our American Red Cross Blood Drive on Jan. 22! Together, we'll save as many as 96 lives! Our next drive is March 30. Reserve your spot soon because they go fast! Visit: [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org), and use code "PAchamber".

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# Time with Tea Jay

## Always more than what you see

I was born the product of my father's infidelity. His divorce was a result of my birth. That jaded how his family felt about me and my mother from the start.

I grew up living with my mother and visited my father and his new wife every other weekend. My mother never married, and we bounced around a lot from house to house of her significant others. She was alerted about one of her significant others who we lived with. I was sexually assaulted and terrorized by that individual in what was our home at the time. I told my mother what had happened, and I was forbidden to tell my father or anyone for that matter as then we would not have a place to live.

I was to act like it never happened and she would "talk to him". We continued to live with him for a length of time. I slept, when possible, with a claw hammer under my bed within reach for a sense of security. I never lied to my father, except for when he'd ask if anything happened to me. I am certain he could tell I changed.

My father died when I was 17 years old, and he was my world. He was my sense of normalcy, consistent love and made sure I had things needed for school and such. Because of the dislike of my mother by my father's new wife and his family, I attended my father's funeral alone. I moved out of my mother's place the day I turned 18. I was still in high school and got a job in order to afford rent elsewhere. I did graduate with honors, but I had no family or parents at my high school graduation.

I got pregnant with my high school sweetheart. We had a home and nursery ready only to have our son, who was two weeks past due, be stillborn. I was now 19 and burying my child. His father and I could not agree on how to grieve, and he wanted to forget our son, Kody, ever existed. I was not able to do that, and he turned to alcohol and became abusive. He began cheating and told me that his love changed. He said he loved me as a person but not as a mate any longer. We were not married, so he left and filed for bankruptcy, and I at 20 years old now had all of our debt.

I had to let my car be reposed, sold our home and got an efficiency apartment, junk car and multiple jobs. I was totally alone and tried to end my life with pills and alcohol.

I then opted for a loveless, but non-abusive relationship for 20 years. Now almost a year-and-a-half ago, I decided that I was no longer going to settle and learned to love myself even if that meant being alone. A mantra of mine has become "She believed she could so she did!"

I tell you my story not for pity, but to show you that we all need to realize everyone has a story we know little about. That is why we should always try to be compassionate, supportive and know that our way is not the only way. Remember that how you make others feel about themselves says a lot about you! Be Kind.



*Tea Jay*

Tea Jay Aikey  
President & CEO

[tjaikey@centralpachamber.com](mailto:tjaikey@centralpachamber.com)



From left, Cheryl Rheppard, Board Treasurer, and Tea Jay Aikey, President & CEO of the Central PA Chamber, along with Lisa Grant, VP/Chief Lending Officer of Milton Savings Bank, after signing the security pledge Dec. 21 to help the Hilliards secure a business loan for the future RE/MAX Bridges - Lewisburg location. The PAL program is open to all Central PA Chamber members and financial institutions.

## "PAL" (from page 3)

of assets yet, the long-standing business owner looking to make some upgrades, and the business owners that are making a comeback from the COVID-19 shutdown periods.

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# Chamber board elects officers

MILTON – The Central PA Chamber of Commerce's Board of Directors elected its new officers at its first meeting of the year on Jan. 14.

Serving as Chair will be Ron Mackley of iHeartMedia, who was Vice Chair in 2020. He replaces Eric McDowell of The Coup Agency, who reached the limit of two consecutive three-year terms on the board.

"It's been quite a year these past 12 months," Mackley said. "We've survived the pandemic of 2020 and have actually thrived and grown the organization."

"We're now at a record number of members in spite of the pandemic. We've had to make a lot of adjustments in the past year, and I think those adjustments will pay off in 2021 as we continue to grow the organization. I am just truly humbled and proud to be a member and a representative on the board of the Central PA Chamber of Commerce."

As of Jan. 19, the Central PA Chamber has a record 512 current members, representing businesses and organizations – both small and large – across the Central PA Region and beyond.

Joining Mackley on the Chamber's Executive Committee are Vice Chair Lennea Brown of RiverWoods Senior Living Community, 2nd Vice Chair Chris Pinchak of Heaven's Best Carpet Cleaning and Cheryl Rheppard, Treasurer. In 2020, Brown was 2nd Vice Chair and Rheppard retains her position for another year.

"I am super excited for the new year and equally excited about our board and board officers," said Tea Jay Aikey, Central PA Chamber President & CEO. "They've stood by us throughout many changes and challenges, and I don't see it being any different going forward."

"There is a vast amount of knowledge and dedication made up by the individuals who serve as the voice of the membership, our highest in our 116-year history. With a growth rate of 85 percent over the past decade, and still growing steadily, we are beaming with pride and aim to continue to serve, protect and promote our membership."

Following the election by the membership this past fall, new to the board are: Skyler Herb, Bear Rental; Brad Lawton, Lawton Insurance Agency; and Ashley Parrish, First Commonwealth Bank. Lawton is a former Central PA Chamber Board Chair. Re-elected to second terms on the board were Brown and Alison Hall of The UPS Store, Lewisburg.

You can watch Mackley's video message and learn more about the Central PA Chamber's Board of Directors at [www.centralpachamber.com/board-of-directors](http://www.centralpachamber.com/board-of-directors).



