

# IT'S YOUR BUSINESS

www.centralpachamber.com

Volume 8, Issue 11 - November 2023

## Long-lasting impact, pg. 3





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jshaffer@centralpachamber.com
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jbeaver@centralpachamber.com
- Ryan Workman - Business & Education Coordinator**  
rworkman@centralpachamber.com

# The Inside Scoop



Welcome to the Annual Meeting special edition of *It's Your Business*! I say that because you'll find extended coverage of our biggest event of the year, starting on page 3. You can also learn about some of our help behind-the-scenes on the Business & Education pages and gain a little more insight from each Chamber staff member in their columns.

Congrats, again, to all of our Chamber Impact Award winners, including: Watson Inn, Bucknell Golf Club, Alison Hall of RE/MAX Bridges and Andrea Tufo of the Donald Heiter Community Center! I had the honor of presenting the award to the Watson Inn. Pam Showers, who has been apart of the business for 33 years, spoke on their behalf. She has certainly seen changes over the years, and the pandemic a few years ago turned their world upside-down. However, through perseverance, willingness to adapt and community presence, they overcame! Showers gave a lot of credit to her staff and family for all of their support.

They were another great example of a Chamber Impact Award winner! We've given away 33 awards over the last 10 years, including a membership-wide award for everyone's perseverance through COVID-19!

There is still more to find inside, including new members, Member Spotlights, events, Members Recognized, our annual board director election and more!

I also want to acknowledge a longtime Chamber friend, who passed away recently. Lisa Derr, General Manager of Kingdom Kidz Inc., was one of the kindest individuals I've ever encountered. I'm grateful to have known her, and my continued sympathies go to her family, friends and Kingdom Kidz family. Read more about how you can show your support on page 13.

Enjoy the issue!



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

## The President's Club

- |                                      |                                  |                                    |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Abe's Custom Woodworking             | iHeartMedia                      | PenTeleData                        |
| Asbury RiverWoods                    | Java Momma                       | PPL Electric Utilities             |
| Backyard Broadcasting of PA          | Jersey Shore State Bank          | RE/MAX Bridges - Ann Hilliard      |
| Century 21 Mertz & Associates        | Keystone Advertising             | RHP Law Firm                       |
| Coldwell Banker Perm One Real Estate | La Primavera Italiano Ristorante | Service 1st Federal Credit Union   |
| Contrast Communications              | Lawton Insurance Agency          | Service Electric Cablevision/SECV8 |
| Decal Dynasty                        | Lewisburg Pharmacy               | Sunbury Broadcasting Corporation   |
| Endless Mountain Enterprises         | LIVIC Civil                      | Susquehanna Fire Equipment Co.     |
| Evangelical Community Hospital       | MCPS Credit Cards                | Susquehanna Valley Limousine       |
| First Commonwealth Bank              | Meixell Diehl Insurance          | Sync Solutions                     |
| Fulton Bank                          | Mifflinburg Bank & Trust Company | T-Ross Brothers Construction       |
| Heaven's Best Carpet Cleaning        | Near Me Entertainment            | The Standard-Journal               |
| Heritage Springs Memory Care         | Nesco Resource                   | The UPS Store                      |
| Hosterman Creative                   | North Central Sight Services     | The Wealth Factory                 |
| Hot Frog Print & Media               | North Shore Railroad Company     | UPMC                               |
| i3 Point-of-Sale                     | Pennsylvania American Water      | USA Life Company                   |

The President's Club is an exclusive sponsorship program created to prominently recognize members that contribute to the Central PA Chamber over and above their annual membership investment. Learn more at [centralpachamber.com/tpc](http://centralpachamber.com/tpc).

### IYB Deadlines

Below are upcoming *It's Your Business* due dates. Every effort is made to include information in a timely manner.  
*Note: Only paid advertisements are guaranteed.*

**December Digital Issue  
News & Ads  
due by Nov. 10**

**Winter Print Issue\*  
(released early January)  
Ads & Flyers  
due by Dec. 1**

**January Digital Issue  
News & Ads  
due by Dec. 8**

\*The Central PA Chamber also publishes *IYB Quarterly* four times a year. Copies are available at public member locations across the region.



John Griffin, Head Coach of Bucknell University Men's Basketball, addresses a record-setting crowd of Central PA Chamber members and guests at the Annual Meeting held Oct. 26. *On the cover: The 2023 Chamber Impact Award winners. From left: Bucknell Golf Club, represented by GM Tim Hepler; Alison Hall, former owner of The UPS Store-Lewisburg, now with RE/MAX Bridges; Andrea Tufo of Donald Heiter Community Center; and the Watson Inn, represented by GM Pam Showers, Tabitha Heistand and Crystal Wallace. Photos by Hosterman Creative.*

# Life and long-lasting impact

LEWISBURG – Central PA Chamber members left with new tactics to find work-life balance, while four more were given the illustrious Chamber Impact Award following the Annual Meeting & Awards Ceremony on Oct. 26 at Silver Moon Banquet Hall, Lewisburg.

There was a record-setting crowd of 224 people to hear from Bucknell University Men's Basketball Head Coach John Griffin III, and to see the Impact Awards presented for the 10th consecutive year.

The theme of the event was "Finding Balance". Griffin, a former player for the Bison who graduated in 2008, became the 22nd head coach of the program last spring. He started by saying he was excited by the energy in the room, because more and more, relationships seem to be "transactional". Despite the college basketball season being underway, it was an opportunity he couldn't refuse, even if it went against the principle of work-life balance.

"Believe it or not, in our world of coaching, it's a very hot and important topic," Griffin said. "Burnout is very real."

He acknowledged the several dozen business owners and organizational leaders in the room. He rightfully assumed they all work very hard for their success, and some version of balance is becoming increasingly difficult to achieve. So, Griffin offered advice via six bullet points on what has worked for him personally to alleviate stress and exhaustion, which is a common by-product when one is out of balance.

The first point was time management and prioritizing "WMI (What's Most Important)".

"Before you know it, you have 10 things on your list that look equally important, but they're not," he said. "Find what will help you win the day. It will lessen the stress in your mind."

