


2010 Tamaqua Area



Community Progress Report

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**TAMAQUA AREA
COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP**

**2010
CITIZENSHIP AWARD RECIPIENT**

EMERSON MUSSER



**Thank you for your dedication
to improving the quality of life
for everyone in the Tamaqua area.**

Emerson Musser
2010
Citizenship Award Recipient

Born in Reading and a native of Emmaus, PA, Emerson, now 80, served in the US Navy from 1948-1952 and is a veteran of the Korean War. After leaving the military, he worked for the Sun Oil Company for 37 years, 27 of them as a truck driver. He retired in 1989.

Emerson and his wife Joyce, now residing in Hometown, have two daughters, JoAnn Santizo of Wheaton, IL, and Linda of Greenwich, CT, as well as four grandchildren.

He has been a member of the Hometown Fire Company since 1959, serving as past president, vice chairman and since 1991, has served as the organization's financial secretary. He is instrumental in coordinating the company's breakfast fundraisers.

Since the 1990's, he has been a volunteer for the Tamaqua Area Meals on Wheels, doing everything from delivering meals to serving as president of the organization.

Emerson is a volunteer at St. Luke's Miners Memorial Hospital in Coaldale, working in the pharmacy, delivering medications to the hospital floors, where it is distributed to the patients by the staff.

In 2008, Emerson received the President's Call to Service Award after logging over 4,000 hours of volunteer service over his lifetime.

Thank you, Emerson, for your dedication to your community and for your willingness to give back.

St. Luke's Miners Memorial Hospital

Celebrates

with the Tamaqua Area
Chamber of Commerce in congratulating
Emerson Musser
as the 2010 Citizenship Award Winner.

Thank you Emerson for your
volunteer service at our hospital and
dedication to our community.



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CHAMBER STAFF—LtoR—Asst. Director, Eileen Barron;
Admin Asst, Amanda Kalce; Exe. Director, Linda Yulanavage

Amanda Kalce, Mahanoy City, has been hired as a part-time administrative assistant for the Tamaqua Chamber. Along with Executive Director, Linda Yulanavage, and Assistant Director, Eileen Barron, Amanda provides administrative assistance to the Tamaqua Chamber, the Tamaqua Area Community Partnership, Tamaqua's Main Street program and TIDE.

Welcome aboard Amanda!



**AIR PRODUCTS
HOSTS
CHAMBER
AT THEIR
ANNUAL FAMILY
AND
COMMUNITY
DAY
EVENT**

Chamber members, Ann Kline, Pat Stefanek and Representative Jerry Knowles enjoy the annual Community Day Event at Air Products facility in Hometown. Chamber members are welcome to participate in this event, held each June, where they enjoy delicious food, music, games and demonstrations courtesy of Air Products & Chemicals, Inc. Thanks to APCI for your hospitality and support of our community projects.



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TAMAQUA AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2009-2010 REPORT

As the Chamber looks back at 2009, we continue to make positive changes allowing us to better serve our members, businesses and the entire community. Our Board is actively engaged in the operations of the Chamber and we have several working board committees. Through this committee structure, we continue to increase membership and involvement in the Tamaqua area.

We welcomed three new members to the board this year, and we look forward to Sheryl Beltz, Kim Noel and Brian Seitz helping the existing board to take the Chamber to the next level.

Our Chamber is unique in providing management and implementation of the Borough of Tamaqua's Main Street program. Our Executive Director serves as the Borough's Main Street Manager. This program provides façade improvements, off-street parking in the downtown and management and maintenance of Depot Square Park.

Our office serves as the headquarters of TIDE, the Tamaqua Area Community Partnership, Downtown Tamaqua, Inc., the Gallery at the Tamaqua Art Center and the Tamaqua Historical Society.

The Tamaqua Area Chamber of Commerce serves as the initial contact point for those looking to relocate to the Tamaqua area. The Chamber also provides business referrals for and to our members. We provide many additional benefits to our members and our professional staff continues to look for new opportunities to upgrade these services and benefits.

In 2009, we entered into an expanded management agreement with the Tamaqua Area Community Partnership for management of their Local Initiative Support Corporation (LISC) capacity building grant. With management of this LISC grant, we look to improve the business climate and quality of life throughout the Tamaqua area. The agreement has allowed us to increase our staff to better serve our members.

Linda Yulanavage continues as Executive Director, with Eileen Barron filling the new role of Assistant Director, and Amanda Kalce assuming the role of Administrative Assistant.

The Chamber is proud to continue the tradition of presenting the top commercial seniors at both Tamaqua Area and Marian Catholic high schools with the Charles "Sam" Ghares Award. It is also an honor for us to present the Ella Ray Mundy Award to a Tamaqua Area senior and the Attorney John Earley Award to a Marian Catholic senior.

In addition to the wide variety of member services and benefits we provide, our Chamber organizes several events throughout the year. These events are designed to promote our members and improve the area's quality of life. One of the most popular events is the outdoor Summer Concert Series. These concerts provide a variety of free musical entertainment in historic downtown Tamaqua.

The Chamber, with the help of the Borough of Tamaqua, continues to provide Christmas lighting in the downtown business district. This service is made possible through the generosity of our business and community partners. The dazzling light display at Depot Square Park is designed by Frank Fabrizio of Remember When Video, Brockton. Frank also provides the community with the "jumbotron" and ball drop for our New Year's Eve celebration each year.

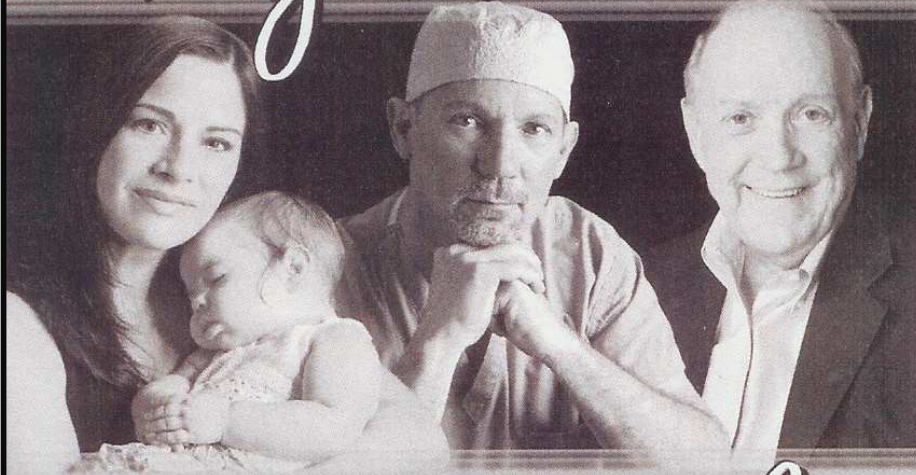
Our strong working relationship with TIDE, the Tamaqua Area Community Partnership, Downtown Tamaqua, Inc., the Blueprints Community Team and the Borough of Tamaqua continues to allow us to advance our community by providing the economic, industrial, professional, cultural and civic welfare to the Tamaqua area.

The Officers, Board of Directors and Staff of the Tamaqua Area Chamber of Commerce would like to thank everyone for their continued support.

Todd Miller

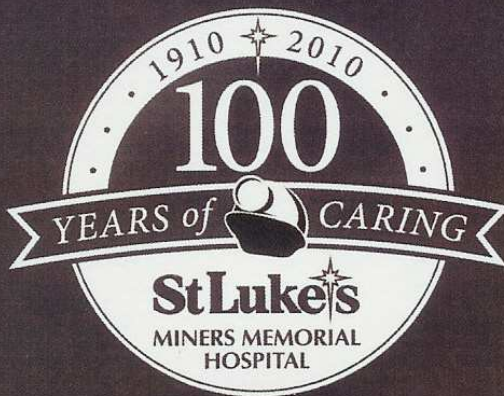
PRESIDENT

My Health




My Hospital.

