







PUBLISHER'S NOTE

100 years is, in human terms, about three to four generations. Here in Wyomissing, there are hundreds of local stories going back to before the borough was founded in 1906.

This month we have two of those stories. On February 5, 1923, The Wyomissing Band Inc., was recognized by the Berks County Court of Common Pleas as an official community band. Phyllis McLaughlin brings us her article celebrating 100 years for the band which is still going strong.

Alexa Freyman shares with us a local 100thanniversary story about the Junior League of Reading which began at a meeting in the home of Mrs. Mary Griggs Barbey, a white, Dutch colonial-inspired home on the northwest corner of Reading Boulevard and Lake Avenue in Wyomissing that still stands today. Over the decades, the women of the Junior League of Reading have done countless works to "meaningfully impact the community through volunteerism, collaboration, and training". Their work continues today with the same enthusiasm of their founders, and with young hearts to carry out the mission in our community.

Stroll Wyomissing is available in a digital version. If you would like to receive a free monthly copy via email, send your email address to WyoNeighbors@N2Pub. com. Your email address will remain private.

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JOHN BIEBER

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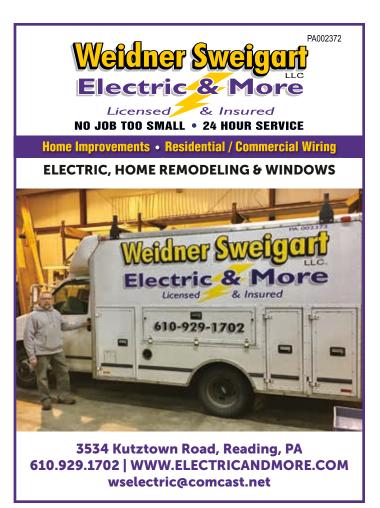




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4 September 2023



erman immigrants Ferdinand Thun and Henry
Janssen established Wyomissing Industries which
became an industrial empire beginning in the early
1900s. The community that grew up around it was heavily
influenced by the careful planning, creativity, and vision of
Thun and Janssen.

Community bands were common in Germany, so it made sense for Thun and Janssen to create a community band for their workers to give them the opportunity to make music together and perform for the public. The Wyomissing Industrial Band evolved into The Wyomissing Band, Inc. when on February 5, 1923, the Berks County Court of Common Pleas approved the petition presented by fourteen band members to become an official community band.

The original band consisted of all male musicians until after World War II. Countless men had been called off to war and women were finally invited to become members of the band. On January 4th, 1948, Margaret Shepherd, a flutist, became the first female to be elected to the band. Fast forward to the present, where women now hold a solid proportion of the 45-member band with a female director, Jennifer Redcay, who has held the position since 2015.

Over 100 years, the band has sustained itself through several avenues of financial support. The organization incurs numerous operational expenses including uniforms, purchases of music, storage for instruments and music in a climate-controlled rental storage facility, and insurance to protect it all. The band does not have a permanent home, which necessitates a storage facility. To pay for their expenses, the band charges a concert fee, in addition to holding a variety of fundraisers throughout the year; most recently trips to see the Philadelphia Orchestra, and to Washington, DC to see a military band. They are fortunate to have sponsors for their concerts held during this celebratory season.

The Wyomissing Band was pleased to have their 100th Anniversary Season sponsored by The Wyomissing Foundation. At the time of this publication, several concerts have already been held, but there are still several on the calendar for 2023:

- 2023 Wyomissing Band Centennial Season Schedule
- May 20, 2023 Relay for Life Berks County Fairgrounds
- June 11, 2023 100th Anniversary Concert -Wyomissing Borough Hall
- June 18, 2023 Renewed Spirit Church Service
- July 1, 2023 Kutztown Folk Festival
- July 4, 2023 Wyomissing July 4th Celebration
- July 4, 2023 Governor Mifflin Community Days
- July 15, 2023 Berks County Fair
- July 23, 2023 Phoebe Berks
- July 30, 2023 100th Anniversary Concert and Celebration/Mohnton Park
- August 20, 2023 Reading Phillies
- September 23, 2023 Movie Night -Wyomissing Hills Playground
- November 25, 2023 Holiday Concert at Miller Center for the Arts. Concert co-sponsored by RACC and the Gustav Oberlaender Fund of the Berks County Community Foundation.
- December 2, 2023 Lighting of the Greens -Wyomissing Stonehouse
- December 10, 2023 100th Anniversary Christmas Concert - West Lawn United Methodist Church

To commemorate the Centennial Celebration, the Wyomissing Band was featured in an exhibit at the Berks History Center which ended August 15, 2023. An interview with Berks History Center and a Time Train with BCTV episode can be found on YouTube.