He then talked about being able to recognize quality over quantity. "Every step of my career that has been blended as I'm formerly a 'tasker'," Griffin said. "But, you don't feel connected and feel exhausted. The quality didn't meet the expectation level."

"I've quickly recognized that short, focused interactions are more important than quick touch points.

Having a flexible mindset was his third point. While you hope everything goes as planned, you have to understand there are a number of things out of your control, he said. "It has helped me leave the office less stressed."

Don't forget about yourself, Griffin said, making his fourth point. "Exercise clears my mind, but finding something

self-care related where you spend time on yourself is wildly impactful."

In his fifth point, he said to seek advice as there are many that have gone before you. Also, one should practice efficiency over obsession. "I'm always learning something different," Griffin said. "I've found mentors that I'm unafraid to talk."

And, lastly, he said to celebrate the small wins, recalling a time he blew the whistle during practice as a player came to a new understanding on the court.

"You have to work to find balance," he said. "Ultimately, relationships are number one, and happiness is hard to find if you're not looking for it."

He ended the speech by inviting everyone to first game of the season, coming up on Monday, Nov. 6. See page 7 for details on special ticket pricing!

Following Griffin's speech, Chamber President & CEO Tea Jay Aikey

*"Find what will help  
you win the day."*

*- John Griffin III,  
Bucknell University  
Men's Basketball Coach*



# Election 2023

The following individuals have been nominated to serve a three-year term on the Central PA Chamber of Commerce's Board of Directors starting January 2024. One ballot will be e-mailed to each member business' voting member (via Election Buddy) on Nov. 14, 2023. Ballots will be accepted until the close of business on Nov. 21, 2023. Please, select no more than seven candidates on the e-mailed ballot.

## **Lenaire Ahlum**

*Founder/Executive Director*  
Susquehanna Valley Community  
Education Project

## **Ashley Parrish (incumbent)**

*VP/Financial Solutions Center Manager*  
First Commonwealth Bank

## **Jeff Comitz**

*Director of Operations*  
Thermal Product Solutions (TPS)

## **Michael Porter**

*Training Specialist*  
Pennsylvania College of Technology  
Workforce Development

## **Noelle Long**

*Director, Export Development*  
SEDA-COG Council of Governments

## **Stephen Shope**

*Program Relationships Manager*  
Pennsylvania Treasury

## **Sheri Marshall**

*Financial Advisor*  
Edward Jones

## **Paul Smith**

*Owner*  
Sync Solutions

Learn more about the candidates and their interests in serving on the Central PA Chamber Board of Directors @ [www.centralpachamber.com/board-of-directors-election](http://www.centralpachamber.com/board-of-directors-election).

This year's election is supported by:



# ElectionBuddy

Find New Members & Membership Renewals starting on page 8.



**PENN COLLEGE** WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



**Sara Hillis Ousby,**  
Business Development Manager  
570-327-7003

srh3@pct.edu

One College Avenue, Williamsport

**How long have you been in business?**

Workforce Development at Penn College has existed since at least the 1980s. Penn College was founded in 1914 as a vocational-technical program that gained national acclaim for its efforts to fight joblessness during the Great Depression.

**What makes your organization unique?**

Workforce Development provides customizable training to meet labor market demands and employer needs and many times has grant funding available that can assist employers with offsetting training expenses. Trainings range from single-session

courses to multiyear apprenticeship programs. Employers and individuals benefit from the fact that our credentials come from Penn College and many of our apprenticeship programs have identified pathways to associate and bachelor's degrees for those who are interested in continuing their education. Apprenticeship is likely one of the least understood programs that we offer. We partner with employers to train existing workers to fill skill gaps. Apprenticeship allows workers to remain in their job while upskilling for advancement. We do the heavy lifting so that employers can

focus on their core offerings.

**What is a service that people are surprised to learn you offer?**

People are often surprised by our range of health care training. We offer EMT, Paramedic, and Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) programs. Participants complete the full-time LPN program in one calendar year and are eligible for financial aid.

**What is your Mission Statement?**

Inspiring and preparing Tomorrow Makers—the next generation of industry leaders—with real-world experience and innovative spirit.

**Anne Snyder, Program Specialist**

570-522-1362

asnzyder@bbbsnepa.org

1610 Industrial Blvd., Ste. 700, Lewisburg



**How long have you been in business?**

Big Brothers Big Sisters as a national organization was founded in 1904; Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeastern Pennsylvania has been in operation since 1974 in Luzerne County. BBBS of NEPA covers 11 counties, including the local counties of Snyder, Union, Northumberland, Columbia, and Montour. Our outreach into these counties are growing!

**What makes your organization unique?**

BBBS of NEPA is a one-to-one mentorship program that pairs volunteers ("Bigs") and youth ages 6-16 ("Littles") in a supportive mentoring relationship.

**What is a service that people are surprised to learn you offer?**

In addition to our community-based mentorship model, BBBS of NEPA also has several site-based programs in partnership with schools. In this region, one operates weekly

after-school at Selinsgrove Area Intermediate School.

**What is your Mission Statement?**

BBBS NEPA's mission is to create and support one-to-one mentoring relationships that ignite the power and promise of youth. Since its inception in 1974, Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Bridge has strived to provide high quality mentoring services to the children and families of Northeastern Pennsylvania.



**Kim Wolfe, Communications**

570-271-7582

wolfek@service1.or

www.shrma.org

**How long have you been in business?**

The SHRMA chapter was originally started in 1970 as the Susquehanna Personnel Management Association. In 1993, the chapter name was changed to Susquehanna Human Resource Management Association (SHRMA).

**What makes your organization unique?**

SHRMA is an affiliate of the National Society of Human Resource Management (SHRM). We are dedicated to promoting the Human Resource Profession and serve

as a resource to our members.

**What is a service that people are surprised to learn you offer?**

SHRMA offers networking and professional development with other human resource professionals from the Central Pennsylvania Region. SHRMA awards four scholarships to members to attend SHRM or HRCI-approved programs throughout each calendar year.