Ron Mackley      Lennea Brown



Chris Pinchak      Cheryl Rheppard



A big thank you to Adam Wagner of A&A Construction and Services for tackling various maintenance projects around the Central PA Chamber building while the staff was away on a holiday break! With more than 500 member businesses and organizations, our facility sees a lot of use, and this was a great opportunity to have things retightened, walls touched up and more. We appreciate it, Adam! A&A Construction and Services is available for a variety of jobs, including drywall and painting. Call 570-204-9239 and visit [www.aaconstructionandservices.com](http://www.aaconstructionandservices.com).

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# Members Recognized

## Nesco Resource - Williamsport

CLEVELAND, OHIO - Nesco Resource, a leading employment agency in engineering, IT, clerical and light industrial staffing, has announced that they have been recognized on Staffing Industry Analysts (SIA)'s 2020 Largest Staffing Firms in the US, 2020 Largest Industrial Firms in the US and 2020 Largest Engineering Firms in the US for providing exemplary service to clients, associates and internal employees.

The awards are given to companies based on performance, total revenue and market share.

"The 175 companies in this year's report represent 63.5 percent of the market and with a combined revenue of \$97 billion indicate an industry well-positioned to weather the impact of the pandemic," said Barry Asin, SIA President. "As the US navigates and recovers from the current disruption, many organizations will look to utilize temporary and interim workers to meet shifting demand and maintain an active and agile workforce."

"We are proud and honored to be included in these rankings for 2020", said Mary Beth Gunerra, Co-President of Nesco Resource. "Despite the challenges brought by the year, the tireless dedication of our employees and associates continues to strengthen our organization, as evidenced by this recognition."

In addition to this recognition from SIA, Nesco Resource is also a Forbes Five-Star Temp Staffing Firm and Forbes Best Professional Recruiting Firm.

## Pennsylvania American Water

MECHANICSBURG – Customers of Pennsylvania American Water can rest assured of the quality of their tap water, as 18 of the company's water treatment plants - including the Milton Filter Plant - were recently recognized with 20-Year Directors Awards from the Partnership for Safe Water for 20 consecutive years of water quality excellence. The national awards, which honor efforts to continuously optimize water treatment plant and distribution system operation and performance, were announced by the American Water Works Association.

"Safe, clean, and reliable tap water is critical to our customers and communities, which is why Pennsylvania American Water holds ourselves to high standards and is a proud and longstanding member of the Partnership for Safe Water," said Pennsylvania American Water President Mike Doran. "We remind our customers that the next time they turn on their tap, please remember there's a team in your community dedicated to delivering tap water that is safe, clean, reliable, and that meets or exceeds state and federal drinking water standards."

"We're proud of our incredible team of expert scientists, treatment plant operators and engineers that support our water systems," Doran continued. "This impressive award demonstrates their dedication and commitment to protecting the health and safety of our customers over the past 20 years and beyond."

Nationally, just over 400 surface water treatment plants are part of the Partnership for Safe Water Program, a voluntary effort that is designed to increase protection against microbial contamination through treatment optimization. Pennsylvania American Water, a subsidiary of American Water, is the largest investor owned water utility in the state, providing high-quality and reliable water and/or wastewater services to approximately 2.4 million people. With a history dating back to 1886, American Water is the largest and most geographically diverse U.S. publicly traded water and wastewater utility company. The company employs more than 6,800



**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MILTON  
WATER TREATMENT PLANT TEAM**  
U.S. EPA Partnership for Safe Water  
20-Year Directors Award Winner!



This year's 'group photo' congratulating the Milton Water Treatment Plant Team for being a 20-Year Directors Award winner. Top row, from left: Andrew Hoover, Barry Catherman, Brad Sauers, Jon Bucher, Ted Fedder, Scott Sharp; second row: Dave Ferster, Dean Kirkendall, Derek Frantz, Eric Fitzgerald, Jennifer Dippery, Jeremy Resseguie; bottom row: Pete Swartzentruber, Laura Walter, Robin Dunham, Robin Scott, Scott Rhoades.

dedicated professionals who provide regulated and market-based drinking water, wastewater and other related services to 15 million people in 46 states. American Water provides safe, clean, affordable and reliable water services to our customers to make sure we keep their lives flowing. For more information, visit [www.amwater.com](http://www.amwater.com) and follow American Water on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.

## Swift Kennedy & Associates

WILLIAMSPORT - Swift Kennedy is celebrating 100 years in business this year.

"Thank you to all of our clients and associates for making this possible. We could have not done it without you!"

Swift Kennedy helps businesses find affordable employee benefit plans, including: medical, dental, vision, life, disability and alternative funding options. This full-service agency, which also offers individual and senior insurance products, has offices in Scranton, Williamsport, DuBois, State College, and Virginia Beach.

## Evangelical Community Hospital

LEWISBURG - Evangelical Community Hospital recently announced the arrival of Cathleen Lapchak, MJ, BSN, RN, CPHRM, as Director of Clinical Quality, Patient Safety, and Risk Management. She began her role at the hospital in January.

In this role, Ms. Lapchak oversees quality management activities as well as manages the design,



Cathleen Lapchak



development, and implementation of quality improvement initiatives that support Evangelical's commitment to quality of care for its patients. She is responsible for all quality related activities as required by state and federal regulations.

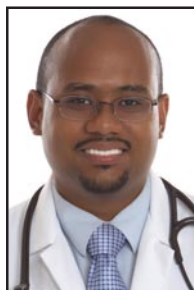
Throughout her 25-year-plus nursing career, Ms. Lapchak has held various nursing roles from direct patient care to leadership and management, most recently serving as the Central Regional Manager Clinical Risk Management and Patient Safety and Patient Safety Officer for the Geisinger Health System. In addition, she brings with her a degree in health law.