When musician Clare Benz moved to Wyomissing in 1999, she thought to herself, "This looks like a town that would have a community band. I went to Michael's Music which was located on Penn Avenue and inquired about it. Sure enough, they were able to direct me to someone, and after twenty years of not playing the flute or piccolo I became of member of the band." Clare has been playing with the Wyomissing Band for 24 years and is currently a trustee of the organization. She notes that the band is open to the public and there is no audition process. "Just bring your instrument and a music stand! Members range from Junior High to seasoned veterans. Mark











Morrow, tuba player, has been with the band for 55 years plus another two years with our junior band that no longer exists. Bruce Shaak has 32 years in the band. We practice once a week from 7:15 to 9:00 at Grace Lutheran Church in Shillington."

The rewards of being involved with a community band are many, with each performance a new and exciting experience for performers and audience alike. Clare's take on her involvement comes down to this. "I love getting to make music with a group of people who also enjoy the same and sharing it with audiences during our performances."

Make it a point to attend one or more of the group's remaining performances for the season and join them in celebrating their 100th Birthday!

You can learn more about the Wyomissing Band by visiting them at www.wyobandinc. com or by following them on Facebook.





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BY MICHAEL J. DINAN, CFP®

Planning a wedding requires time and effort, but don't let your organizational skills go to waste after the big day!
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Domani Wealth joined Savant Wealth Management effective May 9, 2023. Please see savantwealth.com/savant-views-news/press-room/ for more information.Savant Wealth Management ("Savant") is an SEC registered investment adviser headquartered in Rockford, Illinois. Past performance may not be indicative of future results. A copy of our current written disclosure Brochure discussing our advisory services and fees is available upon request or at www.savantwealth.com.

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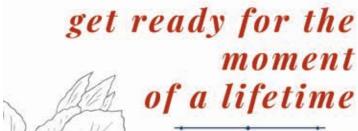
INSURANCE: Review your insurance needs and existing coverage. Determine whether a family plan or individual plans would work best for your health insurance. Consider life insurance to provide for your loved ones in the event of your death. Assess any group coverage at work and consider additional life insurance if necessary. Disability insurance is also important in case you become unable to work due to an unforeseen event.

estate Planning: Review and update beneficiaries on life insurance and retirement accounts to align with your wishes, particularly important in second marriages or when children are involved. Execute powers of attorney for healthcare and property, ensuring that the person you designate can act on your behalf if needed. Create a will to specify how your assets should be distributed.

By addressing these six areas, you can make significant progress toward your financial well-being as a couple. A qualified financial advisor can also help you develop a customized plan aligned with your goals to help protect your assets and loved ones.

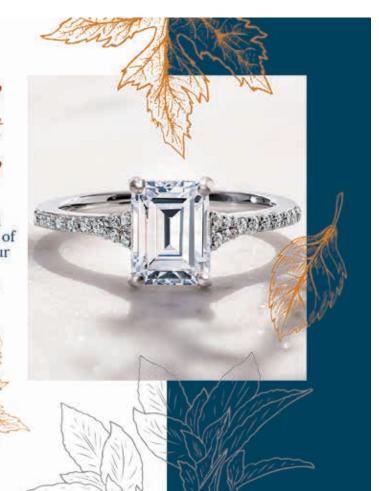
Michael J. Dinan is a financial advisor at Savant Wealth Management, formerly Domani Wealth.

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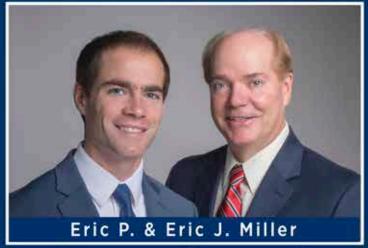
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The Winner will be announced in our November issue. All the pet photos will be published in Stroll Wyomissing in December

Photographer Mark Searfoss will be Judging the Pet Photo Contest







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is the owner of Shearer Technical Computer Consultants, at 727 Penn Avenue, West Reading, where he provides all types of computer

support and training for homeowners and businesses. Mark has deep family roots in Berks County, and he has been a long-time resident of the West Reading and Wyomissing area for over 25 years when he first established his computer business here. Many people remember Mark as a "youngster" from when he worked for his father at Shearer Farms, the family business.