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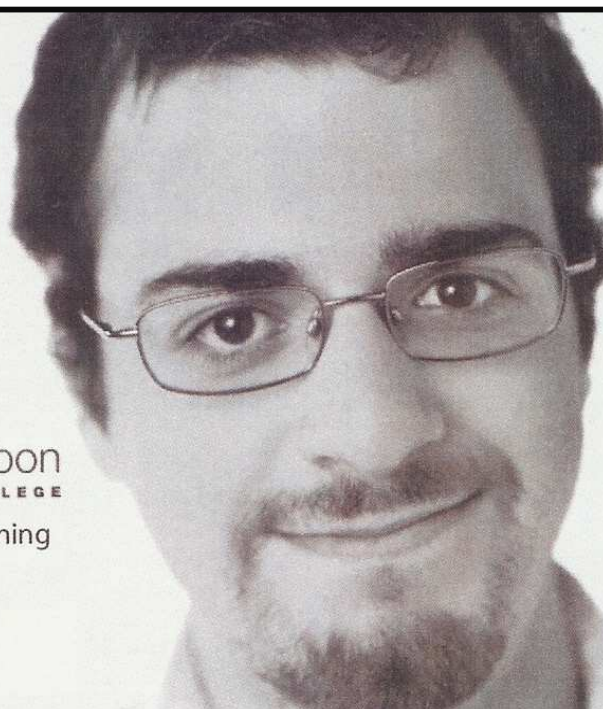


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**TAMAQUA LIONS
LEO CLUB GIVES
BACK TO
COMMUNITY**



The Tamaqua Lions Club LEO Club visited the Geriatric Residents at St. Luke's Miners Memorial Hospital during American Cancer Society's Daffodil Days. They purchased and delivered a daffodil to 45 of the senior residents at the hospital. They also handmade foam crosses to give to all the seniors. The members took turns visiting residents, taking time to chat with each of them.

THE OLD STATION CANDY SHOP™

The Old Station Candy Shop, located in the original historic Tamaqua Railroad Station ticket office features an assortment of fine chocolates made exclusively for The Old Station Candy Shop by Dunmore Candy Kitchen, "Home-Made Since 1904." Enjoy a wide variety of classic and contemporary hard candies, lollipops, mints, licorice, wax bottles, satellite wafers, gummies, and more. Taste a piece of nostalgia with James' and Fralinger's Salt Water Taffy; a delicious treat from the boardwalk of Atlantic City, which dates back more than 125 years. The Old Station Candy Shop also carries an assortment of colorful teddy bears, perfect for a gift or special occasion.

The Old Station Candy Shop
18 North Railroad Street
Tamaqua, PA 18252 (570) 956-4642

The Old Station Candy Shop opened in the ticket office of the historic 1874 Tamaqua Train Station and offers a wider variety of "old fashioned" favorites. Owned by Cindy and Dan Schroeder, the shop is a delight for the eyes and the heart.



The candy shop is housed in the restored ticket office and utilizes some of the original equipment there for their delightful displays of candy treats and gift items.

Photos courtesy of Donald R. Serfass



The Restaurant at the Station started a tradition five years ago by establishing a gingerbread house contest to benefit the U. S. Marine Corps League's Toys for Tots program. Below, owner Sheri Beltz poses with one of last year's entries, a model of Thorn's Cycle Shop, Tamaqua, contributed by Mollie Devlin.

Photos courtesy of Donald R. Serfass, Times News

Congratulations!

Emerson

*For helping our
community
continue to grow!*



***Your friends at the
Sewistown Valley
Garden Club***

LIVING HISTORY COMES TO TAMAQUA STATION



Shown are some of close to 40 members of the 81st Pa. Volunteer Infantry Regiment who gathered at the Tamaqua train station for their annual banquet. The event was hosted by Bill and Sheri Beltz of the Restaurant at the Station.

Photo by Donald R. Serfass,
Times News

Experience the Nostalgia....


The Restaurant
at the
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570-668-5020
18 N. Railroad Street, Tamaqua, PA 18252

Breakfast

Sat. 8am – 11am

Sun. 8am – 1pm

Lunch

Wed – Sat 11am-3pm

Dinner

Wed – Sat 4pm-9pm

Sun. – 1pm -7pm

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TAMAQUA PROVIDES MODEL FOR REVITALIZATION EFFORTS



Micah Gursky, president of Tamaqua Borough Council, explains how Depot Square Park was developed to members of Lansford Alive. The Lansford group toured several Tamaqua sites to gather ideas and information for their revitalization program.

Tamaqua's revitalization efforts are highly regarded throughout the area and the state as innovative and successful.

Below, Senator Dave Argall, encourages the group in the lobby of the restored 1874 Tamaqua Train Station. Photos by Joe Plasko, Times News



TAMAQUA BLUE RAIDER FOUNDATION, INC FORMED



Robert A. Miller, president of the Tamaqua Blue Raider Foundation, addresses the crowd at the foundation's kickoff reception at he Restaurant at The Station. Photo by Joe Plasko, Times News

The foundation is a non-profit, tax exempt corporation under IRS 501c(3) and its objective is to assist the Tamaqua Area School District in funding projects that are outside the school district's budget. It is meant to supplement the district and not replace other fundraising organizations. It is not an affiliate of the school board or the district's administration but will operate independently. No tax dollars are involved. Individual and corporate funding will be sought to meet the goals of the foundation and everyone involved is a volunteer.



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LONGHI FINANCIAL CELEBRATES 30th ANNIVERSARY

Founded in 1980 by Juliann Longhi, Longhi Financial began as a personal income tax practice. Juliann soon saw the need to offer her clients financial services and became a representative of H.D. Vest Investment Servicessm and a Certified Financial Planner. Over the years, the practice has grown primarily through referrals of satisfied existing clients. In 2008 Stanley B. Warner, III, CPA, MBA entered into a partnership with Juliann to form Longhi Financial, Inc. Because Juliann and Stan are tax professionals as well as financial professionals they have the ability to offer their clients a holistic approach to financial planning.

Both Longhi and Warner are registered representatives of H.D. Vest Investment Servicessm. They assist large and small investors to address their particular financial situations by conveying complex financial, tax and economic issues to clients in terms that the client understands. Through strategies, investments, and referrals to other professionals, Longhi and Warner strive to maximize clients' financial situations while tailoring services to individual needs. They specialize in large net worth clients and offer the choice of commission or fee-based asset management. Longhi & Warner also advise pre-retirement individuals on investment of lump sum distributions and offer an in-depth analysis of tax implications associated with distributions from retirement accounts. They work effectively to acquire income for their clients in the most tax efficient way.

To make an appointment for a complimentary consultation with Juliann Longhi or Stan Warner, please call our office at 570-668-0765 or visit us at www.LonghiFinancial.com.

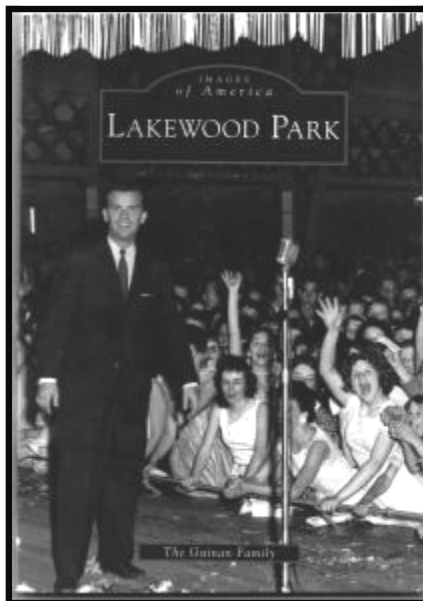
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L to R: Michele O'Donnell, Marie Umbriac, Stanley B. Warner III, Juliann Longhi and Ann Tracy.

LAKEWOOD PARK BOOK RELEASED

A new, illustrated history of Lakewood Park was released this year. The cover depicts fans swooning over a 1959 appearance by Dick Clark after his American Bandstand show went national. Clark showed up at Lakewood with a then-unknown performer named Chubby Checker. The book is the work of local historian Peg Grigalonis is available at the Tamaqua Train Station and at Klingaman's in Tamaqua.





At Air Products, social responsibility is all about caring for the environment and communities in which our employees, their families, friends and neighbors live and work. We are deeply involved in helping our communities, both because it is the right thing to do and because it's also the right way to do business.

That's why we are proud to be named to Business Ethics Magazine's list of the "100 Best Corporate Citizens." After all, being a good corporate citizen is really all about people helping people. And we are proud to support the people and organizations that are making our community a better place to live.



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VOLUNTEERS CLEAN UP

Members, volunteers, and staff from Access Services in Tamaqua routinely take part in cleaning various parks throughout the Tamaqua community. Every week a new park is chosen for their cleanup. This clean up took place at the Bungalow Park facility.

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**Joe Pilla - Gar Thomas - Ed Titus
Denise Wolfe - Lori Tucker - Amanda Shilko**

ETA BENEFITS CELEBRATES 10th ANNIVERSARY

Taking part in the 10th anniversary celebration of ETA Benefits Group are from left: Paula Rasich, consultant; Denise Wolfe, broker; Mike Prock, Mauch Chunk Trust; Sue Fegley, Tamaqua Area Chamber of Commerce; Lori Tucker, director of sales; Linda Yulanavage, Main Street manager and Chamber executive director; Maureen Donovan, Chamber board; Gar Thomas, senior vice-president; Ed Titus, vice president, sales; Joe Pilla, owner and Louise Pilla, accounting.