Ms. Lapchak holds a Master of Jurisprudence in Health Law from Loyola University Chicago School of Law and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Wilkes University, Wilkes-Barre. She received her Registered Nurse diploma from the Hazleton State Hospital School of Nursing. Ms. Lapchak holds a Certification in Professional Health Care Risk Management from the American Society for Healthcare Risk Management. She holds professional associations with the American Nurses Association, the Pennsylvania State Nurses' Association, and the Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor Society.

In other news, Malcom Mar Fan, MD, Hospitalist, has been named Medical Director of the Hospitalist Group at Evangelical. In this role, Dr. Mar Fan provides operational oversight of the Hospitalist program.

Hospitalists are physicians who focus primarily on providing quality medical care to hospitalized patients. They strive to communicate regularly with the patient, their family, their primary care physician, and any necessary specialists to provide coordinated treatment.

Dr. Mar Fan has served as a Hospitalist at Evangelical since 2014. During his time at Evangelical, Dr. Mar Fan has served on the Perioperative Glucose Management Committee, the Informatics Committee for Inpatient and Outpatient Electronic Health Records, and as a liaison for the Hospitalist Group and Information Services. Dr. Mar Fan received his Medical Degree from the Howard University College of Medicine, Washington D.C., and completed his Internal Medicine Residency at Albert Einstein Medical Center, Philadelphia. Dr. Mar Fan earned his Internal Medicine Certification from the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM).



Dr. Malcom Mar Fan

### First Community Foundation Partnership of Pennsylvania

WILLIAMSPORT - The First Community Foundation Partnership of Pennsylvania (FCFP) recently appointed Jonathan A. Nichols as Chief Financial Officer.

The vacancy was created by the retirement of Jack Willoughby who served in the role for more than a decade. Nichols joins FCFP after spending 14 years in the public accounting and advisory industry. A certified public accountant, he most recently served as Senior Manager for the Risk Advisory Team at Baker Tilly US, LLP in Williamsport. He has worked in a variety of sectors providing tax, financial reporting, internal audit, consulting and other advisory services. A graduate of Penn State University, much of his career has been focused in the not-for-profit and higher education industries where he gained substantial experience with endowment reporting, investment valuation and contribution accounting.

"Jon brings a wealth of knowledge, strong technical skills and sincere enthusiasm to the Foundation," said President & CEO, Jennifer D. Wilson. "The CFO role expanded significantly during Jack Willoughby's tenure, and we are fortunate to have a uniquely qualified successor who is poised to have a positive impact on the re-



Jonathan Nichols

gion for years to come."

As CFO, Nichols will have oversight of the financial, accounting and investment activities of the Foundation. In addition, he will be responsible for human resource management, benefits administration and risk management. Nichols will work closely with the Foundation's auditing firm and Outsourced Chief Investment Officer safeguarding FCFP's \$115 million in assets.

"I have seen firsthand the positive impact that the Foundation has on this region and am incredibly excited for the opportunity to work for such an influential organization serving the community where I grew up," said Nichols. "The Foundation has a rich history, and I am honored to be a part of its future successes."

FCFP works to improve the quality of life in north central Pennsylvania through community leadership, the promotion of philanthropy, the strengthening of non-profit impact and the perpetual stewardship of charitable assets. For more information on the programs and services offered by the Foundation, or to learn more about ways to make a difference in your community, contact the Foundation office at (570) 321-1500.

### SEDA-COG (SEDA-Council of Governments)

LEWISBURG - Kim Wheeler has been selected as the new executive director of SEDA-Council of Governments (SEDA-COG). She began her duties in January.

SEDA-COG 2020 Board President Rich Ridgway said Wheeler is the best choice to head the agency with her expertise and laser focus on helping the region.

"We are thrilled with Kim's hiring as she brings years of experience in various realms of government and planning. Her expertise and passion for improving the region coupled with her incredible work ethic is a winning combination. We look forward to working with Kim to ever improve the quality of life in our 11-county region," Ridgway said. Wheeler is a SEDA-COG veteran, having worked at the agency from 2003 to 2007 as senior planner with the former Community Resource Center where she was in charge of rural and urban planning projects and initiatives.

She joins SEDA-COG with expertise in the local and state government arenas, as well as in urban and regional planning, strategic planning, and local government policy development. As a leading planning and community development specialist in central Pennsylvania for the last 17 years, she is a well-respected professional and advocate for this region.

Her tenure in central Pennsylvania has been characterized by public-private partnership-building, developing innovative initiatives, providing local government leadership, and helping communities craft plans that lead to impactful results for the long term.

"I am honored and grateful for the opportunity to lead and represent SEDA-Council of Governments. I am thrilled to be able to utilize my combined experience and expertise and return to SEDA-COG to help it grow and adapt to the future and to have an even greater impact on the region. I look forward to working with SEDA-COG's experienced and respected staff, the board of directors, regional stakeholders and partners to advance business and industry and support the region's communities," Wheeler said.

Wheeler has been the special projects coordinator and grants manager at the Borough of Lewisburg since January 2019. She was the deputy director of planning at the County of Lycoming from 2014 to 2019, along with working there for two prior years. From 2007 to 2012, she was the local government policy specialist and north-central region community planner for the state Department of



Kim Wheeler



# SEDA-COG assists with millions

LEWISBURG - SEDA-Council of Governments (SEDA-COG) has responded to the COVID-19 crisis by assisting communities and businesses with \$28.5 million of COVID funds in its 11-county region from March through October.

In addition to the COVID funds, the agency's total investment in the region from January 2019 through June 2020 was \$511.2 million.

SEDA-COG's 2020 Board President Rich Ridgway thanked the agency for its assistance.