Coming from a long line of hardworking poultry farmers, the transition to computer technology was an unusual road for Mark to create, and over the years it developed from his passion for teaching and helping others. In the family's business at "Sol" Shearer Farms, he had the opportunity to learn about good business practices, working long hours, the importance of knowing all about the products being sold, and "serving" the community, which took place in many different ways.

From the Shillington Farmer's Market, to "Sol" Shearer's Barbeque Ranch in Spring Township, and even in the little-known wholesale side of the business, the family work ethic was always in place, including having to get up before the crack of dawn every day. Mark is still doing that, old habits are hard to break, and it's just another reason for his success.

Mark Shearer, has an interesting story about how he launched his computer company. During the early 1990s, his dad Walter replied to the question of - how much of a product they had in the coolers and freezers,



with "heck, I don't know!". That was the moment Mark knew it was time to get serious about starting to learn how to computerize all aspects of the poultry business. It became a Mark "do it yourself" project. With limited resources available in the 90s, the workbooks he found on the shelves at Barnes and Noble became his office tutorials. Moving forward to 1997, Mark put all his energy into learning how to create Excel spreadsheets to track inventory and expenses, product costs, etc.

With an obsession to learn the Microsoft Programs, and develop his next business endeavor in computer management, Mark turned to his sister, Catherine Shearer, who had previously worked for the Berks County Chamber of Commerce, to step in and help run the business.

Mark took this opportunity to throw himself into helping other businesses set up & install new computers, create networks, and use Office programs, following his dream to transition his business savvy into a new business, specializing in computer technology.

"A new chapter began for all, when in the spring of 1999, all three segments of our Shearer family poultry business were sold", said Mark. It was then he proudly started his new business, Shearer Technical Computer Consultants. With a continued love for teaching, he prepared over 75 of his own manuals for all versions and levels of Office programs. He continues to offer training in Word,

Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, and more, customizing the training to meet the needs of his customers.

Mark feels as though training has been the

backbone of his business. "In 2000 I partnered with the Greater Reading Chamber Alliance to provide training to their members, and the relationship continues to this day. In addition to the training, I developed an interest in repairing and building computers, and then included home installation at no extra cost, with a three-year all-inclusive warranty. I joke with customers telling them they get me

Carole Shearer, Mark's wife, was born in Wilkes Bare, grew up in Dallas, PA, and has been in our area since 1983. Carole said that she is retired. "I had been watching our granddaughter Paisley so my daughter Lindsey could come aboard to help Mark. I do stay active with Chamber events for Shearer Technical and help him as he needs me."

Mark added, "Years ago we developed the Winter Chamber Picnic, based on their summer picnic that was held at our Barbeque Ranch."

Lindsey Gallagher is Carole's daughter and has been with Shearer Technical for almost six years. "I worked as a store manager at Wet Seal in the Berkshire Mall for eight and a half years and the company went out of business in 2017. My store was in the Top 10 out of 700 stores. I've worked with Mark part-time and now full-time. My background is in Visual Communications and Graphic Design. What I do for Mark is build and maintain websites. One website is ATV Bakery which I re-did for them and I

maintain it on a weekly basis. I do admin work, and software cleanups, software updates, I keep the training schedules, onsite service schedule."

Paisley is Lindsey's daughter. She loves reading and she is very good with her iPad and Kindle. Paisley has been featured in several Shearer Technical advertisements in *Stroll Wyomissing*.

Dale Jones and Jerry Robinson are technicians for Shearer Technical Computer Consultants. Jerry is a U.S. Navy Veteran.

Doug the family and office customer service dog, rounds out the Shearer Technical team.

"Many people have asked me over the years, how can you go from chickens to computers?

My answer is always the same, it doesn't matter what the product is, build trust with your customers, and everything else will fall into place". Mark's determined "can do" attitude is certainly a finishing touch, and the Shearer name carries with it a legacy of business success.