Photo courtesy of Donald R. Serfass, Times News



ETA Benefits, a Tamaqua-based employee benefits and insurance advisory firm, has grown from a one-person agency in 1999, to a five-employee firm. The firm is located in a KOZ property on East Broad Street, in the heart of downtown Tamaqua's Main Street District. In addition to the company's Tamaqua headquarters, ETA has recently expanded to the Lehigh Valley. The firm represents over 30 insurance companies and offers their individual and business clients—from sole proprietors to large corporations—a wide range of policies and coverage. ETA Benefits is the official agent for the Tamaqua Chamber's insurance program for its members.

Owner Joe Pilla, serves on the Board of Directors of TIDE and Gar Thomas serves on the Board of Directors of the Tamaqua Chamber, as well as the Golf Tournament Committee for the Chamber.

Congratulations and continued success to ETA!



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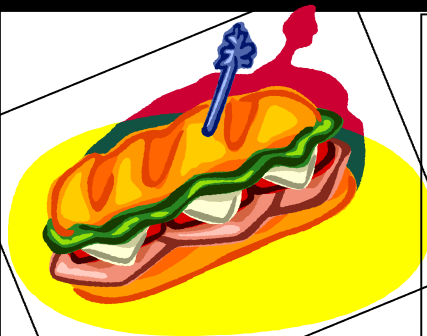
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**TAMAQUA AREA
COMMUNITY
PARTNERSHIP
COORDINATES
"PARTNERS IN HEALTH"
INITIATIVE**



Tamanna Patel, a technical assistance consultant with the Georgia Health Policy Center, provides information and support to the "Partners In Health" program linking St. Luke's Miners Memorial Hospital, Tamaqua's South Ward Neighborhood Committee, the Tamaqua Area Community Partnership and Lehigh Carbon Community College. Photo cour-



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TAMAQUA'S HERITAGE CELEBRATED WITH FESTIVAL



Vintage restored passenger cars pulled by a diesel locomotive was one of the highlights of the 25th Annual Tamaqua Heritage Festival, sponsored by the Tamaqua Historical Society.

Photo courtesy of Donald R. Serfass, Times News


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TAMAQUA STREETSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS CONTINUE

As part of the downtown Tamaqua revitalization, improvements, including new sidewalks, trees, and brick pavers are being installed on the last block of the Main Street area—from the Broad Street bridge East to Greenwood Street.

The new sidewalks have added to the "walkability" of Tamaqua's main street. In addition, the sidewalk leading to the Train Station will also be completed.

HOLIDAYS AND FESTIVALS ARE SPECIAL HERE



Breakfast with Santa, sponsored each year by ESRC, is part of the annual Spirit of Christmas Festival. The free, four-day festival is a true community event, sponsored by the Tamaqua Area Community Partnership, consisting of events coordinated with the help of various community groups, that appeal to both adults and kids.

Annual Community Tree Lighting in Depot Square Park is sponsored by the Tamaqua Beautification Commission and features free musical entertainment. An annual cookie baking competition provides the refreshments after the lighting. The annual event is the finale of the Spirit of Christmas Festival, and brings the feeling Christmas to the community.



Tamaqua Chamber brings Santa & Mrs. Claus to town each year, to visit with Tamaqua's children—both young & old.

Rumor has it that a local borough councilman and the Chamber's executive director look great in red.

Santa's sleigh was pulled by 8 "not so tiny" 4-wheelers, coordinated through the efforts of the Owl Creek Recreation Commission and Thorn's Cycles. Photos with Santa are available during their visit.



Tamaqua Historical Society President Dale Freidenberger (right) hosts a candle-lit historical walking tour of downtown sites during the annual Spirit of Christmas festival. The tours are free and are a great way to become a part of our holiday festivities.

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TAMAQUA AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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Fax (570)668-0826
Email: chamber@tamaqua.net
Website: www.tamaqua.net

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CHAMBER'S ANNUAL FISHING DERBY winner Michael Ulinitz accepts the grand prize of a vacation stay at Caiger's Resort, from Tom Banditelli, derby chairman. Tom organized the successful event with the help of the Owl Creek Reservoir Commission who offered refreshments throughout the day. Next year's event is planned for Rabbit Run Reservoir.

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**"BIG FOOT"
was in town
for a visit,
courtesy of
Tire Pros.**

The truck crushed several cars and provided plenty of excitement for the crowd at Depot Square Park, during Tamaqua's Summerfest an annual event sponsored by the Historical Society.



Tamaqua Historical Society's museum attracts hundreds of visitors during the two annual street festivals coordinated by the society. Summerfest and the Tamaqua Heritage Festival brings vendors of handcrafted items, ethnic foods, free entertainment, train excursions, historic site tours, train swap and displays, street performers and antique/custom cars to the streets of downtown Tamaqua each year. Admission to these festivals is free.



Downtown Tamaqua, our Main Street program sponsors several annual events, including a sidewalk sale and community yard sale, providing bargains for everyone.

The Tamaqua Lions Club brings Halloween spirits to downtown during the annual Tamaqua Halloween Parade each year. Local groups and businesses provide floats and marchers of all shapes, sizes and themes for the event. Prizes are awarded in several categories



Tamaqua Salvation Army volunteers serve a free Thanksgiving dinner to the community each year. Everyone is welcome to participate in this annual event. Free delivery is also made by volunteers to those who cannot attend.



Quakake Park Before



Quakake Park After

Quakake Park*Rush Township*

The village of Quakake received a new and improved recreation area earlier this year, thanks in part to a \$35,000 DCNR Small Communities Grant that was obtained through the ESRC. All of the unsafe deteriorating playground equipment was removed from the site and a new regulation-size basketball court was installed with perimeter fencing for safe play. The new full-size court replaces the old court, which was much smaller, contained only one basket and was in dire need of repairs. In addition, new swings were added, as well as a new parking area. The Township hopes to make more additions to the park as funding becomes available.

Congratulations Emerson!

SENATOR DAVE ARGALL

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www.senatorargall.com



STONEHEDGE Artists-in residence Kevin Smith and Lauren Hamby work on creating a new resource library at Stonehedge Gardens in South Tamaqua.

Photos courtesy of Donald Serfass, The Times News



MONUMENT MOVE DEDICATION—Members of the Tamaqua Amvets Color Guard stood guard during a rededication ceremony held on Memorial Day. The monument, which for over 50 years had stood in front of the Verizon building on West Broad, was moved to its new home on the corner of West Broad and Nescopeck Streets, adjacent to the Amvets Post Home. The move was coordinated by the Chamber's executive director and Commander Ed Smith. The moving ceremony included a 21-gun salute by Amvets members, along with the sounds of a ceremonial fire whistle of box "21" by the Tamaqua Fire Department, and the release of white doves, provided by Doves of White of Mahanoy City. Musical selections were presented by Dave Fortin, Marjorie Fortin, and Tonya Erdman. A crowd of over 100 attended the ceremony in downtown Tamaqua.



CHAMBER AFTER HOUR MIXERS

continue to be a popular evening to relax and network while enjoying refreshments at one of our member's establishments. Right, members enjoy a great buffet at the Pine Street Pub.

CHAMBER MEMBERSHIP PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES AND REAL BENEFITS

Whether it's our evening social mixers, or our informational breakfast mixers, the Tamaqua Area Chamber provides a wide range of opportunities for our members to network and learn about the latest business trends and services available to them.

An online newsletter provides our members with the opportunity to spotlight their business. An exclusive member-to-member discount program and special benefit packages offer real savings that will improve your bottom line. Our full-time staff provides exclusive member referrals and is available to answer any of your questions. Our office hours are Monday through Friday, 10 to 5. Call or stop by for more information about how you can start taking advantage of all of our members-only benefits. (570)668-1880

St. Luke's Miners Memorial Hosts Chamber Breakfast

Micah Gursky, Director of Development presented an overview of the hospital's operations during a Chamber Breakfast mixer. He gave a brief history of the Coaldale facility and provided information on the upgrades that are taking place in the radiology and telemedicine departments. Since St. Luke's has taken over the facility, over \$30 million dollars has been invested there.



Chamber mixers provide members the opportunity to spotlight their business.

