

CHAMBER CONNECTION

Somerset County Chamber of Commerce

NEW MEMBERS

FALL EDITION 2021

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LEADERSHIP

Enroll Now

The Somerset County Chamber of Commerce proudly presents its Leadership Somerset County program. The leaders of tomorrow

need opportunities to both enhance and encourage their participation in making Somerset County a better place to live. Leadership Somerset County is designed to bring together a diverse group of individuals who share a common goal of becoming leaders prepared to face future challenges, thereby ensuring that Somerset County is led by able, resourceful, and vigorous individuals, both now and in the future.

Leadership Somerset County is a civically minded program designed to promote awareness and generate interest in serving the community as leaders. The 10-month course runs from September to June with monthly half-day sessions.

Chamber Mixer "Produced in Somerset County"

Friday, September 24th
5-7pm

Ambassador Banquet Hall
(3115 Graham Avenue,
Windber Pa 15963)

Maple Producers providing
samples of their products.

Call the Chamber to RSVP.

Flag Memorial

American flags were placed as a tribute to each life lost on September 11, 2001. Thank you to all the volunteers that helped organize and make this beautiful memorial possible.



Golf Tournament

Registration is still open for this year's Open Fore Business Golf Tournament with the event being held on Thursday, September 9th at Hidden Valley Resort.

This tournament aims to assist the chamber in "moving Somerset County forward" and plays a vital role in helping the organization maintain and build a strong, vibrant business climate in Somerset County. Participants can enjoy a day of networking on the links while supporting a healthy economic environment in the Laurel Highlands.

With a shotgun start at 10 a.m., the golf tournament includes a new putting contest sponsored by NFP. This contest will be held throughout the day as golfers pass through the putting area. Four winning tickets will be randomly drawn from the pool with those

making the putts at which point one of the four semi finalist winners will win the grand prize. The hole-in-one contest is sponsored by Tri Star Somerset Ford Chrysler Dodge Jeep.

The day will conclude with an outdoor reception with heavy hors d'oeuvres.

Registration for the Open Fore Business Golf Tournament is \$140 per person with a special appreciation package that includes a special member foursome rate, which includes golf for four, power tickets for each golfer, and a complimentary tee sign on the course, available for \$675.

Various sponsorship opportunities are available and provide an outstanding opportunity to market a business while supporting the ongoing efforts of the chamber. Please consider donating a door prize for the event that meets/exceeds \$25.

For more information or to register for the tournament, contact the Somerset County Chamber of Commerce at (814) 445-6431 or info@somersetcountychamber.com.



**The Chamber will be seeking volunteers to help with this event.
If you're interested in helping, contact Sandy at the Chamber.**

Unwind Day Spa



Great Day Juice Company



Kindred Soul Apparel and VI Straight Tattoo



CrossFit Revival



Leadership Somerset County

By Ron Aldom,
Executive Director, Somerset County Chamber of Commerce



Ron Aldom

What a crazy time we are experiencing right now with a bustling economy that is overshadowed by workforce shortages, lack of skilled workers, an unpredictable supply chain and rising costs. If there was ever a perfect time to invest in key personnel, it is right now. We are all in need of decision makers, leaders and people who we can count on when the going gets tough. People who understand the inner workings of the county and have a network of like-minded people who all appreciate the strength and beauty of Somerset County.

Would you be willing to invest one day a month (plus a 2-day retreat) to help these energetic and capable leaders learn more about this county and region, while gaining valuable leadership experience? Leadership Somerset County was founded in 2003 by local business leaders, who realized the importance of investing in new leaders to make an impact not only in their own business and organization, but to also make an impact on our communities. That mission has worked, maybe even better than expected, as over 250+ individuals have graduated from the program, and many are still here making an impact on their professions and their communities.

The alumni are a Who's Who of Somerset County and the region and their testimonials are a defining touch to the program. How do you not invest in these proven leaders and give them even more opportunity to achieve their potential? It is the proverbial win-win!

The Somerset County Chamber has been the facilitator of the program and we are recruiting now for the 2021-22 leadership year. The 2-day retreat on September 22-23 is the official kick off, lead by Dr. William Rocks from ACM. After that, it is one day a month, except for the regional leadership session in April, which brings the classes together from Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Centre and Somerset Counties to discuss regional issues.

Call or contact the Somerset County Chamber for registration information. We guarantee your investment will have a wonderful ROI.