Outside of the workplace, you can find Mark and Carole, enjoying music, the events taking place in their West Reading neighborhood, finding time to spend with family, and pursuing their interests and hobbies. "We are walkers, with or without Doug our dog. We like to ride bikes, we ride at Gring's Mill, a trail near Oaks, and in the Wyomissing Park Trails. We like to travel to



Carole and Mark with their late cat Pinot, and Doug the Customer Service dog



Jerry Robinson - Technicia

anywhere we can drive to or take Amtrak."

Mark is a volunteer within the community. For nine years he provided training for RACC students, was involved with Berks Jazz Fest for 24 years, has served on various boards, and at present, contributes his skills and business expertise as treasurer to the South End Gun Club, Reading, where he is a very competitive trap shooter. "I've built my business by being involved with various organizations, doing volunteer events. I've always thought it is the best way to meet people, work with them, they learn to trust you and you can do business" says Mark.

Carole and Mark love Wyomissing.

"A lot of times when I'm walking by
myself, I'll go down to the museum and
I just like to sit there and listen to the
creek," Says Carole. "It's just so peaceful.
The Wyomissing Park is beautiful."

"A lot of times we'll just go walk down Penn Avenue to a restaurant, and there's a lot of great restaurants in West Reading and Wyomissing and a lot of nice boutiques." Said Mark.

Lindsay agrees, "I have lived in the middle of Wyomissing for almost 18 years, and I love the beautiful trees, and the neighborhoods that you walk through. Happy Hollow is right there, and I've been taking Paisley there since she was a year old. It's just a friendly and inviting place. Just look at the beautiful landscapes that people have and the beautiful homes that you have along Reading Boulevard for example.

"Wyomissing is the central location to so many different places, convenient to everything including Philly, Allentown, Lancaster, major cities, the Poconos, and the shore. This is a great place to live."

Shearer Technical is family-oriented and they provide fast fantastic personal service. They focus on the problem and what needs to be resolved. Mark Shearer is a man with seemingly boundless energy, and he is passionate about his business and servicing his customers.

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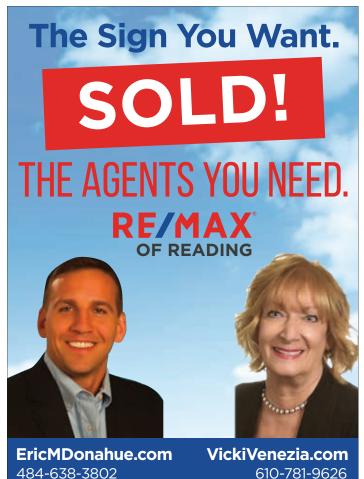
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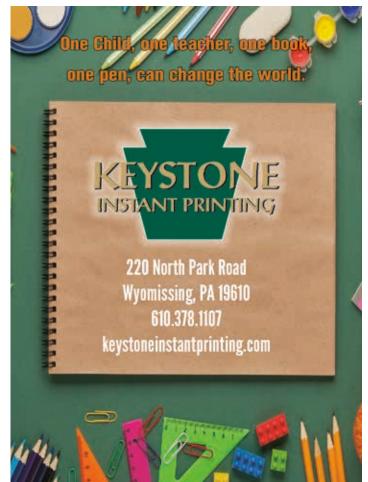
Retired? Retiring