**What is your Mission Statement?**

The purpose of the Susquehanna Human

Resource Management Association shall be as follows:

- To provide opportunities for conferences, cooperative research and exchange of information among members.
- To raise the standards of performance in all phases of human resource administration and industrial relations.
- To encourage adherence to the Society for Human Resource Management's Code of Ethical and Professional Standards.

# What's Happening




## 2023 SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY SCAVENGER HUNT

STARTING NOVEMBER 10TH



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TEN KEYS ARE HIDDEN ACROSS THE SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY. STARTING NOVEMBER 10TH, YOU CAN FIND CLUES ON THE T-ROSS BROTHERS CONSTRUCTION FACEBOOK PAGE. IF YOU FIND ONE OF THE KEYS, YOU'LL BE INVITED TO A SPECIAL EVENT WHERE THERE WILL BE TEN LOCKED CHESTS. EACH CHEST HOLDS A PRIZE, AND ONE OF THEM CONTAINS THE GRAND PRIZE OF \$1,000.



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Presented by:

**Alzheimer's Association  
Greater Pennsylvania**

Third Wednesday of every Month  
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

St. John's United Church of Christ  
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Lewisburg, PA 17837

This group will meet every Third Wednesday of the month.

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- Learn about community resources.

800.272.3900 | alz.org\*



## MILTON ROTARY PANCAKE DAY

November 7, 2023

Sponsored by: Turbotville Public House

### St. Joseph Parish Center in Milton

All You Can Eat Pancakes & Sausage

Serving 6:30 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Adults \$10.00 Children 12 & under \$6.00

November 9th | York Exp Center | [mascpa.org/expo](http://mascpa.org/expo)



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2nd Friday of the Month, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

**Milton Public Library**

541 Broadway, Milton, PA



The Link offers professional staff support for:

- Job Matching
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- Workforce Training
- Recruitment Events

The Link is equipped with:

- Computers
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For the entire schedule including locations visit our **Facebook page @TheLinkMCC** under Events or to learn even more visit our website [CentralPACareerLink.org](http://CentralPACareerLink.org)



Questions? Call or email: Robert Eddy [reddy@censop.com](mailto:reddy@censop.com) Craig Kurtz [ckurtz@censop.com](mailto:ckurtz@censop.com) 570-220-0003



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# BOGO tickets for season-opener



*Send your event info to  
jshaffer@centralpachamber.com!*

Date	Event	Location	Time	Cost
11/7	Effective Ways to Close More Deals & Win More Business	Webinar	12 to 1 p.m.	Free
Starting 1/17/24	Meeting the HR Challenge for Small and Startup Businesses Series	Webinars	3 to 4:30 p.m.	\$399
2/1/24	Lean Manufacturing Level One Certification	Penn College Earth Science Center, 203 Allenwood Camp Lane, Montgomery	8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	\$1,995

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

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

Date	Event	Location	Time	Cost
11/16	The Cost of Burn Out	Online Meeting (Live)	12 to 1 p.m.	No Fee

Have you dreamed of being your own boss for many years but don't know where to start?...

*Start with the Bucknell SBDC!*

## New Members

**Artisan Hearing Technologies**  
508-B W. Southern Ave.  
Williamsport, PA 17702  
570-325-1547

150 E. Chestnut St.  
Mifflinburg, PA 17844  
570-281-0852  
jenburget0927@gmail.com  
Jennifer Burget - Owner  
www.artisanhearing.com

*At Artisan Hearing Technologies LLC, we are committed to helping our patients restore their hearing and improve their quality of life. Armed with the latest hearing loss treatments, we'll help you get back to doing what you love. Meet our team of highly qualified hearing specialists and hearing experts.*

**Willow Playworks**  
1810 Ridge Road  
Mifflinburg, PA 17844  
1-855-5-Willow  
leigh@willowplayworks.com  
Leigh Wible - Administrator/Special Projects Liaison  
www.willowplayworks.com

*Founded in 2009, Willow Playworks specializes in playground and recreational equipment installation across the United States. We prioritize safety, customer relationships and service throughout all our builds no matter the size or location. With the greater community in mind, we love working with locals to create a space to enhance and encourage inclusive play for years to come.*

**Road Radio USA**  
2913 Lime Bluff Road  
Muncy, PA 17756  
570-337-2306  
jimbo@roadradiousa.net  
Jim Motherbaugh, Jr. - Executive Director  
www.roadradiousa.net

*Road Radio USA is an award-winning, live interactive multimedia edutainment presentation that shares a powerful and important message about the true impact of underage drinking and other drug use in a unique way that youth truly connect with.*

**Vendetta Cyber Defense**  
416 Market St., Ste. 202  
Lewisburg, PA 17837  
570-884-8086  
Jordan@vendettacd.io  
Jordan Snook - Co-found/Chief Technology Officer  
www.vendettacd.io

*The Vendetta Cyber Defense team has spent years on the front lines of cybercrime responding to malicious cyber attacks perpetrated by Threat Actors. With this experience comes knowledge and insight to make the digital world a safer place for our clients. Because we have encountered and resolved such a large number of cyber exploits, we have the foresight to see where the next round of attacks are likely to manifest. Our Vendetta Endgame offerings are designed to merge our unique front line experience with controls, automation, and tooling to create a superior cybersecurity posture. We bring that front line experience and approach to our clients. We have fought the world's worst so we can protect you the best.*

## CENTRAL PA BUSINESS & EDUCATION ASSOCIATION Seminar & Training Series

### What is the Central PA Chamber?

9 to 11 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 8

Central PA Chamber OR Online via Zoom

Cost: **FREE** to Attend In-Person OR Online via Zoom

*Come with questions and prepared to deliver your elevator speech!*

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

Presented by: **CENTRAL PA**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

## BREAKFAST BRIEFING

7:30 to 9 a.m. Friday, Nov. 17 @  
the Central PA Chamber of Commerce  
30 Lawton Lane, Milton.

