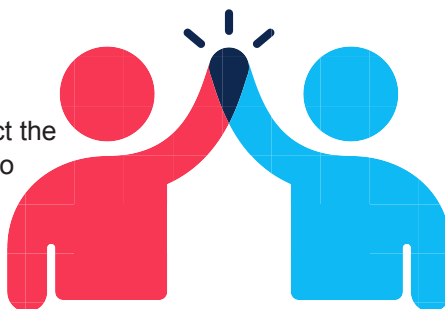


## Stay Tuned: New Program to Help Bars, Restaurants

Last Wednesday's announcement by Governor Wolf that will further restrict the ability of local bars and restaurants to do business has caused the Chamber to create a program that will help those businesses to generate some additional income for at least the foreseeable future.

The new program, which will be an offshoot of the Buy Here. Thrive Here. program, will be officially rolled-out next week. Details will be available in Chamber publications and on local media sites. Stay tuned . . .



## Young Entrepreneurs Academy (YEA!) Begins 2021 Applications

Students in grades 6-12 from Blair County schools can now apply to be members of the Chamber's 2021 Young Entrepreneurs Academy (YEA!) class. The program will begin its fifth year in October. To apply, go to the Chamber Website at [www.blairchamber.com](http://www.blairchamber.com) and click on "Events and Programs."



## Executive Committee Approves Two New Members

The Executive Committee of the Chamber Board of Directors, which functions during July and August in the Board's absence, has approved two new members to the organization. New members are: Caporuscio Plumbing & Heating of Altoona and The Yazo Group of Altoona.



## Tell Us Your "Buy Here. Thrive Here." Success Stories

Now that the Buy Here. Thrive Here. initiative is moving full-speed-ahead, we invite anyone who has already turned their buying habits around to share their success stories so that others may become inspired to do so as well. Or if you're a business that has gained new customers as the result of Buy Here. Thrive Here., share that with us too. There is an urgent need to help the local businesses that have become casualties of Covid-19. Anything that you can do to help will be greatly appreciated. Send stories to Joe Hurd at [jhurd@blairchamber.com](mailto:jhurd@blairchamber.com).

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

For July, we are highlighting Chamber Marketing Opportunities! Numerous opportunities are available exclusively to Chamber members. From digital to print we can help promote your business in a way that will get you the most bang for your buck! Check out the [2020 Chamber Brand Solution Opportunities here](#), then contact [jcovert@blairchamber.com](mailto:jcovert@blairchamber.com) to reserve your space today!



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The Blair County Chamber of Commerce

## Rolling-Out the Welcome Mat!

As the Chamber continues to recruit new members, there are few better ways to make those new members feel welcome than to receive a congratulatory call or email from other Chamber members. If you are a current member of the Chamber and would be willing to take a few minutes each month to make such a contact, call Marilyn Templon at the Chamber and she'll be happy to send you the names and contact information of



new members. Who knows, that call or email may result in you building a new customer relationship as well!

## Highmark/Chamber Golf Classic Spots Down to Single Digits

It wasn't all that long ago that the Chamber's Golf Committee wondered if the 2020 Highmark/Chamber Golf Classic would ever come to fruition. Thanks to the work of that committee, only six spots remain for that August 20th event at Iron Masters Country Club. "The committee has done an exceptional job," acknowledged Stacy Hoover, the Chamber VP that oversees the annual Classic. "To have our numbers where they currently are is really impressive, especially in view of the obstacles that all golf outings have faced this year." To register for one of

the remaining spots, contact Stacy at 943-8151. The deadline to purchase tee-and-green signs is July 31st. Contact Jessie Covert at that same number to purchase those.



## Digital Marketing Roundtable Continues Recruiting Process

To date, the Chamber's Digital Marketing Roundtable has had seven businesses step-up to be part of that effort, which is being formed to help businesses learn more about how to market themselves using up-to-date technology. Invitations to participate have been sent to all Chamber members in the "Advertising/Public Relations/Marketing" section of the Membership Directory. Other members, not in that section, are invited to participate as well. To do so, contact Joe Hurd at (814) 943-8151 or email him at



[jhurd@blairchamber.com](mailto:jhurd@blairchamber.com). The Roundtable meetings will be conducted either face-to-face or through Zoom with the first meeting set for September 17th at 10:00 a.m.

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## Money Now Available to Food Retailers

Governor Tom Wolf last week announced that \$10 million is now available for Pennsylvania businesses that have worked to maintain access to fresh, healthy food throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. The Fresh Food Financing Initiative, funded through the CARES Act, is available to for-profit, nonprofit or cooperative entities impacted by Covid-19, including grocery stores, corner stores, convenience stores, neighborhood markets, bodegas, food hubs, mobile markets, farmers markets, on-farm markets and food aggregation centers. To determine eligibility, visit [agriculture.pa.gov/COVID](http://agriculture.pa.gov/COVID).





## Nomination Period Underway for ACE Award

The Blair County Chamber of Commerce is now accepting nominations for the Agricultural Community Excellence (ACE) Award. This award will be presented at the October 8, 2020 Breakfast Club. Deadline for nominations is Monday, August 10, 2020. To access a nomination form and a list of past honorees, [click here](#).



## Young Professionals Looking to Add to Contact List

The Young Professionals of Blair County are scheduling a number of educational and networking events for the fall and the steering committee that oversees that program is hoping to expand its contact list so that more young professionals will participate. "We recognize that there are many young professionals in Blair County who really don't know much about us," explained Jessica Fisher of McQuaide Blasko, who chairs the steering committee. "We'd like to access contact information on these people so that we can make them aware of what's coming up and how it might benefit them." Any business per-



son between the age of 21 and 40 who would like to receive email notices of upcoming YP programs and events should send contact information to Kirsten Stratton at [kmsinteriorde-signs@gmail.com](mailto:kmsinteriorde-signs@gmail.com). Young Professionals of Blair County is an innovative program of the Blair County Chamber of Commerce.

## New Members...



The Blair County Chamber welcomed its newest members at the 553rd Breakfast Club on July 9th. Pictured, from left: David Hite, **Networkly**; Chris and Jennifer Cook, **C & J Cabinet Co., LLC** and **C & J Rental Management, LLC**; Tracy Dutko and John Dutko, **Just Breathe Spa & Yoga Studio**.

## Congratulations...

... to the Comfort Inn Duncansville-Altoona, which has been named the property of the year by Choice Hotels International. The award recognizes the Comfort Inn as the #1 property within its brand of 1,029 properties. ... to Smith Transport, which has been ranked #38 in the Top 100 list of the largest for-hire carriers in North America, according to the Transport Topics 2020. Companies on that list are ranked, based on overall revenue generated for the most recent twelve-month period.

## Application Deadline July 30th for Leadership Adult 2021 Class

Applications are being accepted for the 27th class of the Chamber's Leadership Blair County Adult program. The deadline to apply is July 30th. "Despite the challenges associated with Covid-19, there continues to be great enthusiasm for both Leadership Adult and Leadership Youth," explained the Chamber's Judy Juda, who oversees both programs. "We're anticipating a healthy number of applicants and look forward to another great class." To apply for the 2021 LBC program, call the Chamber at 943-8151 or download an application from the Chamber Website at [www.blairchamber.com](http://www.blairchamber.com).



## Committee Meetings

WE-LEAd Committee  
Monday, July 20th, 8:30 a.m.  
Zoom