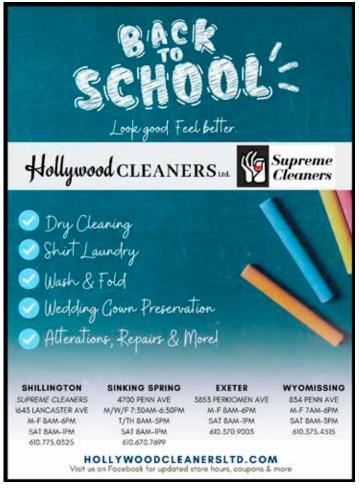


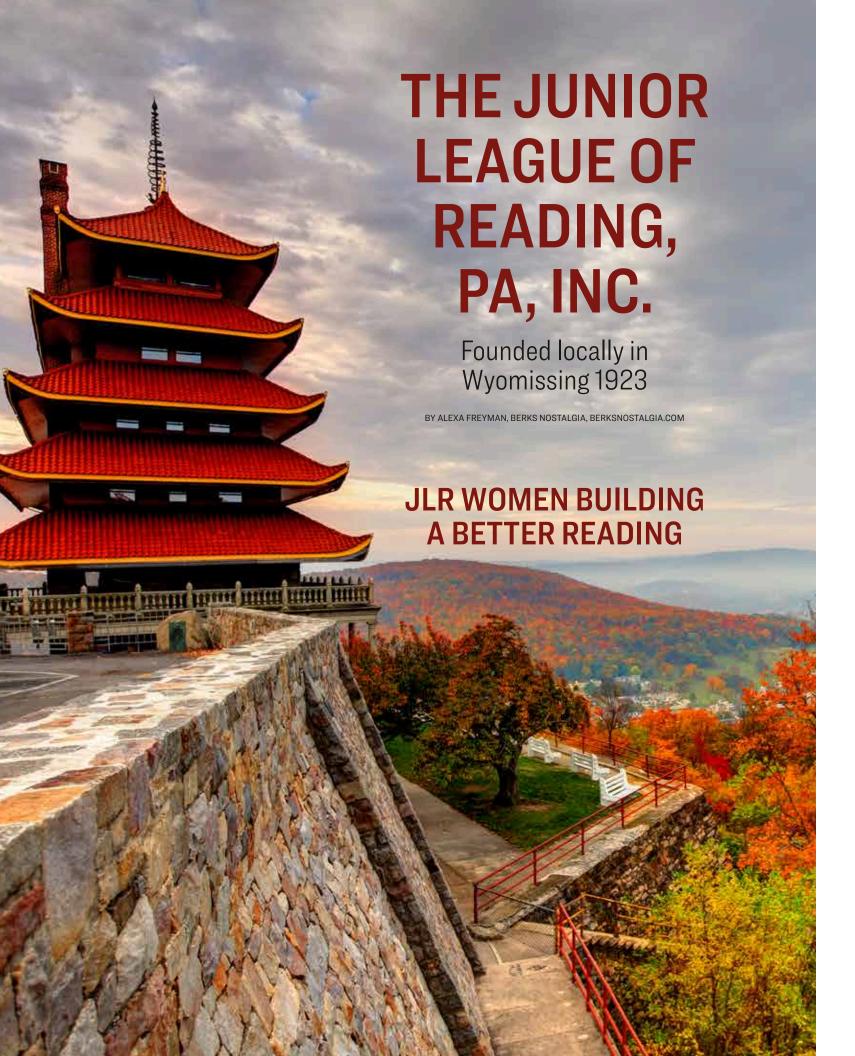
Where in Wyo?

Tell us where all these satellite photos of basketball courts in the Wyomissing area are located. Be the first to email your correct answers to WyoNeighbors@N2Pub.com and win a gift card!

Our August photos were: 1. Wyomissing Creek 2. Wyomissing Borough Hall 3. Entrance to Berkshire Heights Early Learning Center 4. Wyomissing Fire Department red railing at 1259 Penn Ave.







he Junior League was founded in New York City in 1901 as the Junior League for the Promotion of Settlement Movement. It was founded during a time of great social unrest and an emerging feminist movement. On August 6th, 1923 ten wives and daughters of Reading's elite industrialists met in the living room of Mrs. Mary Griggs Barbey with the intention of joining their ranks. The Barbey's lived in a white, Dutch colonialinspired home on the northwest corner of Reading Boulevard and Lake Avenue in Wyomissing. Amongst the other nine women were Mrs. Ethel Lerch (Latady), Miss Clare Charlton, Mrs. Elizabeth Muhlenberg (Young), Mrs. Isabel Dice (Rodgers), Mrs. Ellen Potts (Pomeroy), Mrs. Katharine Hancock (Lea), Miss Catherine Quier, Mrs. Anita Kift (Latady) and Miss Marjorie Sullivan. Their ages ranged from 19 to 33. Only three years prior to their founding had women solidified their right to vote with the passing of the 19th amendment. All but the youngest founding sister, Clare Charlton, were of age to vote in the first presidential election following the amendment in 1920. It was an exciting and progressive time for women.

On January 16th,1924, Reading's chapter was granted membership into the Association of Junior Leagues by the National Junior League Association in New York. At the time the League had over 10,000 members nationally. Mary Griggs Barbey served as the Reading chapter's first president. One of the first official events, a bridge and Mah Jongg party, occurred on February 12th, 1924, at the Woman's Club of Reading at 140 North Fifth Street, Reading. The Junior League members dressed in their Grandmother's Victorian attire to entertain their guests. It was described in the February 13th,1924, Reading Times as "the most delightful thing of its kind ever held in Reading. "Money was raised from selling baked goods and dolls at the event.