THE GALLERY AT THE TAMAQUA ART CENTER, located at 114 West Broad Street, is managed for the Tamaqua Area Community Partnership by the staff at the Tamaqua Chamber. Throughout the year, the gallery presents exhibits which feature the works of talented artists from throughout the area. The gallery is provided guidance by a volunteer art guild. The gallery also sponsors a unique exhibit each year entitled "*from the Streets to the Gallery*" when local residents are provided with cameras and sent out into the community to capture the beauty surrounding us. The selected entries are then displayed and judged. Adults, teens and children are invited to participate. The images are then used to create postcards of the area. The popular contest has been used as a model by other area organizations.

Frank Letterio, Lehighton



Jeff Rimm, Tamaqua



"Chili Dog Collection"
Dina Depos, Tamaqua

Gabby Smarr & Lori Rimmel, Tamaqua



Ray Swartz, Tamaqua



Marsha Cusatis, Barnesville

THE GALLERY AT THE TAMAQUA CENTER

Chris Frederickson,
Tamaqua



Deidre Mashack



ART GALLERY MOURNS —With the passing of Marsha Cusatis, the Tamaqua Gallery lost one of their most dedicated guild volunteers and a very talented artist. Marsha held two exhibits at the Gallery in recent years. Because of her dedication and love of the gallery and the opportunities it affords to artists, a memorial fund was established by her family to benefit the gallery. In addition, they donated one of Marsha's beautiful paintings "*Stargazers & Coleus*" (left) to the Gallery's permanent collection. The memorial fund will be used to defray exhibition fees for upcoming local artists. The Gallery is proud to display her work and is grateful for the family's generosity.

TAMAQUA PUBLIC LIBRARY CELEBRATES 75th

Located at 30 South Railroad Street, the Tamaqua Public Library, has continued to be a cornerstone of the community for generations, dating back to the Great Depression.

The library recently celebrated its 75th anniversary and is now looking to the future with expansion plans, and possibly a relocation project.

Looking to expand

The library has simply outgrown its current 7500 sq. ft. confines and is bulging at the seams. The Board of Directors is looking for assistance from area businesses, patrons, donors, service organizations and residents to help make the plan a reality. State subsidies for libraries have been drastically reduced over the years.

Library isn't just books and information

The library provides many services to the community, including pre-school story hours, book discussion groups, audio books, music, videos, public access computers, proctoring for placement and online exams, microfilm reader with collections of Tamaqua Evening Courier and Times News available, programs for adults, children and families, genealogical information and hosting the Black Diamond Writers Network and much more.

For information on how you can help, or to volunteer, contact Librarian Gayle Heath at (570)668-4660.

Congratulations to Emerson Musser,
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"Hens & Chicks"

by Robin Spring Bloom of Weatherly

One of the pieces included in the benefit exhibit.

"The Generosity of Art"
benefit for Tamaqua YMCA

A cooperative effort by the Tamaqua Art Center, Tamaqua Rotary Club, Tamaqua Chamber of Commerce, and the Tamaqua Police Department was held last winter. Proceeds from the art sales were donated to the Tamaqua YMCA. The artists who participated gave a percentage of their sales to the fund. The benefit was a great success and a generous donation was given to the Tamaqua YMCA.

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TAMAQUA AREA COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP offered several educational opportunities to community leaders and volunteers as part of the LISC Capacity Building Grant. Below, Judy Bowen facilitates the "Communicating Like a Leader" class at LCCC. Participants learned how to discover their personal work behavioral style and how to adapt that to maximize effective communication within the workplace.

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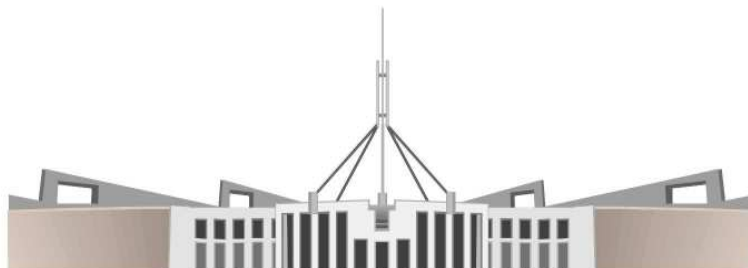
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2009 – 2010
Tamaqua Industrial Development Enterprises
President's Report

I have just completed my second year as President of TIDE and I have enjoyed working on the challenge to bring quality jobs for the work force in the Tamaqua Area. I also enjoyed working with the people in TIDE, SEDCO and the Tamaqua Area Chamber of Commerce. They have helped me and taught me much.

In spite of the poor economic climate during the past year, there were many accomplishments by the TIDE organization and by the companies operating in TIDE Industrial Park.

Accomplishments in the TIDE Organization

Engineering Work in TIDE Industrial Park

Engineering work has been completed on a land development and storm water management plan. The plan envisions two potential buildings, one being 100,000 sq ft and the second 40,000 sq ft. Two NPDES permits for discharges of storm water from pre and post construction activities have been approved by Rush Township and the Schuylkill Conservation District. The permits are presently being reviewed by DEP and approval is anticipated. When the DEP approvals are obtained, TIDE will clear the lots and get them pad ready for building. At that point, TIDE will have everything except building permits for potential new companies to move into the Park.

KOZ for Undeveloped Lots in TIDE Park

KOZ extension to 2015 for all undeveloped lots was obtained in May. All undeveloped lots in the Park are now designated as Keystone Opportunity Zones.

TIDE Web Pages

The TIDE web pages which are part of the Tamaqua Chamber web site have been completed. All TIDE literature has been updated and included in the web pages. TIDE literature on a web site will allow updating as needed with very little cost as compared to the cost of publishing brochures.

TIDE Park Maintenance / Beautification Committee

A committee has been formed to develop a permanent solution to address the litter and tire dumping problems, maintenance and to develop a beautification plan for the Park.

The Committee consists of people from TIDE, SEDCO and representatives from each of the companies in the Park.

The committee has organized and carried out a second Earth Day clean up in the Park and with the help of many personnel from the companies in the Park the clean up was very successful. The Committee has started developing the plans for a permanent maintenance and beautification program.

TIDE Park Sign

The sign was completed and installed in June at Hometown Commons. It was paid for by Zamias Development Corporation since it was a replacement for a sign Zamias took down during the Hometown Commons construction.

The sign is very important to the TIDE organization and to the operating companies in TIDE Industrial Park. It is needed to provide directions to the Park for delivery personnel and business visitors to the companies and to prospective TIDE clients.

MAG Developers

MAG satisfied their mortgage on Lot 28 (3.15 acres) in TIDE Industrial Park and completed the purchase in April. They have all the permits needed to build a facility but at this time they do not have a client and there are no immediate plans to build a facility.

Remaly

Remaly signed an Agreement of Sale in June for the purchase of Lot 26 (2.60 acres) and Lot 27 (2.70 acres) with an option for Lot 25 (2.65 acres). They intend to build a facility within the next two to three years. TIDE has a land development plan available to help Remaly when they decide to build.

ELK Lighting Inc.

ELK who manufactures, assembles and sells indoor and outdoor

lighting fixtures, completed the purchase of the Hanesbrands TIDE Industrial Park facility in January. They bought the building to consolidate several of their operations. ELK plans to use the TIDE Park facility for warehousing and distribution of their products. ELK could bring 40 to 45 jobs over time to the Tamaqua Area.

Small Business Development Program

TIDE, in partnership with the Tamaqua Area Chamber of Commerce, has started a small business development program. Plans are to establish a revolving loan fund to provide funding to present small businesses or new small businesses. Work is being carried out to build up the money for the loan fund.

Thank You Cocktail Party for Dave Argall and Jerry Knowles

A cocktail party to thank Dave and Jerry for all the support and help they have given TIDE and the other non-profit organizations in the Tamaqua Area was held on February 4th at La Dolce Casa restaurant. It was very successful with approximately 60 people attending from the various non-profit organizations.

New Members Elected to the TIDE Board of Directors

Two new members have been added to the TIDE Board to fill two open positions. These new members are: Danielle Hess, Plant Manager of Highwood USA and Joe Pilla, owner of ETA Benefits.

Accomplishments by the Companies in TIDE Industrial Park

Headcount and Investment in TIDE Industrial Park

There are seven companies operating in the Park. They employ 461 people which is an increase of 22 people from 2009. The total investment in plant and equipment is \$64.8 million. (These numbers do not include any of the retail companies in Hometown Commons).

Trans Western Polymers, Inc.

They increased manufacturing efficiency, replaced the Walmart

business with another major customer, and obtained two new retail customers. The poor economy has not caused their business to decrease, but it has caused it to stabilize and flatten out. Presently, they are developing one new product and one new package for packaging their products.