**Members - FREE; Non-members - \$7**  
(Registration is Required)

Sponsored by: **WELCH**  
PERFORMANCE CONSULTING  
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## Membership Renewals

(As of Oct. 27, 2023)

A New Design Landscape & Stone	MCPS Credit Cards
Beiter's	Northeast Training Institut
Contrast Communications	Penn State Extension
Decal Dynasty	Planet Fitness Lewisburg
Delaware Run Wesleyan Church	SUN Area Technical Institute
Fero Vineyards & Winery	Susquehanna Human Resource Management Association
Girls on the Run Mid State PA	SHRMA
Kingdom Kidz Inc.	Susquehanna Valley Spinners & Weavers Guild
Lavonne Poteet	The UPS Store - Lewisburg
Lewis Township	Tony's Tailor Shop
Lewisburg Sunrise Rotary Club	Tulpehocken Spring
	Water/Mountainside Coffee
	Turkey Hill Store 208 - Milton



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# Creative Communities

LEWISBURG - Lewisburg Downtown Partnership, the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, the Lewisburg Arts Council, the CommUnity Zone, Lewisburg Neighborhoods, Donald Heiter Community Center, and the Borough of Lewisburg invite you to celebrate Lewisburg's entrance into the Council's highly competitive Creative Communities Initiative.

It will start at 11 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 9 at The Piers Art Park, 539 Cherry Alley, Lewisburg.

"The PA Council on the Arts is excited to support the Lewisburg Downtown Partnership and its community partners as they reimagine, revitalize, and activate the Piers Art Park. Community-driven efforts like the Piers Art Park demonstrate that creativity, the arts, and the creative sector are integral to community revitalization by retaining and attracting residents, visitors, and investment," said the Council's Executive Director Karl Blischke.

For decades, Lewisburg's own standing stones have been overlooked, the Piers, an arc of 32 concrete monoliths, is one of the most prominent industrial ruins in town. Organizers have begun to hold and envision

more site-specific art, music, theater, and dance performances, community Yoga and Tai Chi, and art classes all open to the public. Through programming, they plan to encourage community members to take ownership of this space on a level not previously possible. Providing increased opportunities to create and enjoy art improves a community's quality of life, and will lead to Lewisburg becoming a more desirable town to visit and reside in. Increased programming and performances on Market Street support small, locally-owned businesses, shops and restaurants. The hope is that it will lead to increased entrepreneurship with new, unique businesses and experiences to make the downtown more vibrant and relevant.

The Borough has recently received County and DCNR funding to accomplish goals that are in line with the vision of an Art Park.

For more information, contact Lynne Sobel Ragusea, LDP Executive Assistant at 570-523-1743, and/or Sarah Merritt, Director of PA Creative Communities and the Creative Economy at PCA, 717-787-1521.



## Community Giving

### FOUNDATION™

## Nonprofit Leadership Series

NOVEMBER 2023

#### THE ART OF COMMUNICATION

Facilitated by Caz Russell

- Friday, November 17, 2023, 1:00pm to 4:00pm
- Montour Preserve Auditorium (374 Preserve Road, Danville)
- [Register Online for the Session](#)

Join us for a session on communication as an art form. This workshop will focus on listening, emotional intelligence, crucial conversation, asking great questions, and candor vs. kindness.

This session is limited to 2 attendees per organization. If you have additional staff that would be interested in attending if capacity allows, you can add them to our wait list by emailing [kharter@csgiving.org](mailto:kharter@csgiving.org)

Find the latest member news and events on our Facebook and Instagram pages!

# Time with Tea Jay

## 'Not your typical annual meeting'



The Central PA Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting & Awards Ceremony has evolved into so much more than just an event.

The fact that each year the number of attendees increases speaks for itself. This year, we incorporated an overflow section to accommodate some of the dozens who missed the chance to register as the event sold out one week prior.

The amount of time and preparation put into such an event is not apparent to most, but it takes a lot of work. The Chamber staff has worked tirelessly for months to ensure that everyone has a remarkable and memorable experience. I am often heard saying, "This is not your typical annual meeting," and you would have believed it if you joined us on Oct. 26 at the Silver Moon Banquet Hall in Lewisburg.

What makes this event the place to be? It certainly could be the incredible venue with the delicious food stations, offering a variety of choices for everyone. From the salad and soups, the gyro station with chicken and lamb, the pasta choices, salmon, and rice and the often smuggled out cookies and brownies.

Then there is the keynote speaker who is always someone with a wealth of knowledge to complete the event theme by sharing a personal message that resonates with the audience. Oh, and the swag bags that are full of all types of handy gadgets from the event sponsors. And, the beautiful centerpieces representing the theme hand-crafted by a fellow member of the Central PA Chamber family. Perhaps, it's the individual gift at each attendee's place setting. Maybe, it's the program. For the first time this year, our program was a professionally printed program booklet. Maybe, you're just curious to see what the Chamber team will be wearing, as we are dressed by only the best - Fusion Formal and Bridal of Lewisburg and Tony's Tailor Shop of Sunbury.

Without a doubt, the Chamber Impact Award winner announcements draw a crowd as no one knows they've won until that special moment when they are called to the stage in front of their peers! So much thought goes into selecting the final four. The genuine shock and gratitude of the winners never disappoints.

This year, we celebrated a decade of Chamber Impact Award winners, and it is a very diverse group, from their ages, professions and volunteer work. Some are businesses while others are individuals.

One overarching theme with the Chamber Impact Award winners is their ability to shine light upon a sometimes dark world. They do not shine light to draw attention to themselves, but rather, to light the way for others. They are truly stars in our universe.

Congratulations to the last 10 years of Chamber Impact Award recipients! You are truly a light in the lives of many.

Tea Jay Aikey  
President & CEO

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

# Breakfast Briefing



Thank you to everyone who joined us for the Off-site Breakfast Briefing on Oct. 20 at T-Ross Brothers Construction! It was an opportunity to show off their recently renovated facility, and breakfast was served by a fellow Central PA Chamber member, Feast of Flavor Catering. Those in attendance heard from new Marketing Manager Robert Tomlinson and the business's upcoming Susquehanna Valley Scavenger Hunt (see page 6). President Todd Ross also talked about T-Ross Brother's 65 years in business and the value the Central PA Chamber has brought them over the years. As always, there was time for guests to deliver their elevator speeches and to network. Breakfast Briefings, whether at our location or off-site, are held at least monthly, and all are welcome to attend any number of them. Register at [www.centralpachamber.com/events](http://www.centralpachamber.com/events).