"I have been more involved than ever with SEDA-COG (in 2020), and I am grateful to their exhaustive efforts to fill the glaring gaps left by this pandemic. This agency is first-rate at how it continually adapts to the ever-changing economic climate presented to it since its founding in 1957," he said.

Mike Fisher, SEDA-COG assistant executive director, said the agency has sought to meet its member counties' needs throughout the economic crisis the pandemic has wrought.

"We know this is an incredibly difficult time for people and businesses. We

saw a way we could provide further assistance by assisting with COVID-specific funds in our communities," Fisher said. "Our staff has gone above and beyond, especially during these extraordinary circumstances, to meet our counties' needs."

As part of the agency's total investment, SEDA-COG helped to administer \$25.8 million in COVID-19 County Relief Block Grant (CRBG) funds on behalf of five of its counties, in addition to \$980,000 for Sullivan County.

The CRBG funds are for the prevention, preparedness, and response to the COVID-19 crisis. Funds were used to assist municipalities, small businesses, and non-profits pay for COVID-related costs. The funds are from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Securities Act (CARES Act), through the state Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED).

SEDA-COG provided professional expertise and grant administrative services for the CRBG funds, as well as activity development and management to ensure accuracy and adherence

with federal and state regulations.

Additionally, SEDA-COG loaned \$2.6 million to 30 businesses. The U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) had awarded SEDA-COG \$6.3 million from the CARES Act for these COVID-related revolving loan funds.

Finally, SEDA-COG invested \$101,632 in 28 homes through the LIHEAP Recovery Crisis Program. Residents in seven of SEDA-COG's counties had their heating unit repaired or replaced at no cost through August, thanks to CARES Act funds the agency secured.

As a community and economic development agency, SEDA-COG enhances the quality of life and economic advantage for residents and businesses in 11 central Pennsylvania counties through its vital partnerships and initiatives. SEDA-COG also is an advocate for the interests of its communities at the state and federal levels. For more information, visit [www.seda-cog.org](http://www.seda-cog.org).

# Mobile medical services expand

LEWISBURG - As part of its commitment to care of patients throughout the region, Evangelical Regional Mobile Medical Services (ERMMS) is introducing a

wheelchair/stretchers-enabled van to its fleet of service vehicles.

The van will expand non-emergent transport services and accommodates patients requiring a wheelchair or stretcher as part of the transport process.

The van was funded by the 1994 Charles B. Degenstein Foundation and speaks to Mr. Degenstein's strong commitment to improving access to healthcare in the region. The ERMMS van went into service in November, and it will help to directly reduce and eliminate transportation difficulties as a barrier to care.

The new wheelchair-enabled van will offer the opportunity to expand and assist more local residents with transportation needs for medical care.

"It is hoped the van is the start of reducing the healthcare transportation gap found in Central Pennsylvania and will help to ensure everyone has access to the medical care



A new wheelchair and stretcher-enabled van has been added to the fleet of Evangelical Regional Mobile Medical Services (ERMMS). The van will offer the opportunity to expand and assist more local residents with transportation needs for medical care. Standing with van are Nicholas Klose, Clinical Director, ERMMS; Jonathan Bastian, MSPAS, PA-C, EMT, Operations Director, ERMMS; and Myron Bingaman, EMT, Emergency Medical Technician Team Lead, ERMMS.

they deserve and need," said Kendra Aucker, President and CEO of Evangelical Community Hospital.

For more information on ERMMS and non-emergency transport, call 570-522-2660.





Mifflinburg Bank & Trust made several year-end donations, including to the Greater Susquehanna Valley United Way and Kelsey's Dream.

Above, Selinsgrove community office manager Brian Neitz and Milton community office manager Melissa Jones presented a \$1,000 check to Joanne Troutman (center), president and CEO of the Greater Susquehanna Valley United Way. GSVUW serves residents in the Northumberland, Snyder and Union counties to help provide health, education and financial stability programs. Below, at left, Shelby Hackenberg, community office manager, presents \$780.33 to Tina Kuhns of Kelsey's Dream, after the bank and its employees held a 'casual banker's day'. Kelsey's Dream is a organization that focuses on children battling cancer.



# GSV Vaccine Task Force

**SUNBURY** – The recently formed Greater Susquehanna Valley COVID-19 Vaccine Task Force released the following statement related to vaccinations in the region:

"We recognize that there has been much confusion around the distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine. While there are many rules and procedures in place to ensure the most effective and efficient distribution, there are always challenges with such a wide-scale project.

Over the past few weeks, there has been concern around who, when, and how people can get the vaccine. We have created a Greater Susquehanna Valley COVID-19 Vaccine Task Force. The purpose of this committee is to ensure that everyone is working together in a coordinated fashion. Our goal is to make sure all who are interested and able can get the COVID-19 vaccine, with those who are most at-risk first.

There is still uncertainty and a limited number of vaccines, so we kindly ask for your patience and trust in our leaders as we move forward. We advocate for continuing to deliver the vac-

cine in cooperative approach. Additionally, we hope to offer clarity, peace of mind, and the most up-to-date information on the COVID-19 vaccine."

To better communicate information about the vaccine, the task force has created a COVID-19 Vaccine web site for the local counties. On the site, visitors can find simple, up-to-date information about the vaccine in the area. Visit [www.vaccine-gsv.org](http://www.vaccine-gsv.org) to learn more.

The Greater Susquehanna Valley COVID-19 Vaccine Task Force consists of the following partners: the county leadership and emergency management directors of Northumberland, Snyder and Union Counties, the Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit, Central Susquehanna

Opportunities, Evangelical Community Hospital, Family Practice Centers, Geisinger Health System, Greater Susquehanna Valley United Way, Northumberland County Agency on Aging, Primary Health Network, Union-Snyder Community Action Agency, and the Union-Snyder Agency on Aging, Inc.