Highwood USA, LLC

In 2009, they installed three new manufacturing lines and one R&D line and increased manufacturing efficiency. They picked up nine new customers and increased their business significantly. For 2010, they already picked up three new customers and are projecting another significant increase in business. A line of fencing products is the major new product line.

Fox Transportation, Inc.

In 2009, all of the business improved. Food distribution remained the strongest part of the business, while distribution of accessories such as construction materials, concrete walls, steel, etc. which was weak in 2008 has stabilized and is improving. In 2010, they are projecting that the business will continue to improve as the economy improves.

Gellner Industrial, LLC

Business picked up in the fourth quarter and an expansion in manufacturing facilities is planned for 2010. They believe they are on the verge of a good business pick up for both their standard products and the new products they have been developing. A line of new polymers has been developed for industrial coatings and they have several new customers for these products.

Veolia Water North America-Central, LLC

They purify water based by-product material under contract to Air Products. Their business has remained strong. They are operating 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.

Silberline Manufacturing Company, Inc.

Customers outside the automotive industry are becoming a larger part of their customer base. They are projecting a significant increase in their business in 2010. Much of this will come from supplying new special effect pigments to new customers in several industries. They are carrying out R&D and advanced manufacturing in their TIDE Park facility.

ELK Lighting, Inc.

They are in the process of retrofitting the former Hanesbrands facility. Their sales over the Internet and to small furniture and lighting stores is strong while sales to big box stores like Lowe's, Home Depot and Sears is flat. They have added 18 new jobs at this time to the Park and this may increase during this year.

I want to express my thanks to all the members of the TIDE Board and its Executive Committee (Jerry Knowles, Jeff Bowe, Serge Chrush, and Bill Yost), the Schuylkill Economic Development Corporation, SEDCO (Frank Zukas and Gerry Heffner), and the Tamaqua Area Chamber of Commerce (Linda Yulanavage and Eileen Barron) for all the help and guidance they have given me this past year.

Joe Urenovitch
TIDE President

**For more information on opportunities
in the Tamaqua area, contact:**

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TAMAQUA AREA COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP CONTINUES SUCCESS

Partnership Chairwoman, Pat Freeh-Stefanek, (left) welcomed members and partners to the annual meeting of TACP.

Highlights of the group's successful accomplishments were presented, along with information on the next steps to take their efforts to the "next level".

TAMAQUA AREA COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP STRATEGIC PLAN

- **STIMULATE ECONOMIC ACTIVITY, LOCALLY AND REGIONALLY**
- **CREATE & IMPLEMENT A MARKETING STRATEGY**
- **INCREASE FAMILY INCOME AND WEALTH**
- **FOSTER LIVABLE, SAFE AND HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS**
- **UPPER FLOOR DEVELOPMENT**
- **DEVELOP, PRESERVE AND INVEST IN THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT**
- **IMPROVE ACCESS TO QUALITY EDUCATION**
- **DEVELOP TOURISM INDUSTRY, ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT AND MUSEUMS**
- **CREATE LODGING/ACCOMMODATIONS**
- **DEVELOP MIXED USE BUILDINGS**
- **CULTIVATE AN ECONOMIC AND EMPLOYMENT MIX, INCLUDING NICHES**
- **ESTABLISH FINANCIAL AND OTHER INCENTIVES TO ENHANCE COMPETITIVENESS**
- **CREATE AND IMPLEMENT A MARKETING STRATEGY**



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Email Address

esrcrec@hotmail.com

Phone Number

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Eastern Schuylkill Recreation Commission

Since 1998, the Eastern Schuylkill Recreation Commission (ESRC) has been working to increase the recreational opportunities in the Tamaqua area and Eastern Schuylkill County, with an emphasis on park and trail development and rehabilitation.

The ESRC consists of the Borough of Tamaqua, the Borough of Coaldale, the Borough of Middleport, Rush Township, Schuylkill Township, Walker Township, West Penn Township, the Tamaqua YMCA, and the Tamaqua Area School District. The formation of the ESRC is considered a real progress in inter-municipal efforts in a region that had previously been known for being divisive and mistrustful. The ESRC's importance cannot be over-stated and its work over the years has exemplified public/private partnerships and synergy with government agencies, private partners, and non-profit organizations.

Over the past 13 years, the ESRC has been successful in both securing funding for projects and running successful programming for the residents of the Tamaqua area and Eastern Schuylkill County. From assisting with acquiring land for public parks to rehabilitating playgrounds, from developing trails to constructing fully usable recreational facilities, the ESRC has been instrumental and extremely active in improving and increasing our area's recreational opportunities.

Examples of projects that have become possible due to inter-municipal cooperation through the ESRC are: the Lehigh & New England Rail-Trail, the Schuylkill Valley Heritage Trail, the Newkirk Tunnel Environmental Education Area, the acquisition, planning and development of the West Penn Park East, the development of the Rabbit Run softball fields, the Bungalow baby pool, the North and Middle Ward Playground basketball court, the lighting of the Tamaqua Area School District's soccer field, the development of the Mary-D Fire Company Sports Complex, the development of the Black Diamond recreation area in Coaldale, the development of Richard E. Miller Park in Hometown, the rehabilitation of Wildcat Park in Walker Township, the rehabilitation of the Quakake Playground, and the development of Owl Creek Community Park.

In addition, the ESRC runs a wide range of programs through the summer and winter months, including basketball and volleyball leagues, bike races, youth activities, weekend tournaments, etc. These programs target a wide demographic area of men, women, and children of all ages.

Since 1998, the ESRC has helped bring in over \$1.6 million in recreational funding to the Tamaqua area and have catered to thousands of people with its vast array of seasonal programming opportunities throughout the year.

ESRC Commission Members

Jim Akins (*Chairman*) – West Penn Township
Linda DeCindio (*Vice-Chairman*) – Schuylkill Township
Joe Plasko (*Secretary*) – Tamaqua YMCA
Mike Hromyak (*Treasurer*) – Tamaqua Area
School District

John Trudich – Tamaqua Borough
John Handler – Tamaqua Borough
Tom Rottet – Tamaqua Area School District
Steve Simchak – Rush Township
Joe Pinkey – Rush Township
Dan DeCindio – Schuylkill Township
Dave Price – Walker Township
Robert Hope – Walker Township
Tom Blaker – West Penn Township
Sue Solt – Coaldale Borough
John Kabana – Coaldale Borough
Beth McClure – Middleport Borough
John DiFilippo – Middleport Borough

Wildcat Park

Walker Township

Walker Township's Wildcat Park received a much-needed facelift this past year, thanks to a \$40,000 DCNR Small Communities Grant obtained through the ESRC.

The funding rehabilitated one of its two existing tennis courts and transformed the second tennis court into a basketball court. The new basketball court replaced the old court that doubled as a parking lot for the Walker Township Municipal Building. In addition to new surfacing and new equipment, fencing (with a gate) was also installed to separate the tennis and basketball areas for optimum recreational use.

Wildcat Park BEFORE



Wildcat Park Basketball AFTER



Wildcat Park Tennis AFTER



Owl Creek Community Park

Borough of Tamaqua

The Borough of Tamaqua and the Owl Creek Community Park Association is currently overseeing the development of the Owl Creek Community Park. The ESRC has assisted this project by obtaining two separate State Grants (totaling \$30,000) for start-up funding for site preparation, grading and landscaping for the future park/playground. The initial phase of this development was recently completed by RGC Development (Bath, PA). Playground equipment is being installed in the spring of 2010 and a pavilion will be constructed on site in the summer of 2010. Future development will include an expanded playground area, a walking trail and a basketball court.



Work has begun at the site of the new Owl Creek Playground, along Owl Creek Road.



Congratulates Emerson Musser

HISTORY OF TRANS WESTERN POLYMERS

The history of Trans Western Polymers is one of innovation, technology, and corporate responsibility. While this is our past, it also represents our vision for the future.

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Not only does Trans Western develop products that consumers feel comfortable using in their homes and institutions, we are also focused on providing bags that are durable, yet environmentally correct. The TWP and "Private Label" disposer bag program was developed to meet these objectives, producing better products with less plastic. Trans Western is able to deliver thinner bags that perform better through a combination of state-of-the-art equipment and resin developed in conjunction with suppliers. These partnerships and the utilization of technology have allowed us to produce new and truly superior products.

The Tamaqua, PA. facility was established in 1997. This plant operates in order to better service our customers in the Midwest and the Eastern United States. The TWP Yanbian facility was established in 2003 and is located in the North East region of China in the Jilin Province. This facility was built to service our customers in the Western United States.