Due to a need for a permanent location to operate, the Junior League purchased its Settlement House at 229 South Fifth Street on November 6th, 1925. The League began providing sewing, cooking, basketry, carpentry, dancing, and story-telling classes for Reading's youth. In 1928 the very first Hour Glass was published. The Hour Glass was a monthly publication put out by the Junior League exclusively for its members about the news and events happening within the organization. After only four years the Settlement house was outgrown and sold in 1929. Around that time two new activities; study groups in Antiques, Drama and Current Events in addition to Children's Theatre were implemented as new offerings by the Junior League.

With the country's ongoing struggle with the Great Depression into the 1930s, the Junior League was heavily involved in community relief projects. In conjunction with the Reading School Board and city recreation department, the Junior League implemented the Tyson-Schoener Recreation Center at the then-new Tyson-Schoener Elementary School. It was the first recreation center of its kind in the city and was open to all members of the community after school hours. By the end of the



decade, activities and classes at the center expanded into nature study, woodwork, metalwork, weightlifting and homemaking.

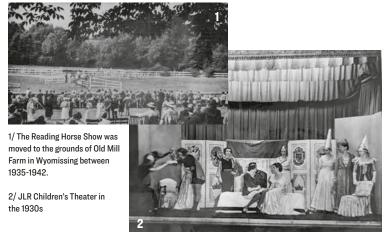
One of the Junior League's largest fundraising events to benefit the recreation center was the Reading Horse Show. The Reading Horse Show originally took place at the Reading Country Club, but between 1935-1942 it was moved to the grounds of Old Mill Farm in Wyomissing. By the end of the decade, it was a very popular two-day event with riders coming from all over the region to compete in a variety of equestrian events.



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The League focused on war efforts in the 1940s and raised over \$8000 in war bonds and stamps. During the war social events and education classes were paused. Keeping morale up was one of the League's prime objectives during this time; focusing specifically on children's theater to entertain families who were missing their fathers and brothers. These theater productions became widely known and provided joy to a community otherwise living through a dark and uncertain era. After World War II ended the regular classes, social events and fundraisers resumed and thrived in the post-war economic boom.

In the 1950s the educational courses provided by the Junior League culminated in "The Hobby School", which was an after-school program for children. During this decade the Marriage Seminar Committee was formed, providing marriage counseling & classes to the general public. The Junior League also implemented the Berks Heim Occupational Therapy Program for seniors who wanted to be self-sufficient. The League's charitable reach left no generation untouched.

In 1961 the Junior League published *Berks Countians* - *The Wonderful Way We Live*, a 224-page photographic publication as a tribute to the community. Also in the 1960s, the organization moved headquarters from downtown to Wyomissing Institute of Fine Arts which was located at Belmont and South Trent Avenues.

The 1970s marked half a century for Reading's Junior League. The League implemented the *Drugs Are Like That* program in Reading and greater Berks County schools. The program included a drug awareness film and discussion groups with students. When Hurricane Agnes hit in June of 1972, the Junior League helped restore the Birdsboro Community Library which lost much of its collection to flood waters. The 255-page second edition of *Berks Countians* was published in 1974. By the end of the decade, the League had donated a staggering \$60,000 back to the community in projects including but not limited to: Old Dry Road Farm, Chit Chat Farms, Berks County Senior Citizens Council, People Against Rape and Berks County Easter Seals Society.

For the 60th anniversary in 1983 the League sponsored "A Day for Women" - an educational conference free for

women of all ages as a gift to the community. They also donated \$6500 to complete renovations to the Berks Women in Crisis community living area. The Junior League was involved in implementing the *Children's Hands-on Museum* at the Berks Historical Society during this decade. The 1980s also saw a move in headquarters to the Penn State Berks campus.

In the 1990s the Junior League collaborated with YMCA to implement the Beacon House, which provided homeless families safe and affordable housing while moving from dependence to independence. In 1998 the Junior League moved again to a home purchased at 1520 Penn Avenue in Wyomissing. This is still currently Junior League headquarters; just seven blocks from where it all started at the Barbey residence on Reading Boulevard.

In a century full of economic depression, war, and social unrest, Reading's Junior League has constantly adapted its strategy to the needs of the community around them. The Junior League of today opens its membership to women of all backgrounds, social classes and races in the spirit of inclusion. Currently, Reading's Junior League hosts two large events a year; The Young Women's Summit and Touch-a-Truck.