New Members

Skills of Central PA

Cathy McFee, Vice President
415 Georgian Place, Somerset, PA 15501
814-701-2912
info@skillsofcentralpa.org
skillsofcentralpa.org

Windber Country Club

Colby Custer, General Manager
1392 Forest Hills Drive, Salix, PA 15952
814-266-4536
windbercc@gmail.com
windbercountryclub.com

Grandparents Day Carnation Sale

Birthright of Somerset annually sponsors a carnation sale, this year Birthright is going to mix things up and celebrate Grandparents Day.

The sale will be held Sunday, September 12, 2021. Carnations will be available in fall colors, as well as traditional red, white and pink. The cost of flowers increased, so Birthright of Somerset needed to increase their charge to \$2 each. The new pickup location will be at St. Peter's Church Hall 433 West Church Street, Somerset.



**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PLACE
AN ORDER PLEASE CALL THE
BIRTHRIGHT OFFICE 814-445-4900**

Your continued support is greatly appreciated. Please know that all funds raised will remain in Somerset County to support women who are pregnant and need the services of Birthright.

Upcoming Festivals

SEPTEMBER

Farmers and Threshermens Jubilee

3054 Kingwood Road, Rockwood
(New Centerville)
September 8-12, 2021
814-926-3142
ncrvfc.com
Steam engines, tractors, crafts, quilt
show, entertainment and truck &
tractor pulling.

Mountain Craft Days

September 10-12, 2021
Somerset Historical Center,
Somerset
814-445-6077
somersethistoricalcenter.
org
Quality traditional
crafts, demonstrations,
entertainment and
home-style foods.

OCTOBER

Springs Folk Festival

October 1 & 2, 2021,
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Springs, Folk Festival grounds
814-442-4594
springspa.org
Over 100 working artisans, PA
Dutch foods, musical performances.

Confluence PumpkinFest

October 1, 2, & 3, 2021
Confluence – Confluence Town
Park
814-395-5485
confluence-pumpkinfest.org
Free admission, free
entertainment, free parking with
shuttle service, arts & crafts,
food vendors, live music, 5k run/
walk!

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

“Christmas for Togetherness” Bazaar & Home Tour

Saturday November 13, 2021
10 AM – 5 PM
Sunday, November 14, 2021
1 PM – 4 PM
Sponsored by: The Pius Spring
Woman's Club of Berlin,
Pennsylvania
Tours start at the Community
Building
Home Tour Tickets \$10.00
Transportation Included

SPRINGS FOLK FESTIVAL

October 1 & 2, 2021
9 A.M. TO 5 P.M.



Over 100 Working Artisans,
PA Dutch Food,
Continual Musical
Performances

Springs Folk Festival Grounds
springspa.org
814-442-4594

Holidays in the Highlands

Seven Springs Mountain Resort,
Seven Springs
814-352-7777
7springs.com
Holiday Village, family fun and one
million sparkling lights!

Springs Farmers' Market

Saturdays 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
May 22, 2021 - Sept. 18, 2021

Largest farmers' market in the area, produce,
baked goods, flea market, flowers, and more.

Springs Folk Festival Grounds
240-310-2086 - springspa.org



Antique Show Success

Dealers from three states converged on the streets of Uptown Somerset for the 50th Annual Somerset Antique and Vintage Fair on August 14th.

This popular show, always held on the second Saturday of August each year, annually draws an estimated 5,000 visitors to the region and offers something for everyone, from furniture, toys and sports memorabilia to jewelry, glassware, books and more.

In addition to the antiques on display, the event included an Antique & Classic Car Show in the Somerset Trust Co. parking lot on West Main Street.



Board Nominations

The following individuals have been submitted by the Somerset County Chamber of Commerce's Nominating Committee for positions on the 2022 Board of Directors:

Three-year terms

Sarah Bittner, Somerset Single County Authority for Drug and Alcohol

Scott Hollern, Hollern & Koontz Insurance Agency

Thomas Lear, Fairfield Inn by Marriott Somerset

Dr. Steve Nunez, Pennsylvania Highlands Community College

David Redick, CVS Health

Dr. David Reeder, Berlin Brothersvalley School District

Christopher Robbins, Somerset Trust Company

JOIN NOW

New members that join the Chamber between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31 receive their membership paid in full through Dec. 31, 2022. The \$15 one-time initiation fee will also be waived, and monthly or quarterly payment options are available.