Middleport Playground

Borough of Middleport

After joining the Eastern Schuylkill Recreation Commission in 2009, the Borough of Middleport is looking forward to the much-needed rehabilitation of its community park/playground. Through the financial assistance of two State Grants totaling \$70,000, the Borough can finally restore its lone park, which was damaged, ruined and ultimately lost in the flooding of 2006. During the initial phase of development, the rehabilitation efforts will concentrate on revitalizing the playground area with the addition of numerous pieces of equipment (for various ages) and safety surfacing. In addition, parking, handicapped accessibility, walkways, landscaping and various other site amenities will also be addressed.



The only playground in Middleport will soon be replaced.



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Looking Ahead

Borough of Tamaqua

Two projects that look to break ground later this year are the first phase of the Tamaqua Riverwalk and the development of West Penn Park East.

The ESRC received a \$96,000 DCNR Grant through the Pennsylvania Recreational Trails program for the Borough of Tamaqua for the first phase of construction of a Riverwalk project to be placed alongside the Little Schuylkill River running from Willing Park and the Tamaqua Community Center to Cedar Street. The Riverwalk is eventually slated to run to Broad St. as more funding becomes available and will be a welcomed linkage between the downtown, Boyer's Food Store, Willing Park and the Tamaqua Community Center.

Looking Ahead

West Penn Township

The ESRC also helped obtain three Grants (through the late State Senator Jim Rhoades, former State Representative Dave Argall, and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources) for the development of West Penn Park East (located just off Route 443 on Cold Spring Road). This project will feature the construction of one youth baseball/softball field, one soccer/all-purpose field and a crushed stone parking area. West Penn Park East will help fill a recreational void within the township and supply local youth sports organizations a safe place to gather and play.

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PROGRAMMING REPORT

In 2009-2010, the ESRC saw increased participation in all of its major recreational programming. The summer basketball league is the largest and most competitive in Schuylkill County and features 14 teams. In addition, the summer co-ed volleyball league held at Black Diamond Park in the Borough of Coaldale has more than doubled its participation, increasing from four to nine teams over the past decade. The ESRC also runs a very successful adult winter basketball league which consists of nine teams, and a co-ed youth basketball program which features over 100 children in grades 3-6. Other ESRC programming includes, but is not limited to, bike races, recreational/sports leagues and tournaments, and Breakfast with Santa in conjunction with Tamaqua's Spirit of Christmas Festival.

ESRC Summer Co-ed Volleyball



ESRC Winter Downhill Bike Races

ESRC SUMMER 2009 LEAGUE CHAMPS





TAMAQUA AREA CHAMBER breakfast mixers offer great opportunities for networking and provide informational programs on subjects of interest to our members. Above, Lee Zink, manager of Mauch Chunk Trust's wealth management division, offered valuable insight to the benefits of a Roth IRA conversion to our members. **Mauch Chunk Trust** provided sponsorship for the event for our members.



KID-PRINT sponsored by the **Tamaqua Rotary Club** provides valuable identification information for parents. The program was held in the Tamaqua Elementary, West Penn and Rush Elementary schools, along with St. Jerome's Regional School.

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TAMAQUA CHAMBER'S ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Is held in September at **Villa's Crossing Golf Course**. The winning foursome (above) was sponsored by **Skipper Dipper's**. Team members Manny Roman, Luke Kowalonek, Tom Flamini and Bob Grochalski won with a score of 59.

Proceeds from the annual event are used to enhance the benefits and services provided to Chamber members.

Prizes are awarded to the winning teams along with prizes for the longest drive and closest to the pin. Last year, a putting contest was also held, with Nick Zigmant winning that competition.

Refreshments are provided throughout the day, and a steak dinner is included in the ticket price.

Sponsors can also win a prize in a special drawing held exclusively for them. Tickets are provided to each sponsor for every \$50 in sponsorship. Last year's prize was a 19" flat screen LCD television, provided through the generosity of Dickson City Hyundai, and was won by Ann Ostergaard of Heisler's,

2010 tournament is scheduled for Friday, 09/17/10.

SAVE THE DATE

FRIDAY, 09/17/10

Rain Date - 09/24/10

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DOWNTOWN TAMAQUA CELEBRATES THE NEW YEAR WITH A BANG!

Photos: Liz Pinkey, Times News

The New Year is welcomed on the streets each year with an evening of fun and entertainment. 2010 was no exception, however, this year, due to high winds, the lighted 2010 sign had to rest on the ground instead of on top of the ABC HiRise for safety of the crowds below. The event is sponsored by Downtown Tamaqua and the Tamaqua Chamber.





TAMAQUA'S DARE

PROGRAM is always fun, while providing Drug Abuse Resistance Education to middle school students throughout the Tamaqua Area.

Left, DARE officer Jason Lorah, West Penn Twp. as one of the students reads her winning essay during the DARE graduation ceremony.

Photo: Andy Leibenguth, The Times News

The DARE program has connected with both the Tamaqua area School District and St. Jerome's Regional School since 1990. In 1992, the DARE Steering committee was formed to assist the police officers with related activities. The committee consists of volunteers, parents, teachers and police officers from Tamaqua, Rush Twp, and West Penn Twp.

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**St. Luke's
Miners Memorial
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St. Luke's Miners Memorial Hospital is a fully accredited, not-for-profit, 45-bed acute care hospital located in Coaldale.

Founded in 1910, the hospital became a member of the nationally recognized St. Luke's Hospital & Health Network in 2000 and currently provides health care services to more than 11,000 people annually. Services also include a home health agency and 48-bed skilled nursing facility. Since joining the Network, the hospital has undergone \$20 million in technical and facility improvements. A new, state-of-the-art Emergency Department was added in 2002. This addition was followed by a new MRI a new Sleep Disorder Center, a Cardiovascular Conditioning Center and a new access road from Rt. 209 directly to the hospital. The hospital opened the area's first Urgent Care Center in 2004 and expanded its Home Care services, opening a new office in Tamaqua.



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LEARNING
PROJECT
IS
A PARTNERSHIP
OF
COMMUNITY AND
STUDENTS**

Service learning helps students become better learners, classmates, and citizens, and allows them to make a valuable contribution and get involved in the community where they live. With funding obtained from LISC, the Tamaqua Chamber of Commerce,



along with the Tamaqua Area Community Partnership, and the Tamaqua Area School District, Service Learning has become part of the curriculum of the Marketing Class at Tamaqua Senior High. The class designs and implements a project that benefits the community each year.

In 2009, the class, taught by Ann Lagowy, marketed and organized a large scale food drive and collected over 2800 food donations to benefit the food basket program at the Tamaqua Salvation Army. The project included two local food drive events, radio interviews, local TV appearances, and news releases to promote their efforts. The students collected the food both in school, and during a Friday night football game between Tamaqua and Marian High Schools. The students also helped to sort, organize, pack and distribute their donations for the holidays. Service learning allows these students to become involved and to provide a solution to a community need.

SCHUYLKILL COUNTY GENERATION NEXT LEADERS LEARN



State Senator David Argall and Linda Yulanavage, the executive director of the Tamaqua Area Chamber of Commerce, speak to students from Schuylkill County school districts as part of the Generation Next program, held in the Lehigh Carbon Community College Morgan Center, Tamaqua. They learned what Tamaqua has accomplished and how they can get involved at home.



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REVITALIZATION EFFORTS EARN "A+" GRADE

Senator David G. Argall praised the Tamaqua Area Community Partnership and other community organizations for their revitalization successes throughout the area.

"Tamaqua area has passed "Community Revitalization 101" with flying colors. You have earned such a good grade, that now, other communities hope to learn from your experiences. Any grade other than an "A+" in community revitalization would be academic malpractice" said Argall, during the annual meeting of the Tamaqua Area Community Partnership.

Since 1993-94, here are just a few of the area's accomplishments: 72 downtown façade revitalizations, a new community college, a restored 1874 train station and garden in the center of town, a model recreational group that serves 7 communities in three different school districts and local historic markers—and the list goes on and on.

