

# ROCKET-COURIER

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## Natural Gas Service Coming to Wyalusing

— BY DAVID KEELER —



**Julie Lewis**

"I come bearing some good news," Julie Lewis of Leatherstocking Gas Company, LLC told those attending Tuesday night's biannual dinner meeting of the Greater Wyalusing Chamber of Commerce (GWCC) at Grovedale Winery.

"We are excited to report that we have initiated a pipeline grant application to bring natural gas to Wyalusing," Lewis said. The audience responded with enthusiastic applause and cheers.

Lewis went on to say that Leatherstocking didn't anticipate any problems with the grant process and approval is expected by October. That would mean construction could tentatively start by next spring, Lewis said, adding "but don't hold me to that date."

Leatherstocking Gas Company, LLC is a joint venture between Corning Natural Gas Corporation and Mirabito Holdings, Inc. and is a gas distribution company, regulated by the Public Service Commission. Leatherstocking has brought natural gas service to Montrose and other Susquehanna County communities.

Natural gas is said to be the most cost-effective home heating fuel available. Customers will, on average, spend less for space heating, water heating, cooking and clothes drying using natural gas than using any other energy source.

Lewis said the Wyalusing project would first bring natural gas from a pipeline near Cargill in Wyalusing Township to Wyalusing's Main Street and downtown business area and then, depending on demand and applications filed, to other parts of the borough.

Leatherstocking first proposed bringing gas service to the borough in 2014 and then at a public meeting in August of 2016 reported that only 51 applications from 36 people had been filed in a survey of interest from borough residents and business owners.

One of the problems Leatherstocking encountered in Montrose was finding qualified contractors, Lewis said.



**Joe Aliciene**



Jeff Homer

"We are excited about this," Lewis said concluding her remarks. "This is great news," GWCC President Jeff Homer said.

### Aliciene Talks About Tax Changes

Wyalusing accountant Joseph Aliciene of Downs and Aliciene was the meeting's featured speaker and presented information about the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 and how GWCC members could be impacted by what he said were the "most sweeping tax law changes in decades." His talk included handing out a small booklet that contained pointers for personal and business tax planning as well as a sample 1040 form. Following his talk Aliciene fielded questions from chamber members.

### State of the Chamber

Saying "We've been working hard this past year," GWCC President Jeff Homer summed up some of the chambers accomplishments since the previous dinner meeting.

"Our Social media campaign has really taken off and is getting some pretty good traction," Homer said. Hopefully those of you who have Instagram and Facebook are feeling the benefits of that."

He went on to say that a barn quilt app for smart phones is about 90-percent complete and should be up and running in a month or two. When completed it will show those following the barn quilt trail a map highlighting nearby businesses.

### Bluegrass Festival A Success

Homer said last weekend's second annual Bluegrass Festival

"was very successful and we had about 170 attendees." He said Profit were \$247 in 2017 and \$302 this year. "While it's not great, that's about a 20 percent increase over last year," he said. It's a building block. Over we feel it's a success. more people to the community. They're staying and hopefully spending money. It's still a work in progress. It's pretty young."

Homer thanked members of the Bluegrass committee. He said Lorie Wenzel did a lot of media promotion for the event. Others Homer thanked for their help and support with the bluegrass festival included: Board member Karen Fuller of Community Bank, Nicki Neuman of P&G Credit Union, Rick Sherman, Brickhouse Services and American Sandwich Co.; Eric Chaffee, Bradford County Commissioner Darrell Miller and his wife Kay and GWCC Secretary Nancy Keeler and her friends Terry and Michelle Bonter of Rochester, NY. "Without Nancy this event would have never taken off," Homer said. She does a lot of the heavy lifting. He also thanked the event's sponsors. Community .Bank, Tuscarora- Wayne, PS Bank, The Kilmer Group, Sipe Insurance Agency, the Wyalusing Rainbow Club, the Rocket-Courier and Wayne Felter, Jr, who donated the use of the stage used at the festival in memory of his father.

### Upcoming Events



Approximately 40 people attended the Greater Wyalusing Chamber of Commerce's biannual dinner meeting Tuesday evening at Grovedale Winery. Photo by Nancy Keeler



Upcoming events highlighted by Homer include: The Wyalusing Firemen's Carnival Aug 7-11. He said volunteers are needed at ice cream booth "Anyone want to scoop a little ice cream?" Homer asked "It helps the firemen and takes some of the burden of from them."

On August 30 GWCC will host a QuickBooks Payroll Class desktop version. A previous QuickBooks class held in the spring was very well attended and resulted in a number of new chamber members. On Sept 6 another class will be held for the online version of QuickBooks.

On Saturday Sept

15 GWCC will host

Wyalusing's North

Branch Triathlon, which will be held the same day at

Wyalusing's Wine

Festival. "We do this intentionally to help draw people to town," Homer said.

Triathlon participants who take their number to the Wine Festival, providing they and those accompanying them are 21-years old, will get a \$5 discount on the admission fee to the wine festival.

The evening's meal was catered by the Wyalusing Hotel with deserts provided by the American Sandwich Company. About 40 people attended the meeting. people to the community. They're staying and hopefully spending money. It's still a work in progress. It's pretty young."

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