## CENTRAL PAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Pledged Asset Loan

To support its Vision of "Helping Our Region Grow", the Central PA Chamber of Commerce is offering Pledged Asset Loans (PAL) to member businesses and organizations that need help in securing business loans.

For more information, visit: [www.centralpachamber.com/pal](http://www.centralpachamber.com/pal).

*"It was pretty much a seamless transaction with you guys, and it certainly will make things easier for me to do the renovations as opposed to having to use all of my cash...I'm certainly happy to suggest or encourage anyone who is looking to purchase to chat with you on how you can help them."*

-Ann Hilliard, RE/MAX Bridges

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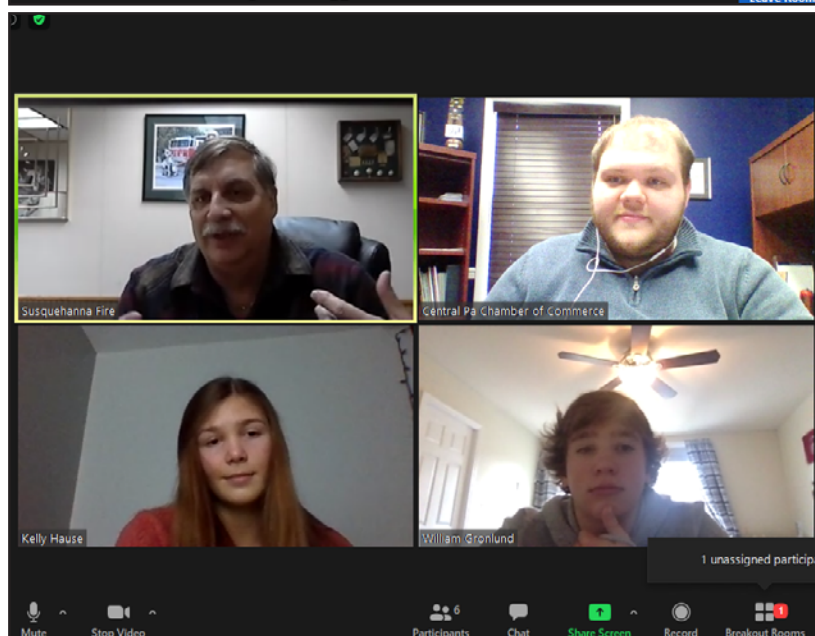
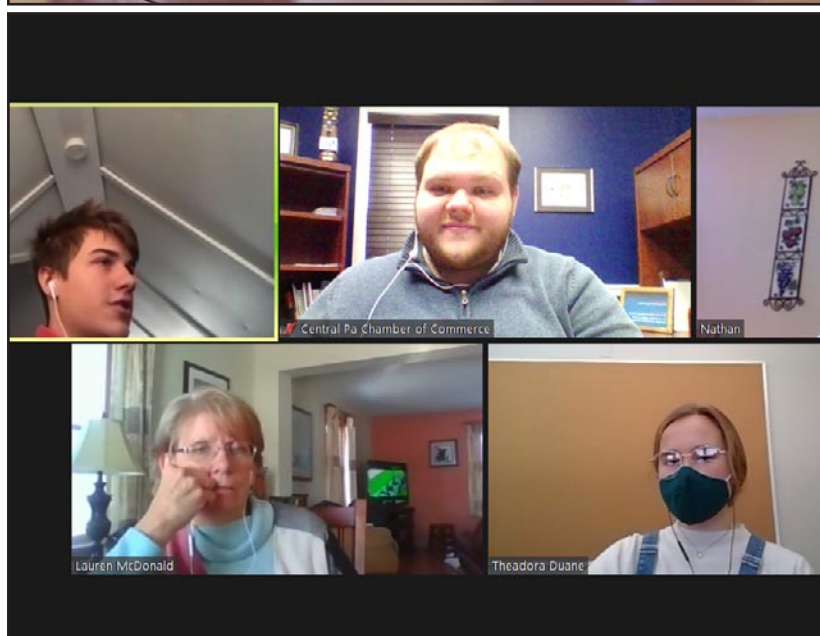
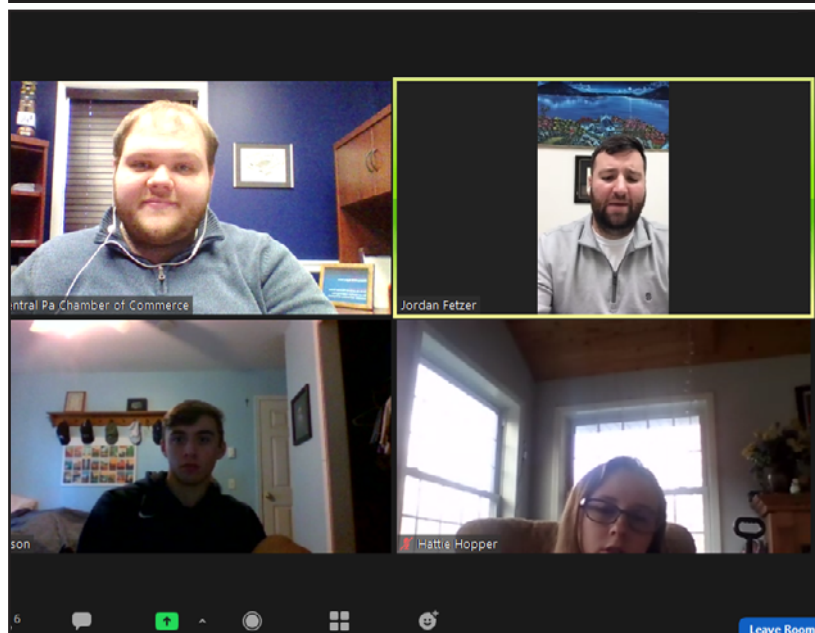
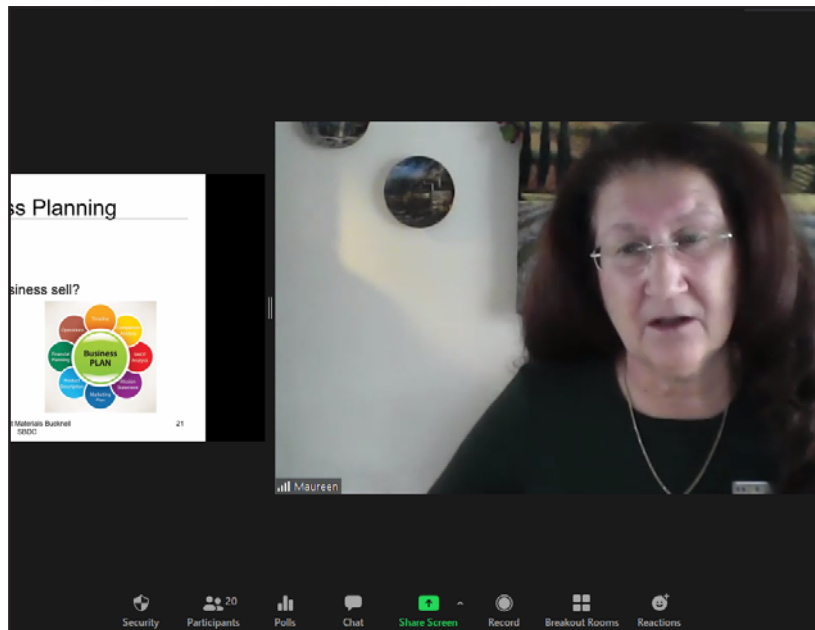


