

## Moving to Green Means "Stepping-Up the Pace"

As of last Friday, Blair County moved to the Green Phase of Governor Wolf's Covid-19 Plan to re-open the Commonwealth. What that means for the Blair County Chamber is that we need to re-visit some of our programs, events and initiatives that were priorities before the pandemic began and get them back on the table. While practically all of our committees have continued to meet virtually for the past month, some of them will be returning to face-to-face meetings during June and July. We will also be catching-up with new member orientations and ribbon cuttings. The Chamber Office is open. The telephones are working (814-943-8151). We invite members to contact us to let us know how we can continue to help during the months ahead.



## Virtual "Breakfast Club" Will Feature PA 30-Day Fund

With social distancing for large groups still in force, the Blair County Chamber will hold its monthly "Breakfast Club" meeting via Zoom this Thursday, June 11th, beginning at 8:00 a.m. The event will be members-only and will be free-of-charge. The agenda will include a brief promotional comment from the corporate sponsor – L.R. Kimball, an introduction of new Chamber members and a keynote from Jeff Bartos providing details of The PA 30-Day Fund." That fund will help local small businesses bridge the



gap until those businesses are able to get back on their feet. Bartos is a former candidate for lieutenant governor in Pennsylvania. To register for the June Breakfast Club, call the Chamber at 943-8151 or [register on-line](#). A Zoom link will be provided to those who register.

**Congratulations...**

... to all of our member businesses that have endured the consequences of Covid-19, kept a stiff upper lip and have progressed into the Green Phase of Governor Wolf's plan to keep the Commonwealth safe.

## Did You Complete Your Member Survey Yet?

As the Chamber plots a future course in helping the business community move forward, it's important that it does so with information on where the specific needs are and how those businesses would prefer that those needs be addressed. To accomplish that, the Chamber has emailed a survey to members through Survey Monkey. The survey is four short questions that will take less than five minutes to answer. Members should have received the survey last week and will have until June 15th to complete and return it. The Chamber intends to survey members on a regular basis to determine satisfaction levels and to gain valuable input on specific issues.

## Committee Meetings

**BASICS Steering Committee**  
June 8th, 8:00 a.m.  
Zoom

**Long Term Care Summit**  
June 8th, 1:30 p.m.  
Zoom

**Chamber Ambassadors**  
June 9th, 8:00 a.m.  
Zoom

**Attractions/Hotel Roundtable**  
June 10th, 8:15 a.m.  
Zoom

# Highmark/Chamber Golf Classic Headed Toward Another Sellout

The Highmark/Chamber Golf Classic has been one of the more highly anticipated events for several years. It appears that even a date change and the accompanying pandemic can't discourage business people from signing-up for this year's event, set for August 20th at Iron Masters Country Club. The goals, as always, are a sellout and the opportunity to have a great time. To register as a golfer or a volunteer, contact [Stacy Hoover](#) at 943-8151. If you'd like to



be considered for one of the remaining sponsorships or to reserve a tee-and-green sign, contact [Jessie Covert](#) at that same number. It's been a difficult couple of months. It's time for some fun and relaxation!

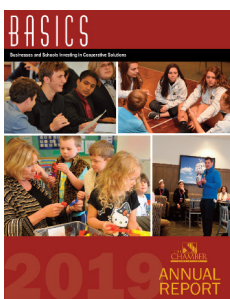
## Chamber Holding Summit on Long Term Care

As part of an effort to assist heavily-impacted industry sectors in dealing with the many layers of the Covid-19 virus, the Blair County Chamber will be holding a Long Term Care Summit (via Zoom) at 1:30 today. "We understand that our nursing homes are subject to strict guidelines, due to the vulnerability of their resident populations," acknowledged Chamber President Joe Hurd. "We're hoping, by bringing representatives from those facilities together for a discussion, that we can identify some common challenges that can be resolved collectively." Invitations to participate in the Summit have been



limited strictly to facilities that offer skilled care. "This is the first industry sector event that we've undertaken since the pandemic began," Hurd pointed out. "Over the next several months, we'll be doing additional ones."

## BASICS Annual Report Now on the Chamber Website



The education community in Blair County has faced some daunting challenges as the result of Covid-19. With so much of the curriculum in local schools geared to career exploration, the Blair County Chamber, through our BASICS (Businesses And Schools Investing in Cooperative Solution) program, has been able to

help students to connect with business leaders in a variety of important ways. It is our intention to continue to step-up as the schools transition to a new educational dynamic. To let people in our community know more about the various programs that fall under the BASICS umbrella, the Steering Committee created an Annual Report that is now available for members (and non-members) to download. Simply visit the Chamber Website at [www.blairchamber.com](http://www.blairchamber.com) and click on the BASICS Annual Report icon.



"Thanks to everyone at the Chamber for being a voice for Blair County businesses. We really appreciate all the hard work that has been done to keep us informed and the fighting to get us open!"

