

Keeping Our Members in the Loop!!

Despite Governor Wolf rendering us “non-essential,” the Blair County Chamber is doing as much as we can to keep our members and the local community abreast of all the important news that impacts what we do day-to-day. If you’re reading this publication on Monday, there’s a pretty good chance that you received some sort of correspondence from us over the weekend about the Federal Stimulus Package that passed last week. We rely on both the PA Chamber and the U.S. Chamber to help us decipher how that controversial piece of legislation will play-out during the next several weeks and likely well-beyond. Stay tuned – we’ll try not to overwhelm you with information!



“Stronger Together” Another Way to Stay Connected

Since local businesses show a great willingness to not only keep themselves viable but to help their neighbors to weather many of the same storms, the Blair County Chamber has created a webpage called “Stronger Together.” This page will allow businesses to submit tools and tips that will help others. Submissions should avoid being promotional or self-serving – just indicate ways that you’re able to help out and possibly even partner on solutions that make life easier for someone else. To post a notice to the Stronger Together page, email it to chamber@blairchamber.com.



What Should You Already Be Doing?

One of the most frequently-asked questions that the Chamber is receiving from members by way of email is a very simple one: “What should I be doing to be prepared for what comes next?” If only we knew what comes next, that question would be a lot easier to answer. As much information as the Chamber is passing along, our suggestion is that after we remind you not to panic, we strongly encourage you to visit the Chamber Website at www.blairchamber.com, click on News Alert, and consider submitting information about your status (open or closed) as well as anything about your business that you believe would be helpful for other businesses to know. To submit, send your information to Linda Stotler at lstotler@blairchamber.com.

Committee Meetings

BASICS/Rotary Career Fair Meeting (via Zoom), March 30th, 1:30 p.m.

Success Stories? Send Them Too!



In the midst of all the chaos taking place as the result of the Coronavirus is the realization that a lot of really inspirational things are taking place in our community that we really should be bragging about. For example, did you know what a great gesture Deb Arnsperger of Creative Expressions Florist and Andrea Hammel of Peterman's Flower Shop made with flowers for local law enforcement people and nursing home residents? How about the significant food donation from Don Delozier and his crew at Prime Sirloin to the food pantry? Did you know that Trade Secrets has started a Porch Pantry at its location for people to drop off essential items like soaps, lotions, deodorants, detergents and more to help those struggling to get through tough times? These are the stories that we need people to submit so that we can feature them in our Chamber publications. If you have such a story, email it to Joe Hurd at jhurd@blairchamber.com.

Small Businesses Can Apply for Financial Assistance

Small businesses in Blair County that need some guidance to access financial assistance can find that guidance by going to the Small Business Administration's website at www.disasterloan.sba.gov. For any specific questions or to share information, contact Altoona-Blair County Development Corporation at (814) 944-6113 or go to www.abcdcorp.org.



Highmark Chamber Golf Classic Is Still On!!

As the Chamber cancels or postpones many of its programs, events and meetings, one event that is not cancelled or postponed is the Highmark/Chamber Golf Classic, set for May 4th at Iron Masters Country Club. The decision to move forward with the Classic is more than just a financial one. With so many businesses and business people having endured incredible challenges as the result of the Coronavirus, we're predicting that a day on the golf course and the opportunity to commiserate with colleagues who have faced similar challenges might be just what the doctor ordered. So for now, at least, we're planning to move forward and we hope that our members will support the event as well as supporting the reason why we're doing it.



Committee Meetings Cancelled This Week

Among the previously scheduled committee meetings that are cancelled this week are: Golf Committee (Tuesday), Young Professionals of Blair County Steering Committee (Wednesday), Public Policy Committee and BASICS Subcommittee on Early Childhood Education Subcommittee (Thursday). The BASICS Steering Committee and BASICS/Rotary Career Fair Subcommittee meetings, scheduled for April 6th, are also cancelled.

MEMBERcongrats

... to several new hires who became Chamber members because their employers had the foresight to invest in Chamber membership. They are: Christy Servello, a physician assistant at Nason OB/GYN; Brandon Singer, a box truck driver and warehouse supervisor at American Rescue Workers; James Pilosky, a survey technician at P. Joseph Lehman, Inc. Consulting Engineers; and Brice Barrett and Andrew Kordish who were hired by Stiffler McGraw – Brice as a project designer and Andrew as a senior project architect.

BENEFact

Chamber Membership can save you money.

For March, we are highlighting the "Members In Motion" member benefit. This FREE member benefit allows you to share exciting news and events going on in your business. Just send us what you would like us to share in the form of a press release or flyer and we will add it to the Members in Motion section on our website homepage. We'll even add a link to your website or flyer if one is provided!

[Click here for a complete list of benefits exclusive for Chamber Members.](#)