# Business & Education

## Building a business

The Building Leaders for the Susquehanna Valley (BLSV) students met in January to discuss entrepreneurship. At right, Maureen Hauck of the Bucknell SBDC (Small Business Development Center) facilitated the discussion as the students split into four teams to build their small business plans with the help of their team mentors. Team mentors included, starting below Hauck and moving clockwise: Jordan Fetzer of Dogwatch of East Central PA, Keith Foust of Susquehanna Fire Equipment Company, Lauren McDonald of The Wealth Factory, and Deb Rozyckie of Tulpehocken Spring Water/Mountainside Coffee. Each student group is representing a different sector - retail, food, manufacturing or service. This month, the BLSV students will continue working on their projects as they focus on the financial aspects of the company.

If you would like to get involved with BLSV, contact Michael Porter, BLSV Program Director, at 570-742-7341 or [mporter@centralpachamber.com](mailto:mporter@centralpachamber.com).







# RtR returns

**WILLIAMSPORT** - The First Community Foundation Partnership of Pennsylvania (FCFP) is excited to announce Raise the Region 2021, an event to help the communities of Columbia, Lycoming, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder, and Union Counties support local non-profit organizations fundraising efforts. FCFP, in partnership with Blaise Alexander Family Dealerships, will be launching a 30-hour fundraising event starting on Wednesday, March 10.

The Central PA Business & Education Association will once again participate this year. Funds raised by this effort will go to help with funding for programs such as Building Leaders for the Susquehanna Valley (BLSV), School Counts!, career fairs and the Seminar & Training Series. Non-profit participation in Raise the Region is available to 501(c)(3) organizations serving residents in Columbia, Lycoming, Montour, Northumber-

land, Snyder, or Union Counties. Pre-registration is required by Friday, Feb. 26. For non-profits interested in registering for this event and a complete set of rules, visit [www.RaiseTheRegion.org](http://www.RaiseTheRegion.org).

"This is the ninth year for the fundraiser supported by FCFP and Blaise Alexander Family Dealerships. We are excited to host this regional event again, especially since so many of the local non-profits have not been able to fundraise this year due to COVID-19," said Jason McCahan, Director of Philanthropy. In 2020, north central Pennsylvania showed its true spirit of philanthropy by donating \$1,426,572 to over 280 non-profits. Raise the Region had thousands of donors make 9,423 gifts. Since starting in 2013, Raise the Region has collectively received over \$10.2 million in donations for the benefit of local nonprofit organizations.



Late last year, Warrior Run High School student Coltin Pentycocfe job shadowed with Green Ridge Graphics in Mifflinburg. Pentycocfe, who is also on the school's football team, is interested in the field of screen printing and was able to see the process of making T-shirts for his team from start to end. Here he holds up the finished product. Great work!

## Michael's Minutes

Show 'B&E' some love



February is known as the month of love, and this year there are plenty of opportunities for you to show some love to the Central PA Business & Education Association.

"B&E" impacts many area students, and we need volunteers, sponsorships and general participation in our events to make it happen.

One of our events that is happening soon is our St. Valentine's Lottery Bingo! If you would like to come out and participate in this event, we would love to have you join us! It is being held Feb. 5 with registration starting at 4:30 p.m. and the games beginning at 6 at D&S Event Center in Milton.