TAMAQUA AREA COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP AND ST. LUKE'S SPONSOR HEALTH FAIR



Sue Dolan, left, receives literature and verbal information about possible foods to avoid from St Luke's Miners Memorial Hospital, Coaldale, registered dietician Jennifer Gross during the Diabetes Health Fair. Photo courtesy of Andrew Leibenguth

TAMAQUA AREA COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP REVITALIZATION EFFORTS MOVING FORWARD

With funding assistance from LISC, the Partnership will be moving forward with their efforts to improve the quality of life throughout the entire Tamaqua area. The capacity building grant will bring new focus to several areas; including:

- **Marketing & Communications**
- **Expanding Investment in Housing & Other Real Estate**
 - **Stimulating Economic Development**
 - **Improving Access to Quality Education**
- **Stimulating Healthy Environments & Lifestyles**
 - **Board & Volunteer Training**

**CONGRATULATIONS
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all of our partners
to improve the quality of life
in every community
throughout the
Tamaqua Area**

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TAMAQUA CHAMBER'S SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

On the platform at the Railroad Station
(weather permitting)
6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

June 10 - Steve Brosky & Jimmy Meyer
Sponsored by Manch Chunk Trust Company

June 24 - Fred Douglas
Sponsored by Seltzer Insurance

July 8 - KJ Rimm
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July 22 - The Fat Cats
Sponsored by The Republicans for Argall

August 5 - Forward Thrust
Sponsored by The Restaurant at the Station

August 19 - KJ Reimensnyder-Wagner
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September 2 - Bluzin'
Sponsored by Micah & Penny Gursky

September 16 - Christopher Dean Band
Sponsored by _____

Back again for another season!

Reserve your table on the platform and
enjoy a delicious dinner and drinks...
or just bring your lawn chair or blanket
and join us for a relaxing evening of free
musical entertainment.

A project of the Tamaqua Chamber's Marketing Committee
Provided through the generosity of our community sponsors and
sponsored in part with funding from SCCA.



**MAIN STREET
DOWNTOWN TAMAQUA
"THE HEART & SOUL
OF OUR COMMUNITY"**



Since 1998, Tamaqua has invested in the economic revitalization of the community through its Main Street program. Managed by the Tamaqua Area Chamber of Commerce, for the Borough of Tamaqua, the program has resulted in major investments that stimulate the economy and improve the commercial business district of the Borough, including:

- Over \$5.0 million invested in building stock
 - \$1.5 million restoration of 1874 Tamaqua Train Station
 - More than 72 building facades have been completed
 - Occupancy rate near 95%
 - Depot Square Park developed, including \$25,000 Victorian style fountain
- \$1.5 million streetscape improvement program completed
 - Upper Story Market Study for future development
 - Historic easement program implemented
 - Schuylkill River Heritage Corridor Visitor's Center

Revitalization is not a project with an end, but an ongoing process that will succeed with the continued cooperation of the Borough, the Chamber, the Partnership, and the volunteers who are dedicated to making Tamaqua a better community for all of us.



Photo courtesy of Joe Plasko, The Ties News

**TAMAQUA AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OFFICERS**

(Right to left)

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M&S True Value Hardware

VICE PRESIDENT

Susan Fegley

Air Products & Chemicals, Inc.

SECRETARY

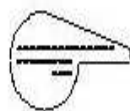
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Blueprint COMMUNITIES

TAMAQUA has been designated, by Rural LISC, as one of only two Sustainable Communities within the state of Pennsylvania, because of the success of our revitalization efforts, our vision for the future, and our willingness to pursue that vision through cooperative projects. Tamaqua's Blueprint Team continues to work toward the future with funding from LISC and training from Federal Home Loan Bank.

TAMAQUA'S SOUTH WARD NEIGHBORHOOD ELM STREET PROGRAM



Photo courtesy of Donald R. Serfass, The Times News

The **South Ward Neighborhood Committee** is dedicated to working with and supporting existing community organizations in efforts to promote home ownership, reconnect with Downtown Tamaqua and address neighborhood safety issues.

The Committee works with current and former neighborhood residents and community organizations to improve the neighborhood park, assist neighbors and help make improvements to make our neighborhood a better place to live, work, play and raise a family.

After receiving official Elm Street designation from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development in 2007, the South Ward Neighborhood Committee has continued its efforts to revitalize the South Ward section of the Borough of Tamaqua. With SR209 as a northern boundary and SR309 as the eastern boundary, the project area serves a mostly residential area of the town

The SWNC meets every third Thursday of the month, at 7 p.m., in the manager's office at 230 Race St., which is located at the South Ward Playground. More information is available at the group's website, www.southwardtamaqua.org or by calling Manager Kathy Kunkel at 570-668-4804.

ELM STREET PROGRAM SOUTH WARD NEIGHBORHOOD COMMITTEE

Dedicated to making the South Ward a better and safer place to live, work and play, the group of volunteers has continued its twice yearly Clean Up campaign. The 2009 Spruce Up Award was presented to resident Kathleen Jones in recognition for her efforts to maintain her property as one of the ward's showcases.

A Cigarette Litter Prevention Program was also created, distributing pocket ash trays to more than 150 smokers. Ash receptacles will be placed in high traffic, public areas in the ward in the coming months.

A partnership with St. Luke's Miners Memorial Medical Center, Coaldale, and Lehigh Carbon Community College has resulted in the establishment of a rural health initiative centered in our project area.

The volunteer group established a five year plan which includes the installation of a pedestrian stairway.

The Carriage Street Pedestrian Stairway is currently under construction and will link the 100 block of Spruce Street with South Nescopec Street. The metal staircase will

provide a safe way for students to travel to the LCCC campus, bridging a gap that was created when an original wooden staircase at the site deteriorated to the point of extinction. Funding for the project is being provided through Elm Street and Pennsylvania Department of Transportation dollars.



SOUTH WARD PLAYGROUND PROJECT

An application to DCED for additional residential reinvestment funding has been approved. This additional \$125,000 will be used towards construction of a community center at the South Ward Playground, part of plans to refurbish and renovate the popular gathering spot. Plans for the center have been developed by consultant Daniel Schroeder and the project is quickly advancing to the point where it will be ready to be placed out on bid.

SOUTH WARD ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Volunteers are busy gathering oral histories from long time residents of the ward, filling in some gaps between two popular books published by South Ward residents, Ruth Steinert's *A Hill To Climb* and Donald Serfass' *Iron Steps*.



South Ward volunteers of all ages help to clean up their neighborhood at least twice each year.

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DID YOU KNOW?

- Tamaqua High School graduates can attend Lehigh Carbon Community College for two years at no cost, thanks to scholarships from the John E. Morgan Foundation?
- Lehigh Carbon Community College students with an Associate's Degree in Early Childhood Elementary Education can seamlessly transition to a Bloomsburg University Bachelor's Degree? This is the first program-to-program articulation agreement between a community college and state university in Pennsylvania.

FUN FACTS FROM OUR PAST

The first commercial fish hatchery in the United States was built in 1871 in the Owl Creek area of Tamaqua.

The nation's third electric light plant was built in Tamaqua in 1885, providing public lighting for Tamaqua's residents.

The magnificent "Round House", 1857, was large enough to hold 21 steam locomotives and was highly acclaimed by the scientific community as an engineering triumph, because of its large, circular, teepee-type roof with no center ground supports. The original structure was destroyed by the Philadelphia & Reading Company in 1896, when they erected a different building to serve the same purpose. That structure was razed 60 odd years later. Today, the site is home to a small shopping plaza and parking lot on North Railroad Street and is known as Genetti's lot.

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**OWL CREEK
RECREATION AREA** is
maintained by the
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Recreation Commission, an
all volunteer organization.
Commission members are
active throughout the year,
organizing events for the
all ages. Easter egg hunts,
hayrides, and visits with
Santa are just a few of

the events held at the Owl Creek Reservoir each year.
Catch and release fishing is available at the Reservoir as well.
The addition of a ADA compliant restroom and the outdoor
pavilion makes this a popular spot for picnic or just a walk in the
woods. Trails around the two massive reservoirs make it a great
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For information, contact Tom Banditelli at (570)668-5066.