## BREAKFAST BRIEFING

7:30 to 9 a.m. Friday, Dec. 8 @  
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**Members - FREE; Non-members - \$7**  
(Registration is Required)

Sponsored by:



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Kim Nash of THriv addresses around 50 empowered women to face their fears and move out of their comfort zones. It happened on Oct. 5 at Fero Vineyards & Winery, Lewisburg, during the Central PA Chamber's inaugural 'Powerful Women' event. Photos by Kelly Johnson Photography.

# Move out of your 'comfort zone'

LEWISBURG - Around 50 women were left feeling empowered following the Central PA Chamber's inaugural "Powerful Women" event Oct. 5 at Fero Vineyards & Winery, Lewisburg.

The guest speaker was Kim Nash, Owner of THriv and author of the recently released book "Burn the Plow: A Story of Surrender".

Nash told her audience that it is often fear that prevents people from moving out of their "comfort zones", however, there is a choice to be made.

"We can let fear grip us and stay comfortable or we can call fear out and move forward," she said. "To get past fear, we need to replace the negative thoughts with positive thoughts."

Nash challenged the women to find ways to fill their minds with positive thoughts and seek out accountability partners, to provide encouragement, focus and a much-needed push.

"When we move from our comfort zone, we may not end up where we thought we would be, but we end up where we are meant to be!" Learn more about Nash at [www.uthriv2.com](http://www.uthriv2.com), where you can also find a link to buy her book.

In addition, all guests made their own custom, keepsake T-shirts with the help of The Graphic Hive, Williamsport. The colorful shirt and beautiful design should have them feeling empowered any time they wear them.



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# Members Recognized

## Pennsylvania Business Central

STATE COLLEGE - Some women within the Central PA Chamber membership were recently featured in Pennsylvania Business Central's Women in Business publication as "Women Making A Difference".

The purpose is to recognize women in Central PA whose intelligence, drive, determination and dedication have led to business success and community involvement.

Among the 51 chosen were: Kaylin Kane, Integration and Event Planning Manager of Covation Center; Tina Welch, Founder/Principal Consultant of Welch Performance Consulting; Kenny Alvarez, Mayor of Lewisburg Borough; and Tea Jay Aikey, President & CEO of the Central PA Chamber. Congratulations to all of the winners!

## Keystone Wood Products Association

HARRISBURG - Keystone Wood Products Association, a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting the wood product industry via promotion, education, and workforce development, recently awarded the Lauchle Scholarship to Alison Stamm, a two-year, Forest Technology Program student at Pennsylvania College of Technology.

Stamm is a 2021 graduate of Jersey Shore Area High School and the daughter of Mark and Lori Stamm. Following high school graduation, she attended a local liberal arts college, but then transferred. "After transferring to Penn Tech, I found a passion for working in a hands-on field where I can work outside," Stamm said. "I enjoy the challenge of problem solving and teamwork. "The Lauchle Scholarship will give me financial ease going into my last semester. I am honored and thrilled to be awarded this scholarship."

This year's scholarship, which awarded over \$2,000 to the recipient, was established to honor the late Richard "Dick" Lauchle. He loved the forest and worked diligently throughout his adult life to ensure the sustainability of Pennsylvania's forests. In 1967, Lauchle enrolled in the Williamsport Area Community College, now known as Pennsylvania College of Technology. He was accepted into a newly established Forest Technology Program, which expanded his interest and knowledge of the forest.

The scholarship was founded by Keystone Wood Products Association and funded by Lauchle customers, business associations, lifelong friends, and members of the Loyalsock Men's Club, all of who shared in Lauchle's passion. For more information, visit [www.whypahardwoods.com](http://www.whypahardwoods.com).



Alison Stamm

## Evangelical Community Hospital

LEWISBURG - Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro and First Lady Lori Shapiro recently recognized 10 women as 2023 Distinguished Daughters of Pennsylvania.

Among the group was Evangelical Community Hospital's President and CEO Kendra Aucker. She and the others were recognized at the Distinguished Daughters of Pennsylvania annual luncheon on Oct. 11 at the Govern-



Kendra Aucker

nor's Residence in Harrisburg.

Of Aucker, they wrote, "Kendra's commitment to leadership through transparency, integrity and communication has led Evangelical Community Hospital to increase employee engagement and patient experience scores, 5-star CMS status, community involvement, and the most transformational growth in its nearly 100 years. Under Aucker's direction, the \$72 million bed tower private room expansion project was completed, and she led the organization through the pandemic and its efforts to care for the community. Ms. Aucker is a relentless advocate for the importance of rural healthcare to the communities served. In 2021, she was recognized with the Pennsylvania Rural Health Leader of the Year Award."

## Villager Realty

LEWISBURG - Sabra Karr, Broker of Record of Villager Realty, has announced the names of Villager Agents selected to be honored as Agent of the Quarter in the Third Quarter of 2023, as they continue to celebrate their 50 year anniversary in business.

Jessica Herman from the Northumberland Office was nominated this quarter for her advancement to the role of Rental Division/Property Manager for the office. She remains active in listing and selling real estate, and lends her real estate technology skills to the office. You can find her at any Northumberland community event where Villager is participating.

The Lewisburg Office selected Terry McLaughlin this quarter based on his number of properties listed and sold, and the number of positive reviews of his work. He is a career teacher and shares his knowledge and positive spirit inside the office. He is and has been for more than 30 years a leader and example to anyone who wishes to be successful in the real estate industry. And, Janet Hummer from the Danville Office was named the Villager Realty Agent of the Quarter.

"She is a professional in every detail of a transaction," Karr said. "Her 30-plus years of experience and depth of market knowledge make her a mentor to new agents in the office and a powerful advocate for her clients.

"She is truly a people person and the epitome of what it means to be a Villager Agent."