The Young Women's Summit invites 6th and 7th-grade girls to take place in a two-day program that focuses on youth empowerment. It has been one of the Junior League's main events for eleven years. The Touch-a-Truck event takes place at the First Energy Stadium where children are invited to explore and safely interact with a variety of vehicles including trucks, motorcycles, and race cars. This event is in its 16th year and proceeds benefit many current community projects of the Junior League.

Much has changed for women in society since the founding of Reading's Junior League, but the foundational mission laid by those ten women in 1923 - to meaningfully impact the community through volunteerism, collaboration, and training - remains intact 100 years later.

THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF READING, PA, INC. 1520 Penn Avenue, Wyomissing, PA 19610 610.374.9811

Sources: The History of the Junior League of Reading, PA, Inc. Miller, J. 2001 Berks Countians: The Wonderful Way We Live, Reading Times Reading Eagle





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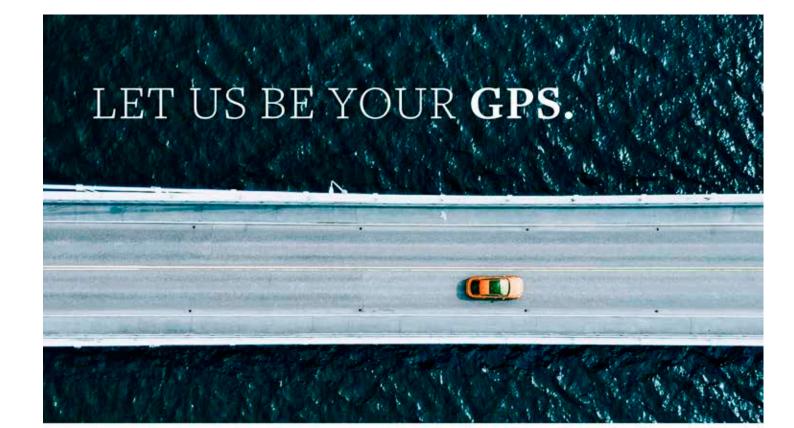
Lisa Tiger



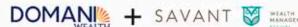
Recently Sold Wyomissing Homes

Address	Neighborhood	Sale Price	Date Sold	Beds	Baths	Sq Ft
214 Wyomissing Blvd.	Wyomissing	\$1,037,500	7/28/2023	6	4.5	9,000
614 S Trent Avenue	Wyomissing	\$827,500	8/1/2023	4	4	3,917
1514 Old Wyomissing Rd.	Wyomissing	\$749,900	7/20/2023	3	2	2,962
1527 Meadowlark Rd.	Wyomissing	\$635,000	8/31/2323	4	2.5	2,790
1638 Meadowlark Rd.	Wyomissing	\$635,000	7/12/2023	3	3.5	2,836
97 Grandview Boulevard	Wyomissing	\$605,000	8/18/2023	4	4	4,857
10 Phoebe Drive	Wyomissing	\$550,000	8/31/2323	3	2.5	3,532
1005 Wyomissing Blvd.	Wyomissing	\$540,000	8/7/2323	3	3	2,260
1763 Reading Blvd.	Wyomissing	\$540,000	7/27/2023	7	4	4,332
1 Oriole Drive	Wyomissing	\$530,000	8/23/2023	4	2.5	2,409
12 Cardinal Place	Wyomissing	\$516,000	7/27/2023	4	2.5	3,285
1111 Thrush Road	Wyomissing	\$455,000	8/31/2023	3	2.5	2,412
1216 Garfield Avenue	Wyomissing	\$400,000	8/9/2023	4	2.5	2,520

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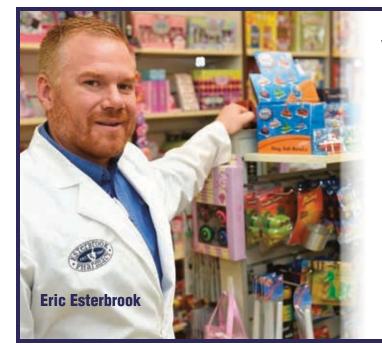


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Michael J. Dinan, CFPS michael.dinan@domaniwealth.com

Domani Wealth joined Savant Wealth Management effective May 9, 2023. Please see savantwealth.com/savant-views-news/press-room/ for more information. Savant Wealth Management ("Savant") is an SEC registered investment adviser headquartered in Rockford, Illinois. Past performance may not be indicative of future results. A copy of our current written disclosure Brochure discussing our advisory services and fees is available upon request or at www.savantwealth.com.