Another event that we are already planning is our 20th Annual Business & Education Golf Tournament to be held on June 25. This event will once again take place at Bucknell Golf Club, where we typically have close to 100 people participating throughout the day. There are plenty of opportunities to volunteer for this event, and we still have sponsorship opportunities available, too! If you would like to play, too, we always have opportunities for that and even have a couple of sponsorship levels that include registration of four golfers for the tournament. Right before the shotgun start, we will also be holding our 6th Annual Golf Ball Drop! You can purchase tickets on our web site at

[www.centralpachamber.com/events](http://www.centralpachamber.com/events), and you don't have to be present to win.

We also have program sponsorships available to support our efforts throughout the year. For instance, if you would want to sponsor a day of Building Leaders for the Susquehanna Valley (BLSV), we can have you come in to speak to the students about your company and what you do. If you would want to sponsor the Career Fair, we can put your logo on all promotional materials and out at the events, too. While all these opportunities help us greatly, it is also a means to give you and your business more opportunities to get out in front of local students and many other local businesses that also participate. These are just a few examples of how you can get involved with our organization and assist our students through these programs.

If you are interested in sponsoring any of these events, please, contact me. If you would like to participate or learn more about any events, go to the events tab on our web site, [www.centralpachamber.com](http://www.centralpachamber.com) for more information.

We hope to see you in 2021!

*Michael*

Michael Porter  
Education Coordinator  
[mporter@centralpachamber.com](mailto:mporter@centralpachamber.com)



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# Jessica's Jottings

## Time to benefit



Hello, readers, and welcome to February! Hopefully, you were able to take last month and review your Chamber benefits and how and when you plan to use them. If you have not been able to check out the many benefits of being a Central PA Chamber member yet, I want to highlight a few for you to consider.

Do you have a special offer or event coming up and want to share the information with the Chamber membership? Not only should you send us the information so we can share on our platforms, but you also have access to our complete member listings! It includes all current Chamber members with their primary contact information. You will have the ability to directly contact any or all members about your business or organization. This list can be arranged in multiple ways, so you can contact specific industries and organizations. There is no charge for this benefit, all you need to do is contact me, and I will send the latest version of the list. Just remember to ask for a new one as this list gets updated often!

Networking may still seem hard to do at this time, but the Central PA Chamber is offering different ways for you to still communicate with the business community. We are bringing back Breakfast Briefings this year, and we are conducting them in accordance with CDC and state guidelines. Our Seminar & Training Series is also on going with new topics being discussed throughout the year. These are held in-person, through an online platform or a combination of both. We encourage our members, as well as non-members, to participate in these events as there is always something to learn to better yourself personally and/or professionally. Make sure to register on our web site at [www.centralpachamber.com/events](http://www.centralpachamber.com/events). Also, be sure to stop by the Central PA Chamber to check and see if we have your most current business cards and brochures. We have many visitors throughout the week that look for information on business, organizations and their services. Having your most recent cards and brochures also help the Chamber staff when we are referring member businesses and have a business card to hand out. Feel free to drop these off in person or mail them. There are many other benefits to take advantage, and I highly encourage you to take a look. You can find more information on the above benefits and others at our web site at [www.centralpachamber.com](http://www.centralpachamber.com). All information is included in the new 2021 Member Benefits & Opportunities Guide.

*Jessica*

Jessica Williams  
Finance & Membership Director  
[jwilliams@centralpachamber.com](mailto:jwilliams@centralpachamber.com)



The HandUp Foundation received a \$333.33 check from The Coup Agency to support its food bank. At right, Jeff Coup presents the gift to Pastor Doug Diven of HandUP. The Coup Agency encourages everyone to either volunteer time, financially support, or do both, to help others in their time of need. You can reach the HandUp Foundation to volunteer by calling 570-742-3000 or mail your donation to: The Hand Up Foundation, 262 Willow St, Milton, PA 17847.



Congratulations to Financial Advisor Dan Myers of Edward Jones, who recently relocated his office to Lewisburg, partnering with Mary Wagner, a Senior Branch Office Administrator. 'She's an absolutely wonderful person, and I can't wait for you to meet her,' Myers said. The office is at 260 Reitz Blvd., Ste. B, Lewisburg. You can reach him at 570-522-9960 or [d.myers@edwardjones.com](mailto:d.myers@edwardjones.com).

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# Speaking as one

**WILLIAMSPORT** - The First Community Foundation Partnership of Pennsylvania (FCFP) is launching a public health campaign aimed at stopping the spread of COVID-19. While public messages are not new, the approach FCFP took brings together the community in a way not seen before. FCFP brought the region's healthcare organizations together to speak to area residents with a single voice.

As an advocate for many important causes in the region, FCFP saw an opportunity to strike back at the growing number of COVID-19 cases and related fatalities. At the invitation of FCFP's President & CEO, Jennifer D. Wilson, marketing and communication executives from Evangelical Community Hospital, Geisinger and UPMC agreed to participate.

Through a collaborative process using Zoom video calls, the group agreed that changing individual behaviors was the single most important goal. But after each organization just spent months educating, coaching and encouraging these behaviors, they identified message fatigue as a potential barrier to success.

Wilson tapped marketing agency MoJo Active to create a

campaign that would break through the message fatigue barrier while resonating with the three different healthcare organizations. Anchored by the novelty of having the logos of all three healthcare organizations side by side, the campaign's compelling headline "Only you can help us defeat COVID-19" is supported by a constant theme, "FCFP brought us together. To keep you apart."

"The campaign makes it very clear. Individual behaviors – not healthcare organizations – will determine how long this pandemic continues to impact our region," said Wilson. "Masking, distancing, hygiene, and now vaccinations are all personal choices. The opportunity to stop the spread is in the hands of each individual."