Jessica Herman

Terry McLaughlin



Janet Hummer

## Camp Mount Luther

MIFFLINBURG - The Camp Mount Luther Corporation Board of Directors recently elected new leadership at their quarterly board meeting.

Elected to their first terms were The Rev. Gary Schaeffer of Selinsgrove, president; and Ty Turner of Lititz, vice president. Anne Gates of State College was re-elected as secretary of the board while Terry Gardner of Muncy remains as treasurer. During the meeting, the board also adopted a budget for 2024, heard an update on the Foundations for the Future capital campaign, and laid out a plan for a new strategic plan.

A new gift acceptance policy was also adopted. Mount Luther, located five miles west of Mifflinburg off Route 45, is a Christian church camp that runs year-round outdoor ministry programming, including an eight-week summer camp. For more information, call the camp at 570-922-1587 or visit [www.campmountluther.org](http://www.campmountluther.org).

**SEDA-COG**

LEWISBURG - The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) recently announced the 40 fellows selected for the 2023-2024 Class of the Appalachian Leadership Institute (ALI), a free leadership and economic development training opportunity for individuals currently living and/or working in one of ARC's 13 Appalachian states.



Betsy Lockwood

Among those selected was Betsy Lockwood, Director, Project Development/Grants, Economic Development Program for SEDA-Council of Governments (SEDA-COG).

Training began last month and totals a nine-month curriculum, anchored by six multi-day seminars across the Appalachian Region, focusing on each of ARC's strategic investment priorities, which aim to strengthen economic and community growth in Appalachia.

This class will focus on skill-building seminars and best practice reviews to prepare fellows to:

- Design effective economic development project proposals;
- Integrate community assets into long-term economic development strategies;
- Identify resources available to spark economic and community development;
- Locate and access investment capital from a variety of public and private sources;
- Prepare competitive applications for public grant opportunities;
- Use expanded connections and leadership skills to create strong regional partnerships.

"I'm honored to be chosen as one of the four Pennsylvanians to participate in this prestigious program and to have the opportunity to use the skills I learn to enhance community and economic development in the SEDA-COG 11-county region and Pennsylvania," Lockwood said.

**Coldwell Banker Penn One Real Estate**

LEWISBURG - Coldwell Banker Penn One Real Estate welcomes Jessica Neiman as a new agent.



Jessica Neiman

A native of the Susquehanna Valley, Neiman has recently returned home to be closer to family. She and her family have lived in the Black Hills of Wyoming and Hillsborough, N.C. where she began her real estate career.

Neiman's solid foundation in home building and experience buying and selling in diverse markets will help anyone looking for a home for the first time, those interested in expanding a portfolio of properties, or everything in between. She is passionate about the joy a home can bring and helping others reach their home goals.

On the personal side, Neiman enjoys gardening, camping and spending time with her husband, three children, chickens and family dog. She loves bringing beauty out of old things and is an experienced "DIYer". She and her husband enjoy renovating and fixing up their old farmhouse, too.

**In Memoriam**



**Lisa K. Derr**

WATSONTOWN - Lisa K. Derr, a longtime member of the Central PA Chamber as a representative of Kingdom Kidz Inc., and formerly The Coup Agency, passed away unexpectedly on Oct. 24 at Evangelical Community Hospital.

She mostly recently served Kingdom Kidz as General Manager. She put her heart and soul into the organization's mission, still working aside its founders, Donna and Doug Bridge.

Lisa was born in Lewisburg on April 13, 1963 and was living in New Columbia. She was a 1981 graduate of Milton High School.

Lisa is survived by two children, Joshua Derr and wife, Miranda of McEwensville, and Alicia Derr and husband, Benjamin Frick of Lancaster; a brother, Keith Metzger of Mifflinburg; two sisters, Pamela Kurtz and husband, Randy of Watsonstown, and Christina Campbell and husband, Jason of Douglasville;

and three grandchildren, Brantley, Amelia, and Zealand Derr. Lisa loved to spend time with her family, especially with her grandchildren.

She was a member of the Community Mennonite Fellowship Church, Milton, where she also enjoyed serving people.

Friends and relatives will be received from 2 to 4 p.m. Friday, Nov. 3 at Community Mennonite Fellowship, 2985 Broadway Road, Milton, where a memorial service will be held at 4 with Pastor Timothy Darling officiating.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you contribute to Kingdom Kidz Inc. with the memo line as Lisa K Derr Mural Fund and mailed to the First National Bank, PO Box 158, Watsonstown, PA 17777.

The Central PA Chamber will keep members informed about the mural project, which Lisa had planned to see completed.

*Send contributions to: First National Bank,  
PO Box 158, Watsonstown, PA 17777  
Put Lisa K Derr Mural Fund in memo line.*

### “Annual Meeting” (from page 3)

recognized the Board of Directors, including its members that will be stepping off at the end of the year. Special honor was also given to E. Terry Baldwin of Baldwin & Baldwin, Milton, for his 35 years of service to the Central PA Chamber, as well as 50 years in business in total. Baldwin will continue to be the Chamber’s solicitor for the foreseeable future.

As aforementioned, it was the 10th consecutive year members were recognized with a Chamber Impact Award. This year’s recipients - Watson Inn, Bucknell Golf Club, Alison Hall of RE/MAX Bridges and Andrea Tufo of the Donald Heiter Community Center – brings the total number of honorees to 33. This does include a Chamber-wide Impact Award given in 2021, for persevering through the COVID-19 pandemic. All previous winners were displayed on screen.

The first award of the day was given to the Watson Inn, in Watson, which has stood the test of time. In recent years, they have re-branded, increased events and continued its community work, including serving the Central PA Chamber during sessions of Raising the Board and Legislative Events.

“I’m sure quite a few of you have patronized this place over the years,” said Jeff Shaffer, Communication Director, announcing the first winner. “I think it has something to do with their perseverance, willingness to adapt and community presence.”

General Manager Pam Showers and staff accepted the award.

“I have a fabulous staff, and I wouldn’t be here without them. They have been so gracious to me,” she said. “I also want to say a special ‘thank you’ to my husband and step-son. They’ve been very supportive.”