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**View from the dam at the
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TAMAQUA CITIZENSHIP AWARD WINNERS

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1965	Gordon Pfeil (Deceased)
1966	Mrs. Ruth Kropp (Deceased)
1967	George Seligman (Deceased)
1968	Rev. M. E. Detterline (Deceased)
1969	A. A. "Brig" Young (Deceased)
1970	Anthony J. Maff
1971	Willis R. Parnell (Deceased)
1972	Paul L. Wagner (Deceased)
1973	Oscar S. Werley, Jr.(Deceased)
1974	Dr. Harry W. Bailey (Deceased)
1975	John Lindemann (Deceased)
1976	Jacob Rimbach (Deceased)
1977	William G. Guy (Deceased)
1978	Chester A. Hoffman(Deceased)
1979	E. Franklin Griffiths (Deceased)
1980	Charles "Sam" Ghares (Deceased)
1981	William A. Moser (Deceased)
1982	Mrs. Elizabeth Purnell (Deceased)
1983	Rev. F. Peter Muhr
1984	Robert J. Pitts
1985	Dr. Mary Malishaucki (Deceased)
1986	Raymond Ripko (Deceased)
1987	John Kellner (Deceased)
1988	Dorothy"Tillie" Ghares (Deceased)
1989	William H. Fegley, Sr.
1990	Linda Yulanavage
1991	George Wenzel
1992	Junior Zehner (Deceased)
1993	Constantine "Gus" Depos (Deceased)
1994	Sheldon Shafer
1995	Ruth Essington
1996	Nicholas J. Young
1997	Paul Scherer
1998	Floyd Zimmerman
1999	Herman Lutz
2000	Dr. H. Bruce Geiger
2001	Robert Evans
2002	Dale Freudenberger
2003	Pat Freeh-Stefanek
2004	Judy Hoppes
2005	Curtis J. Bailey
2006	Sally Ann Neumann
2007	Jerome P. Knowles
2008	Todd Miller
2009	Randy Gormley
2010	Emerson Musser

WHAT'S IN OUR FUTURE?

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

Chairman, Ed Redding, of R&D Communications is working on a collaborative web-based site that will allow access to current documents and documents for committee chairs and volunteers. Plans include doing a video which will feature sound bytes from partners to describe their role in the revitalization efforts and brief information on current projects. Some public access will also be available.

EXPANDING INVESTMENT IN HOUSING AND OTHER REAL ESTATE

Ken Dunkelberger and the committee are exploring what opportunities exist for use of the valuable space that were inventoried in our Upper Story Market Study. What do we do next to develop these locations in our Main Street area?

The South Ward Neighborhood Committee (the Borough's Elm Street program), is seeking to acquire properties within the South Ward and is submitting an application for funding from the Federal Home Loan Bank's Affordable Housing Program for investment in the Elm Street project area.

STIMULATING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Hotel/Motel Development Study

Tony Odorizzi is exploring the feasibility of development of a hotel/motel in the area.

Artist Live/Work Space Program

Christine Verdier and Lee Shafer are co-chairing a committee that will visit New York City neighborhoods to gain insight into the possibility of establishing an artist live/work space program here in Tamaqua. They are working with Joe Marioni and Steven, two internationally known artists, who have established their own live/work space here in Tamaqua recently.

Mezzanine Investment Capital Loan Program

A low interest loan program for a bricks and mortar project that would allow expansion for an existing business or provide funding for a new business is being developed, with funding from LISC.

WHAT'S IN OUR FUTURE?

STIMULATING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Commercial Business Revolving Loan Fund

With funding received through Silberline and Morgans, the Chamber is developing a revolving loan fund that will be used for small commercial business expansion and/or development.

Small Business Sustainability Fund

Dr. Joe Urenovitch, TIDE President, will be working with the Chamber of Commerce and the businesses in Tamaqua's Main Street and Elm Street districts to position them to be competitive in the changing market. The committee is developing plans to ensure the vitality and sustainability of locally-owned small businesses in both of our residential and commercial districts.

IMPROVING ACCESS TO QUALITY EDUCATION

Carol Makuta, Tamaqua Area School District Superintendent, is working with the Marketing students at Tamaqua Area High School on their Service Learning projects. Service Learning projects involve the students in their community.

Lehigh Carbon Community College is developing the SHINE program, an after-school program that they plan to implement by next year.

SUPPORTING HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS & LIFESTYLES

Health Assessment Study

A Tamaqua Area Health Assessment plan has been developed by Dr. Dave Zanis and will be performed by St. Luke's Miners Memorial Hospital. The plan will identify specific health related resources available to area residents, including facilities, programs, quality of available assets, affordability of resources and accessibility to resources. The health resource directory will be made available to community residents when completed.

Riverwalk

ESRC received a \$96,000 DCNR Grant through the Pennsylvania Recreational Trails program for the Borough of Tamaqua for the first phase of construction of a Riverwalk project to be placed alongside the Little Schuylkill River running from Willing Park and the Tamaqua Community Center to Cedar Street.

WHAT'S IN OUR FUTURE? (continued)

SUPPORTING HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS & LIFESTYLES

Diabetes Outreach Consortium

St. Luke's Miners Memorial Hospital has organized a "Dining with Diabetes" program, in cooperation with Penn State, that offers cooking demonstrations, healthy food choice information and other valuable information to the Tamaqua area.

St. Luke's Miners Memorial Hospital is also providing a series of exercise programs that are being held at the ABC Tamaqua HiRise Building. Information on healthy lifestyles is also available at these sessions. The sessions are open to the general public, as well as the residents of the HiRise and the Majestic House.

TRAINING & CONFERENCES

Training opportunities are being provided through the LISC grant funding for board members, as well as community volunteers, on a wide variety of subjects.

Jason Boris, ESRC Director, and Sheryl Beltz, owner of The Restaurant at the Station, recently attended the Schuylkill Leadership Training courses through this funding.

With the assistance of Maureen Donovan, Lehigh Carbon Community College, several community partners and volunteers attended the "Communicating like a leader" seminar at the college.

This funding also allows the Partnership to offer a chance for partners and volunteers to attend conferences, such as the Pennsylvania Association of Non-Profit Organizations, Pennsylvania Main/Elm Street Conference, the Rural LISC conference, and other conferences and training available that will provide strength to revitalization efforts.

WHAT'S IN OUR FUTURE? (continued)

CONFERENCES

Plans are being made for a Peer-to-Peer Exchange Trip to visit Rhode Island to gather information on their community revitalization programs and projects.

INCREASING FAMILY INCOME & WEALTH "Financial Peace University"

The Salvation Army is offering this program to the community to provide information on financial stability and wealth building. Scholarships are available on an as-needed basis.

Façade improvement grants have been provided to seven home owners in the South Ward neighborhood. There are 26 home owners awaiting funding to complete their projects.

BUILDING STAFF CAPACITY FOR CHAMBER & TACP

The Tamaqua Area Chamber of Commerce is now providing management to the Partnership for its projects, in addition to continuing administrative assistance to the Partnership.

The two organizations have entered into a management agreement, which has Allowed the Chamber to hire an Administrative Assistant, Amanda Kalce, and provides the Partnership with management of their projects and programs by the Chamber's Executive Director, Linda Yulanavage, and management of their accounting and financial reporting by the Chamber's Assistant Director, Eileen Barron.

There are a wide variety of projects and programs that are being implemented and planned to improve the quality of life for the future of the Tamaqua area. We want your input and we need your help. We are all volunteers working to make the entire Tamaqua area a better place. Why not join us? Volunteers are welcome and encouraged to participate.



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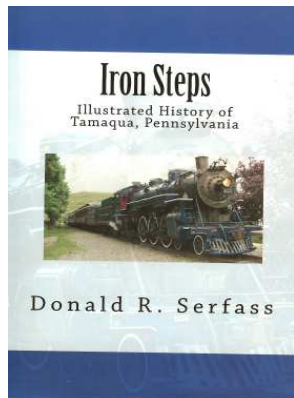
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LOCAL HISTORY BOOK PUBLISHED

"Iron Steps"
An Illustrated History of Tamaqua, PA
by
Donald R. Serfass

This newly released, illustrated history of Tamaqua, written by the award winning local author, Donald R. Serfass, is being distributed locally by the Tamaqua Historical Society.

Proceeds from the sale of the book will help to fund major repairs and renovations to the Society's museum, located at 118 West Broad Street, in downtown Tamaqua, which houses a significant collection of artifacts that preserve the history of Tamaqua and its residents.

Copies of this long-awaited publication can be purchased for \$20.00 US at: 114 West Broad Street, Tamaqua, PA. The publication is also available by mail for \$25.00 US (S&H included) by contacting the Tamaqua Historical Society at (570)668-5722, or by emailing your request to the Society at

tamaquahistoricalsociety@verizon.net

According to the author, "the goal of the publication is to illustrate a variety of significant, interesting and unique events and happenings, including a few people who helped to shape the community, and whose stories are appealing and merit attention." The author has made every attempt to verify dates and to ensure accuracy.

This publication is a revised second edition and contains newly discovered and researched stories that provide an even deeper look at the history of Tamaqua and its residents. New illustrations, never before published, are also included within the 163 page book.

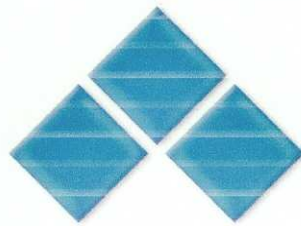
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