The campaign will appear on billboards throughout the FCFP region and on video ads on social media and YouTube.

"We had to do something," said Wilson. "The extraordinary employees of these organizations fight day and night to help the people of our region combat the virus, but they can't prevent them from contracting it. This campaign just might be the little extra needed to get the message across."

## Breakfast Briefing



Thank you to everyone who joined us for the first Breakfast Briefing of 2021 on Jan. 15. We hope you enjoyed the presentation by our sponsor, Diane Weller of Diane Weller Coaching. She is booking speaking engagements now to help people in their career aspirations. Call 570-765-2344, e-mail [diane@dianewellercoaching.com](mailto:diane@dianewellercoaching.com) and visit [www.dianewellercoaching.com](http://www.dianewellercoaching.com). Diane Weller said it takes the right combination of passion and ability to find fulfillment in your work. Do you have career confusion? Contact her to have it solved!

Want to join us for an upcoming Breakfast Briefing?

Visit [www.centralpachamber.com/events](http://www.centralpachamber.com/events) to register. Seating is limited to allow for social distancing. Please, wear a mask.

### "Members Recognized" (from page 13)

Community and Economic Development (DCED).

She earned her Master of Regional Planning from Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y. and her Bachelor of Landscape Architecture from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse. She also earned her planning certification from the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP).

And, in other news, SEDA-COG's board officers were elected at its year-end meeting.

The 2021 SEDA-COG Board of Directors' officers are Juniata County Commissioner Mark Partner, president; Mifflin County Commissioner Kevin Kodish, first vice president; Centre County Commissioner Mark Higgins, second vice president; Larry Reisinger of Perry County, secretary; and Dennis Van Benthuyssen of Snyder County, treasurer.

The 2020 officers were Columbia County Commissioner Rich Ridgway, president; Partner, first vice president; Kodish, second vice president; Reisinger, secretary; and Van Benthuyssen, treasurer.

"Serving as board president for 2021, I look forward to continued service with our dedicated board of directors and our professional staff," Partner said. "Together, we will continue to administer existing programs and identify new opportunities to encourage and support long-term economic growth. These efforts serve to strengthen the quality of life throughout our 11-county SEDA-COG region."

The SEDA-COG board is a 22-member, county-based policy board representing both public and private sectors.

As a community and economic development agency, SEDA-COG enhances the quality of life and economic advantage for residents and businesses in 11 central Pennsylvania counties through its vital partnerships and initiatives. SEDA-COG also is an advocate for the interests of its communities at the state and federal levels. For more information, visit [www.seda-cog.org](http://www.seda-cog.org).

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Find the latest COVID-19 news and information @  
[www.centralpachamber.com/covid-19](http://www.centralpachamber.com/covid-19)

## Join Us at these Upcoming Events!

**\*All events are tentatively scheduled and may change depending on the COVID-19 situation\***

### **BREAKFAST BRIEFING**

7:30 to 9 a.m. Friday, Feb. 12 @  
the Central PA Chamber of Commerce,  
30 Lawton Lane, Milton.

Free to Attend - **Registration is Required**

Sponsored by:



### *St. Valentine's Lottery Bingo*

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5  
REGISTRATION  
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GAMES START  
6 PM

Pre-Sale Tickets \$25  
At the Door \$30

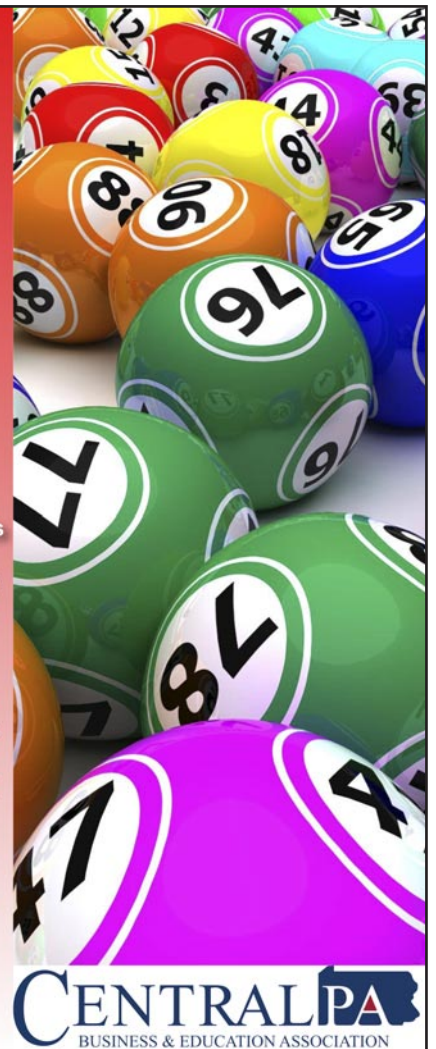
Buy Tickets ahead of time at:  
[www.centralpachamber.com/events](http://www.centralpachamber.com/events)

Bring your sweetheart and see if  
you are lucky at this Valentine's  
Day themed Lottery Ticket  
BINGO!

Proceeds from this event go to  
support the Central PA Business  
& Education Association which  
provides career exploration and  
leadership training for area  
students.

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975 Carpenter Rd  
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## CENTRAL PA BUSINESS & EDUCATION ASSOCIATION **Seminar & Training Series**

Are you prepared legally for 2021?

9 to 11 a.m. Wednesday, February 24  
Central PA Chamber of Commerce, 30 Lawton Lane, Milton  
Cost: \$15 for Members & \$20 for Non-Members  
Register: [www.centralpachamber.com/events](http://www.centralpachamber.com/events)

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