

-SQUIRREL

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director of Greater Muhlenberg Chamber of Commerce, welcomed attendees and praised the vision behind the business, noting its potential to attract visitors, support local shopping and contribute to area tourism.

“This is going to be an event center,” the Stanley said, pointing to the strong community turnout as evidence of the interest and support surrounding the project.

Stanley also emphasized the broader benefits of bringing people together through hands-on activities, including opportunities to learn new skills, spend time together and strengthen community

ties.

Michelle Lear, the business owner, outlined three phases of development, beginning with the store’s current operations.

Phase one focuses on the retail business, which will offer more than sewing and quilting supplies as it grows. Phase two will introduce a classroom where customers can learn sewing and a variety of other crafts. Planned classes could include felting, crocheting, knitting and needlepoint, with other instructors contributing their knowledge and talents.

The long-term vision includes transforming a large section of the building into an artist co-op featuring



▲ PHOTO | LISA SULLIVAN/JOBEnews

Michelle Lear addressing those in attendance.

work by local artists and other creative offerings.

The planned space will include artwork for sale, including watercolors and other paintings created by area artists. Michelle said she looks forward to bringing local talent together and giving artists a place to display and sell their work. The business also plans to welcome Paint Me Pretty, who will have items available for purchase and participate in live activities.

Beyond shopping, the space is intended to provide a comfortable place for people to gather and work on projects. Plans that include an area where visitors can sew, crochet, read a book or hold a book club meeting.

Michelle said she

hopes to share what she has learned over the years while creating opportunities for friends and other talented people to teach their own skills.

The business announced regular operating hours of Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. The store will be closed Sundays and Mondays.

The chamber celebration concluded with an outdoor ribbon-cutting ceremony involving Michelle, chamber representatives, community volunteers and the city’s mayor.

With its phased approach, Scattered Squirrel aims to become more than a retail store, creating a place where shopping, art, education and community come



▲ PHOTO | LISA SULLIVAN/JOBEnews

Customers purchasing items during the grand opening.

together. As the next phases take shape, the business plans to expand its offerings and provide more

opportunities for residents and visitors to explore their creativity.



-CEREMONY

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all emergency personnel who serve Central City, Muhlenberg County and surrounding communities.

“Thanks to the heroic actions of these first responders, these citizens survived to see another day,” Hooper said.

During his remarks, West also encouraged residents to take simple steps to protect their families as colder weather approaches.

He urged people to check the batteries in their smoke detectors before heating systems are used

more frequently and encouraged community members to learn CPR. Knowing CPR, he said, could allow someone to save a loved one’s life while waiting for emergency personnel to arrive.

The ceremony concluded with city officials expressing appreciation for the honorees and the work performed daily by local police, fire and EMS personnel.

The recognition highlighted how quick action, training and a willingness to respond can have a lasting impact on the lives of people in the community.

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PUBLISHER - Jeff Jobe
jobe@jobeinc.com

STAFF

ADVERTISING - Sarah Cronin
CIRCULATION - Lisa Sullivan
GENERAL MANAGER - Audra Nelson

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