*The sooner you join, the more you save!
Contact the Chamber for details.*

Member Spotlight - Mitch's Fuel and Food

Business: Mitch's Fuel and Food

Owners/Managers: Pamela Hartman

Address: 479 Latrobe Ave Confluence Pa 15424

Phone: 814-395-3177

Website: facebook.com/MitchsFuelAndFood

Hours of operation: 6 to 7 Monday through Friday
7 to 7 Saturday
8 to 4 Sunday

Year the business joined the Chamber: 1995

What does the business do? Gas Station Convenience store
Restaurant

How did the business begin? 1985

Why is being a Chamber member important? Chamber does a lot to promote tourism and they work hard to help small business.

***Want to see your business or organization featured here?**
Email info@somersetcountychamber.com. Members are featured on a first-come, first-serve basis.*



Golf Bash Success

The Golf Bash held early this summer at Bakersville Volunteer Fire Department Banquet Hall was a widely successful event held by the Chamber to raise funds for the Somerset County Foundation that supports programs in all eleven school districts throughout the county.



Somerset County Zoo Day Fun

Somerset County Pittsburgh Zoo Safari was held mid summer with almost 4,000 residents taking advantage of the opportunity to visit the Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium.

The zoo, which owns the International Conservation Center in Fairhope, is open to Somerset County residents once a



year for free + a small handling fee of \$1. "It is wonderful that the Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium opens its doors for our county and has been doing so for the past 15 years," Somerset County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Ron Aldom said. "I can't thank them enough," he said.



Somerset County kids enjoying the kangaroos at the Kids Animal Kingdom.

Local Loot

Take care of everyone on your shopping list by giving **Local Loot** gift certificates, available in \$5, \$10 and \$25 increments.

For more information or to register your business to participate in the **Local Loot** program, contact the Somerset County Chamber of Commerce at (814) 445-6431.

On sale now at the Somerset County Chamber of Commerce

Instructions on accepting

Local Loot

Business owners and managers - be sure your employees know how to accept Chamber Local Loot gift certificates.

1. Check the expiration date before accepting any gift certificate. Local Loot checks are good for ONE YEAR from the date of issue listed on the check. Any expired checks accepted by a business will not be redeemed.
2. Local Loot should be deposited into your daily deposit, just like a regular check. You will receive 100 percent of the face value of the check.
3. We suggest that change NOT be given unless at least 80 percent of the value of the check will be used during the transaction. Local Loot gift certificates should not be redeemed for cash.

For additional information, contact the Somerset County Chamber of Commerce at (814) 445-6431 or info@somersetcountychamber.com.

Utilizing A Student Load Repayment Program for Debt Challenged Employees

Increasingly, individuals comprising today's workforce are saddled with significant levels of student loan debt. At the same time, these workers are often conflicted as to whether they should focus on paying off their debt or set aside funds to pay for retirement. As an employer, adding a student loan repayment program to your employee benefit portfolio not only helps them address this dilemma, but also represents a tremendous opportunity to help attract and retain key talent.

To further benefit employers, the Corona virus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES ACT), passed in March of 2020, added a little-known provision regarding student loans. The provision allows an employer to make up to \$5250 in student loan payments for an employee within a year. Regardless of whether the payments go directly

to the employee or to the student loan servicing entity, the money is considered tax-free to the employee and the employer is excluded from paying payroll taxes on the funds. As of this writing, the provision, originally set to expire at the end of 2020 has been extended through December, 2025.

By structuring the program as a part of your voluntary benefits package, you have the ability to customize the program according to your workplace demographics and budgetary capabilities.

Employers can utilize a variety of methods, including fixed contributions, matching contributions, consolidating loans or refinancing the loan. With these programs, the employer first decides how much, if any, they are willing to contribute into the program.

By creating a differentiated, unique benefit package that addresses a specific employee need, employers benefit by boosting employee engagement, increasing productivity levels, and improving employee retention rates.

The Somerset County Chamber of Commerce offers its members access to My Benefit Advisor as a solution for employee benefits, including voluntary offerings. For more information about My Benefit Advisor, visit our website at somco.mybenefitadvisor.com or contact Craig Pritts at (800) 377-3536.

Somerset County Tourism Grant Applications Open

The 2022 cycle of the Somerset County Tourism Grant program opened applications to Somerset County tourism businesses on Sept. 1, 2021.