-Terra Wertz, PC Works Plus

"I wanted to let (the Chamber) know how helpful your recent email (and link) on Unemployment Compensation was to our managers and customers. It's great to be able to keep them informed."

-Jessica Kitt, M&T Bank



## "Buy Here. Thrive Here." Sends a Message of Urgency

As many Blair County businesses struggle to remain viable, there is an incredible sense of urgency for local people to direct as much of their spending as possible toward those struggling businesses. To keep that message top-of-mind, the Chamber has created the "Buy Here. Thrive Here." initiative. Done in partnership with sponsoring businesses and the local media, Buy Here. Thrive Here. is an offshoot of the Buy Here. Live Here. program that was launched six years ago to remind businesses and consumers of the advantages to the local economy of keeping more dollars circulating within the county. The newest initiative begins to roll-out within the next few weeks. If you'd like to support it, contact Joe Hurd at 943-8151 or email him at [jhurd@blairchamber.com](mailto:jhurd@blairchamber.com)



## Saluting Our Renewals!

With the *Blair Business Mirror* on a multi-month hiatus, the Chamber has been unable to publish the list of members who have renewed their memberships as well as the number of years that those members have continued to invest with the organization. During the following two weeks, we will publish the names of those who have renewed. This week's renewals are from April (listed below). At a time when the Chamber faces many financial challenges due to our inability to hold programs and events, it's more important than ever that our members continue to stay active by renewing their memberships.

### Celebrating 32-39 Years

Industrial Maintenance Systems, Inc.  
dba Sermac  
Link & Associates, P.C.  
Midstate Tool & Supply, Inc.  
New Pig Corporation  
United Way of Blair County

### Celebrating 20-29 Years

Alto Reste Cemetery, Inc.  
Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School  
Central Pennsylvania Humane Society  
Conemaugh Nason Medical Center  
Fairway Laboratories, Inc.  
Laurel Eye Clinic  
S & A Homes, Inc.  
ServiceMaster by HORELL  
Zane Helsel Excavating, Inc.

### Celebrating 10-19 Years

Bolger Brothers, Inc.  
Burchfield & Son Landscaping, Inc.  
Dr.'s Centar & Imler  
Freedom Rentals  
Grannas Bros.  
The Knickerbocker Tavern, Inc.  
Kunzler & Company, Inc.  
Lemme Audiology Associates  
Park Home  
Pennsylvania State Employees  
Credit Union  
Press Box Printing  
Pyramid Engineering, PC  
Raystown Transit Bus Lines  
Rosch Visionary Systems, Inc.  
S&T Bank  
Securitas Security Services USA  
Wessel & Company  
Williamsburg Community School District  
Gerard S. Ziegler, CPA  
Zeigler Chevrolet, Inc.

### Celebrating 5-9 Years

Central PA Asthma & Allergy Care  
Creative Expressions Florist/  
Deb's Anteeeks  
Dively, Ronda L. dba H&R Block  
Edward Jones Investments,  
Michael Harris  
Empower3 Center for Health  
Fusco, Riley, Reismeier  
Financial Group, LLC  
Gieg Realty Services  
HoneyBaked Ham & Cafe  
Kerr Promotions  
LaVintage Decor  
Premier Pest Control and Lawn Care  
Prime Design Solutions, Inc.  
Prough's Masonry LLC  
Roaring Spring Borough and Roaring  
Spring Borough Police Department  
Roaring Spring Municipal Authority  
Ron Beatty Carpet and  
Upholstery Cleaning, Inc.  
Shoe Fly Stores  
Your Electronics Source

### Celebrating 1-4 Years

Alternative Community Resource  
Program, Inc. (ACRP)  
Blair County Planning Commission  
Human Resources Management  
Association of Blair County  
Lexington Clubhouse  
Omni Home Care  
Rezk/Punxsy Medical Supply  
Rotary Club of Altoona  
UGI Energy Services

**Open For  
Business**

## If You're "Open For Business," Let Everyone Know

As businesses begin to re-open, it's important that we are able to offer both assistance and support. So the Chamber Website now includes a special section called "Open For Business." This is a member's only section and we invite members to let us know when they've opened and any special plans they have to put a little bit of emphasis on returning to active status! Send your "Open For Business" information to Linda Stotler at [lstotler@blairchamber.com](mailto:lstotler@blairchamber.com).



**BENefact**  
Chamber Membership  
can save you money.

For June we will be highlighting Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies. This FREE member benefit allows members who wish to promote a new location, renovated space or even a new addition to call the Chamber to schedule a ceremony. Chamber staff, along with dedicated Ambassador's, will come out to participate. To discuss ribbon cutting availability, contact Linda Stotler at the Chamber or email [lstotler@blairchamber.com](mailto:lstotler@blairchamber.com).