

Join the Somerset County Chamber of Commerce for *News at Noon: Somerset County Coal Update* Thursday, February 16 at the Somerset Country Club. The coal industry in Somerset County has a long, proud history and has always played a huge role in the region's economic success. When this industry is booming, the trickledown effect on other businesses is huge, as studies show that for every coal job created, four to five other jobs are created. Unfortunately, the opposite is true when the industry is down. The great news is that metallurgical coal prices and demand are rising and the industry is responding with jobs and investment in the local community. At this luncheon, hear from local and regional coal representatives about the industry and a look at the upcoming year. Presenters include George Dethlefsen, CEO, Corsa Coal, Mikel Vaughn, business manager & CFO, AK Coal Resources Inc., and Will Dando, director of government affairs, PA Coal Alliance Inc. Registration begins at 11:30 a.m. followed by the program and lunch at noon. For more information or to register, call (814) 445-6431. RSVPs are requested no later than Friday, February 10.

In January, the Somerset County Chamber of Commerce held an information update on the economic impact of natural gas fueling (CNG) and the production of CNG vehicles. The presentations at the luncheon, sponsored by J&J Truck Bodies & Trailers of Somerset, included updates on the purchase and conversion of CNG vehicles through various federal and state grants, along with some projections on savings for businesses and municipalities. Other presentations included updates on the education and training requirements for this industry and the potential creation of more skilled jobs in the community.

Pictured here are (from left) Rick Price, executive director of Pittsburgh Region Clean Cities, Jim Weir, sales manager at J & J Truck Bodies; Brett Barry, senior public policy and regulatory advisor for Clean Energy, David Spear, general manager of J & J Truck Bodies, and Ron Aldom, executive director of Somerset County Chamber of Commerce.