To help guide tourism-based business owners and their representatives through the grant writing process, GO Laurel Highlands, the county's destination marketing organization, has created a helpful grant writing video. The video is available online at www.golaurelhighlands.com/grants.

Tourism grant applications will be available online at www.golaurelhighlands.com/grants on Sept. 1, and completed applications will be due by 4:30 p.m., Fri., Oct. 1, 2021. Applications will be accepted for marketing grants. To be considered for funding, applications must be submitted online. Printed applications will not be accepted. Both non-

profit and for-profit organizations are required to have a 25% cash match or a 12.5% cash match and 12.5% in-kind match.

Grants will be awarded in early December 2021 and must be spent between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2022.



The annual Somerset County Tourism Grant Program is funded by revenues generated by the Somerset County Lodging tax. Awards are granted annually on the basis of merit as determined by the Somerset County Tourism Grant Review Committee and administered by the Somerset County Commissioners and GO Laurel Highlands, the county's official destination marketing organization. Since the program's inception, more than \$5.5 million has been awarded in tourism grants.



2022 membership update forms and dues

Be on the lookout for 2022 Chamber membership update forms. Members will receive update forms for both their directory/website listing information and basic member information. ***This will be the only notice you receive*** to update your membership information for both the 2022 member directory publication and the Chamber's online membership directory.

Invoices for 2022 membership dues will be mailed in December. Monthly and quarterly payment options are available, as is EZ Pay.

Available Commercial Space

**Berkshire Hathaway Home Services
The Preferred Realty
(814) 443-4858**

313 Plank Road, Somerset

Highly visible Shopping Plaza located at the edge of Somerset. The massive 76,000 Sq. Ft. building could take on any number of potential uses from Retail-Restaurant to Recreational Endeavors. Plenty of parking with this well-lit lot. Entire property is for sale or individual spaces can be leased.

\$1,999,000

Contact: Lee Hoffman

1012 S. Center Avenue, Somerset

Massive 41,220 sq. ft. steel frame, concrete block commercial building on 2.96 acres is well built & ready for your industrial needs. 3-phase electrical service, loading dock, spacious parking lot & room to grow. Located near PA Turnpike & Route 219 interchanges.

\$179,000

Contact: Lee Hoffman

131 Rockdale Road, Rockwood

Prominent Bed & Breakfast along with bike shop located along the Great Allegheny Passage mile marker 44. The home features 5 bedroom & 5.5 bathrooms. This is a turnkey business with huge potential for growth.

\$325,000

Contact: Lee Hoffman

107 W Patriot Street Somerset

This beautiful Queen Anne's Style Victorian home features a conical tower with great views of Somerset. The home has 7 bedrooms & 5 bathrooms along with 3 kitchen areas. Property could be returned to personal residence, B&B, event center, or whatever you can dream!

\$129,900

Contact: Lee Hoffman

209 Georgian Place Somerset, PA

Large 5,671 sq ft office space formerly used as a call center. Spacious common area, private offices, kitchen, conference, & filing rooms. Completely remodeled in 2012 this robust space is ready for any number of business uses.

\$575,000

Contact: Lee Hoffman

**Office Space Available
(814) 443-4477**

Commercial office space available

Lovely renovated historic building steps from the courthouse. 214 E. Union St., Somerset.
Law office of Marci L. Miller.
Call (814) 443-4477 for more information.

**RE/MAX PREMIER, REALTORS
(814) 445-4748**

4146 Glades Pike, Somerset

Shopping Plaza on Somerset's west side with a daily traffic count of 7600. This 69,600 square foot building has 14 feet of ceiling height. Also included is a 60' x 120' garage with 10 overhead doors. Parking area can accommodate approximately 250 vehicles.

\$1,000,000

433 W. Patriot St., Somerset

Professional office with two apartments on a well-traveled street in Somerset. Currently used as a dental office with 4 procedure rooms, waiting room, reception area, lab room, private office, storage room, and two rest rooms. Tenants pay all utilities. Also 2 garage spaces that can generate an additional \$100 per month.

\$139,000

**Berkshire Hathaway Home Services
The Preferred Realty
724-593-6195**

4358 Lincoln Highway, Stoystown

30x50 3 bay metal-sided pole building with 10'x10 garage doors & 1200 sq ft of work space. Also features an office, bathroom & ample space for outside storage & parking. Located on 4 acres w/225 ft of frontage along Rt 30. Less than 10 miles from PA turnpike.