The second award, presented by Business & Education Coordinator Ryan Workman, went to the Bucknell Golf Club, Lewisburg.

BGC has been the venue for the Central PA Business & Education Association’s Annual Golf Tournament for the last 12 years, and more recently, has been involved in numerous other ways.

“Right from the beginning our goal is to be more open and welcoming to everybody,” said GM Tim Hepler of his four years with the club, which hosts dozens of charity golf events each year. “We’re glad to be a part of it.”

Alison Hall of RE/MAX Bridges, and former owner of The UPS Store in Lewisburg, is one of the board members stepping off the Chamber Board after six years. However, she has been a constant presence and advocate of the Chamber for much longer, said Jessica Beaver, Finance & Membership Director.

“I looked to my co-workers to share their thoughts and experiences about this award recipient,” she said. “Kind, giving and selfless’ were the characteristics given.”

“This has been one of the best organizations and has meant so much to me over the last 16 years,” Hall said. “I love the Chamber so much, meeting people, networking and getting them to join.”

“I do intend to continue with membership and events.”

And, the final award of the day went to Andrea Tufo, Executive Director of the Donald Heiter Community Center.

Aikey said in here speech that Tufo, now with DHCC for 25 years, first dreamed of becoming rich and moving away. However, a myriad of people are glad she didn’t. “Trading the dream of a million dollars in the bank has made this individual one of the wealthiest people I know.”

Tufo approached the stage saying she was in shock, as she was thinking about the other “fantastic” people in the room.

“I’ve been at the community center for 25 years, and I’ve had five bad days,” she said. “I love what I do every day. I find value in what I do. Tufo then flipped the script and thank the numerous people in the room that serve and volunteer for non-profits across the region.

The Central PA Chamber, once again, thanks everyone who attended the Annual Meeting, as well as all sponsors, volunteers and in-kind contributions. You can find them listed and/or pictured in this special issue of It’s Your Business!





11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
Thursday, Oct. 26  
Silver Moon Banquet Hall  
Lewisburg, PA

There was a record-setting crowd for the annual meeting with 224 registered guests! As always, there was ample time for networking and catching up with friends. Above, Kristin Ivers of the Williamsport Music Club sang the National Anthem while The Rev. Dave Jones of WGRC Contemporary Christian Radio provided the invocation. At left, your hardworking Central PA Chamber team dressed for the occasion. From left: Ryan Workman, Business & Education Coordinator; Jessica Beaver, Finance & Membership Director; Tea Jay Aikey, President & CEO; and Jeff Shaffer, Communication Director.

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# Business & Education

## Students provide finishing touch



When we say so many Central PA Chamber members have a hand in getting ready for the Annual Meeting, we mean it! In the left photo, a group of young ladies from Milton Area High School helped us set up the table displays, chairs and more a day before the big event. From left, are: Miranda Garcia-Calixto, Skye Anthony, Savannah Nixon, Maria Painter and Abbey Kitchen. This capable crew was sent to us by Amanda Smith-Derck, who oversees Diversified Occupations for MASD's Career & Technical Education program. In the right photo, Finance & Membership Director Jessica Beaver and President & CEO Tea Jay Aikey had their hair and makeup done the morning of the Annual Meeting by students in the Cosmetology Department at SUN Area Technical Institute in New Berlin. The students's names were not available as of press time, but thank you so much for your help in making our Chamber women look great!

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# Ryan's Writings



## Pitch-perfect!

It is with extra, personal satisfaction that I can report this year's Annual Meeting just seemed pitch-perfect from start to finish. While last year I was still only a month into my role at the Chamber and basically, I had to read the script and wear the tuxedo put in front of me; this year I felt very honored to provide more assistance and input with the whole team's efforts. First, I got to assist in the selection of the Chamber Impact Award honorees. After 10 years of winners, I thought it might be difficult to choose the right folks, but each of the Chamber teammates came to a staff meeting several months ago with lists that somehow, organically seemed to come to a consensus with minimal deliberation. If you were in attendance last week, you would understand why! The acceptance speeches were heartfelt and inspiring! The Watson Inn's Pam Showers, Tim Hepler from the Bucknell Golf Club, Alison Hall, and Andrea Tufo gave a masterful epilogue to the pep-talk from Coach Griffin! Due to our long existing relationship and the lasting impact the Bucknell Golf Club has had on your Central PA Chamber - in particular, the Business & Education Association - it only seemed natural that they should receive a Chamber Impact Award. Bucknell Golf Club is nationally recognized as one of the top college golf courses and an ideal venue for local organizations to host their charitable golf events. General Manager Tim Hepler and his crew are amazing partners and easy to work with, hosting our annual B&E Golf Tournament for the past twelve years and counting. The Club's 1846 Grill has also hosted the Chamber for a ribbon cutting, Breakfast Briefing and Inside Jobs Tour. Speaking of being pitch-perfect, wasn't Kristin Ivers' rendition of the Star Spangled Banner spine tingling? I was so glad my fellow Williamsport Music Club member was able to perform. The Music Club joined the Chamber recently, and I see some of the members are signing up for events on the Chamber's calendar. Have you checked out the events calendar for the remainder of 2023? There is a slew of Seminar & Training Series Events that could make a positive impact on your organization or business, so sign-up and join us!

Ryan Workman  
Business & Education Coordinator  
[rworkman@centralpachamber.com](mailto:rworkman@centralpachamber.com)



More than 1,200 people attended Milton SkillsUSA's 'Treats on the track' Oct. 24 at Milton Area High School's Alumni Stadium. Several Central PA Chamber members participated, including McCann School of Business & Technology (above) and Planet Fitness (below). We thoroughly enjoy seeing members working together and especially in the community!



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11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 14  
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## Jessica's Jottings

### Honoring a long-time member



Thank you to all the members who attended our 2023 Annual Meeting last month!

This was our biggest audience to date with well over 200 in attendance. It was amazing seeing so many faces in the audience while giving our speeches, and it was even more amazing to see all the networking and connections being made within two hours. As many know, we give out Chamber Impact Awards at our Annual Meeting each year. And, I would like to give you a little insight on Alison Hall, who I had the honor of presenting one of these awards to this year.