West Reading Drug Store By Lesterbrook

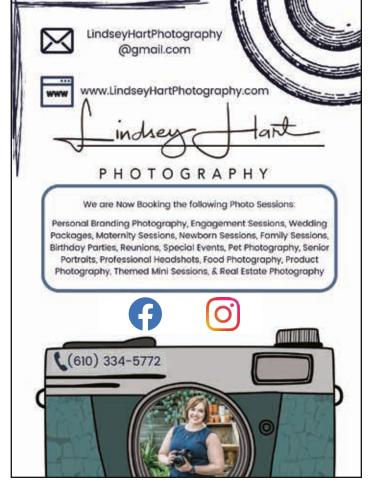
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HANNA'S HOPE MINISTRIES, READING, PA

New kitchen project completed



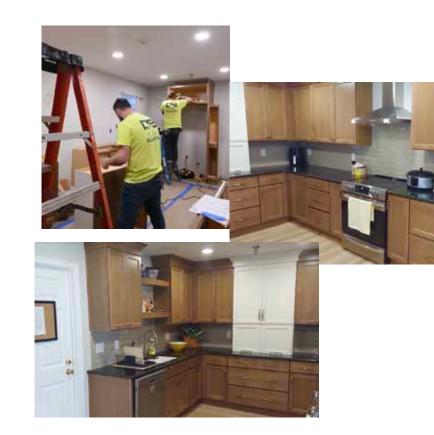
aren Marsdale, Hannan's Hope Board President, announced recently, "We are delighted to share the exciting news of a stunning new kitchen that has been graciously provided to the families residing at Hannah's Hope, thanks to the extraordinary generosity of John and Karen Arnold from the Kindness Coalition."

Hanna's Hope provides transitional housing and support to mothers with children, serving Reading and Berks County.

"This remarkable kitchen renovation has been expertly installed by the talented team at D&B Elite Custom in Wyomissing." Marsdale continued. "The exquisite design has created a warm, inviting, functional space where families can come together and create cherished memories. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to John and Karen Arnold and D&B Elite Custom for their unwavering support and commitment to making a difference in the lives of those in need."

Drew Bell, Vice President of Business Development at D&B Elite said, "We proudly support our local community by volunteering our time, efforts, and donations to Hannah's Hope Ministries, an organization we hold close to our hearts."

Hanna's Hope Ministries, 736 Upland Avenue, Reading, PA 19604 HannasHopeMinistriesReading.org and on Facebook



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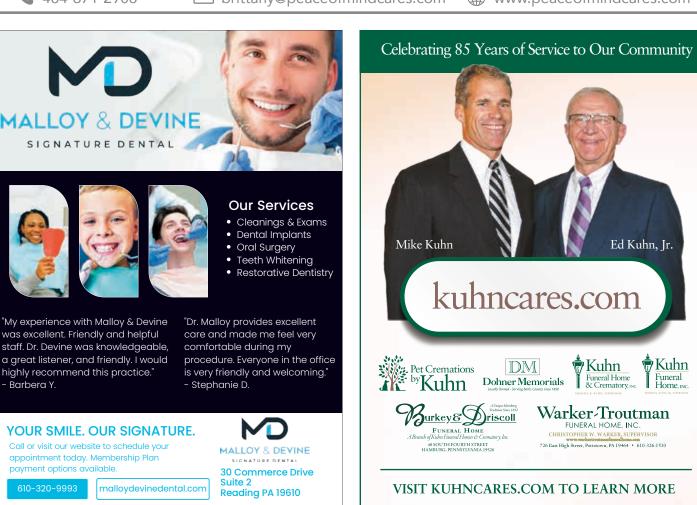








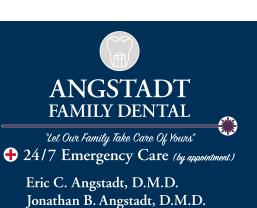








A Publication for Residents of Wyomissing





Eric R. Angstadt, D.M.D.

R.B. Angstadt, D.D.S. Emeritus

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