\$179,900

Contact: Valerie Gontis, 814-421-1029

**Advertise your commercial property
in this section for free!**

Call (814) 445-6431 for details.

Stay up to date

Keep up to date on Chamber happenings and other items of interest by visiting our website, somersetcountychamber.com. Also be sure to read our biweekly eblasts. If you're not receiving these emails, contact the Chamber.

Uptown Works

(814) 701-0762 www.uptownworks.com

Offices For Rent

109 E. Main St., Somerset

Furnished, all inclusive/full service gross lease private offices, 100-115 sq ft. Flexible terms. Includes internet, use of meeting rooms, and office supplies. Professionally managed, secure building with elevator.

\$400/month

Meeting Rooms

109 E. Main St., Somerset

Meeting rooms in secure, professionally managed building with elevator. Great uptown location and views. Wifi access for guests. Flexible seating for 6-25. Affordable rates and monthly packages available.

Commercial Space Available

109 E. Main St., Somerset

Open desk office space with daily/weekly/monthly terms. All-inclusive pricing with internet, office supplies, printing, and meeting rooms. Great for start-ups and visiting or temporary workers. Secure, professionally managed building with elevator.

**RE/MAX Team, REALTORS
(814) 262-7653**

226 Church Street Somerset, PA 15501

\$300,000

4,050 sq ft Brick building with 2 separate offices, conveniently located near the Somerset Hospital and other medical offices. First floor office is 2,025 sq ft; Second floor office is 2,025 sq ft. Separate utilities for each office. Paved private parking lot. Previously used as a doctor's office. Call to schedule a tour!

Vacant Lot

600 Fourth Street Meyersdale, PA 15552

\$39,900

This level lot is .69 acres. Available utilities at lot line - gas, electric, public water and sewer. Located right across from the Meyersdale Medical Center.

Grandview Summit (Lots 28 and 29) Central City, PA 15926

\$149,900

Plenty of room to roam on nearly 20 acres of ground (comprised of 2 lots that are 10 acres each) bordering State Game Land in Shade Township. This amazing land provides everything the outdoor enthusiast could want including hunting, hiking, snowmobiling, and/or cross-country skiing. These private level, wooded lots are ready for you!

Somerset County Chamber of Commerce

601 N. Center Avenue, Somerset, PA 15501
(814) 445-6431 FAX (814) 443-4313
E-mail: info@somersetcountychamber.com
Website: www.somersetcountychamber.com

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

KEEP OUR ECONOMY STRONG!

Think Local
BEFORE YOU BUY
SOMERSET COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Keep Us Updated! Fax, Mail, or
E-mail Address Changes Today.



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Somerset County Chamber of Commerce 2021 Officers and Board of Directors

President.....	Christopher R. Robbins, Somerset Trust Co.
Vice President.....	Lisa Bittner, Somerset Trust Co.
Secretary.....	David Yahner, The Eads Group, Inc.
Treasurer.....	Danni Conn, Beggs Brothers Printing, LTD
Mike Boland	Eric Mauck
RMB Realty	Seven Springs Mountain Resort
Mark Bower	Dr. Steve Nunez
Rockwood Area School District	Pennsylvania Highlands Community College
Scott Hollern	Lindsay M. Pyle
Hollern & Koontz Insurance Agency	County of Somerset
Dennis Hutchison	David Redick, Past President
PA Farm Bureau	CVS Health
Shawn Kaufman	Andrew G. Rush
Riggs Industries	UPMC Somerset
Tom Lear	Mikel Vaughn
Fairfield Inn & Suites	AK Coal Resources, Inc.
Lladel Lichty	Gerald Walker
Community Foundation for the Alleghenies	Somerset County Commissioners

Chamber Office Staff

Executive Director.....	Ron Aldom
	raldom@somersetcountychamber.com
Office Manager	Sandy Berkebile
	sandyb@somersetcountychamber.com
Marketing & Communication.....	Acacia Svonavec
	asvonavec@somersetcountychamber.com
Receptionist/Clerk	Kayla Johnston & Christie Corbett
	info@somersetcountychamber.com

Newsletter Schedule

Winter Edition (December - February)

November 8– Content

November 19– Inserts

Spring Edition (March - May)

February 11 – Content

February 21– Inserts

Summer Edition (June - August)

May 13 – Content

May 23– Inserts