Alison has been an active member of the Central PA Chamber of Commerce for the last 16 years, which surpasses even the most senior staff here! She started her membership with The UPS Store in Lewisburg and continues now as a realtor with RE/MAX Bridges of Lewisburg. Many have come to know her through The UPS Store as she always did an annual book drive and even volunteered her time for Bucknell's move in and out days every year. She is one that proves that you can make an impact across multiple towns as she works in Lewisburg but lives in Hughesville. She volunteers her time through many projects and loves to explore every part of our region hoping to see where she can help next. If you have not had the opportunity to meet Alison, I encourage you to come to a ribbon cutting, ceremony, Inside Jobs Tour, Breakfast Briefing or any event that we have coming up, as that will be the best place to run into her and chat. The staff here at the Chamber are beyond grateful to know Alison and get to see her so often. This award was much deserved, and I cannot wait to see what the future holds for her!

I want to wrap up this column by saying a thank you to Fusion Formal & Bridal for taking the time to dress myself and President & CEO Tea Jay Aikey for this event. It is always a blast to hang out with their staff and pick out dresses for this event; they are a pleasure to work with. If you have any need for formal wear, I encourage you to visit them in Lewisburg! They even have men's clothes, too.

Another thanks goes to the Cosmetology Department at SUN Area Technical Institute for spending a good part of the morning doing our hair and make-up. These students are kind, knowledgeable and make the hours enjoyable every time we are there. I am glad that I can help them learn and get the practice they need before they head out on their own.

Thank you again to our attendees, sponsors, and speaker, for another great Annual Meeting and congratulations to our 2023 Chamber Impact Award Winners.

*Jessica*

Jessica Beaver  
Finance & Membership Director  
[jbeaver@centralpachamber.com](mailto:jbeaver@centralpachamber.com)

See if you can find Alison at an upcoming event!  
Visit: [centralpachamber.com/events](http://centralpachamber.com/events)

## Ribbon Cuttings



Congratulations to Neighbor Lady Vino on its new deck expansion! We helped them celebrate with a ribbon cutting ceremony on Sept. 29 at 214 Tabernacle Road (along Old Route 15), New Columbia. It was followed by a 'deck party' weekend. Read more about it, here: [centralpachamber.com/neighbor-lady-vino-celebrates-new-deck](http://centralpachamber.com/neighbor-lady-vino-celebrates-new-deck). From left, are: Buzz and Naomi Reed and Tonya and Kirby Smith, owners of NLV. The winery is less than two years old and is experiencing consistent growth. The couples went into business together believing in Buzz's wine-making abilities over the years. Each play a different role in supporting the young business.



Congratulations to the Union County Housing Authority on the grand opening of its new playground at the White Deer Commons housing complex! We helped them celebrate with a ribbon cutting ceremony on Oct. 10 at 125 Foresman Circle, New Columbia, where 24 families live. Read more, here: [centralpachamber.com/union-county-housing-authority-celebrates-new-playground](http://centralpachamber.com/union-county-housing-authority-celebrates-new-playground). Several of the children who live in White Deer Commons accompanied the officials who saw the playground project for the ribbon cutting ceremony. The children, from left, are: Amelia and Raelynn Bennett; Terry Yost Breson; Noah Sheatler; Rosybell Rodriguez Santana, who is cutting the ribbon; Giovanni Hufnagle; Oryannah and Gabriel Morales and Cincere Brown. The 'big kids', from left, are: Preston Boop, Union County Commissioner; Matt Schumacher, UCHA Board Member; Jeff Reber and Stacy Richards, Union County Commissioners; Sharon Leon, UCHA Executive Director; Tea Jay Aikey, Central PA Chamber President & CEO; and Andy Willow of Willow Playworks.



# INSIDE JOBS



Many thanks to Phoenix Physical Therapy in Lewisburg for hosting October's Inside Jobs Tour! Chris Herbster, PT and Facility Director, walked guests around the location to discuss and demonstrate some of the latest techniques in physical therapy, aimed to have you feeling better fast! In addition to physical therapy, he offers workers' comp and employer solutions, as well as occupational therapy. Most insurances are excepted. To make an appointment, visit them near Walmart at 159 AJK Blvd., Lewisburg, or call 570-768-4562. Join us for an upcoming Inside Jobs Tour by visiting: [www.centralpachamber.com/inside-jobs-tours](http://www.centralpachamber.com/inside-jobs-tours). The Central PA Chamber is also beginning to schedule Inside Jobs Tours for 2024. If you're interested in providing one, check out the same webpage for more details!


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# BY THE NUMBERS...

There were a record **224** registrants at the Annual Meeting!


The Central PA Chamber staff awarded **4** members with Chamber Impact Awards!

This was the **10<sup>TH</sup>** year Chamber Impact Awards have been presented!


## Join us at these upcoming events!

Celebrating the new location with an open house, refreshments and prizes from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.!

# Ribbon Cutting



**SPRUCE RUN**  
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12 p.m. Friday, Nov. 10 @ 7879 Old Turnpike Road, Mifflinburg

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### How to Deliver a Great Elevator Speech

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Central PA Chamber of Commerce, 30 Lawton Lane  
Cost: \$10 Member / \$15 Non-Member  
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Presented by: **CENTRAL PA**  
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Celebrating a year at the new location! Open house from 11 to 1 with refreshments and prize drawings!

# Ribbon Cutting

## TONY'S

### Tailor Shop



**CENTRAL PA**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

12 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 16 @ 106 Market St., Sunbury

# CENTRAL PA

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

## INSIDE JOBS

10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 29 *Featuring:*  
@ 29 Woodbine Lane, Danville

- A behind-the-scenes tour of the facility producing products for the hotel industry
- Meet members of the Fabtex team
- Lunch provided



*Inside Jobs offers members a chance to tour facilities of fellow businesses/organizations. Learn more and register @ [www.centralpachamber.com/inside-jobs-tours](http://www.centralpachamber.com/inside-jobs-tours)*



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