

Mark Taylor to Speak at August "Breakfast Club"

Has Blair County exceeded expectations in dealing with Covid-19 or is the verdict still out? That's one of the questions that will be addressed at the next Chamber "Breakfast Club," set for August 13th beginning at 7:45 a.m. at The Casino at Lakemont Park. Keynote speaker for the event will be Mark Taylor, Director of Public Safety, Blair County Department of Emergency Services. It is Taylor who has been at the forefront of the county's efforts to monitor the spread and treatment of Covid-19. His presentation, "What Might Happen Next?" will provide insight into what similar areas to Blair County are experiencing and how the data is making it both easier and more difficult to speculate on the future. The cost to attend Breakfast Club is \$20 for Chamber Members and \$30 for non-members. Social distancing will be observed. To register call the Chamber at (814) 943-8151 or register online at www.blairchamber.com. Corporate sponsor of the August Breakfast Club is Moore Power Sales.



You've Seen the Signs. Let the Message Resonate

Now that the Buy Here. Thrive Here. initiative is moving full-speed-ahead (the yard signs and billboards are everywhere!), 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.

Purchased Your Gift Cards Yet? Help Our Bars and Restaurants!

The Chamber's effort to help local bars and restaurants stay financially afloat during a difficult time is gaining momentum as more businesses recognize the need to assist one another by participating in the "Eat. Drink. Help." Initiative. As an offshoot of Buy Here. Thrive Here., this new program incentivizes businesses to purchase gift cards from bars and restaurants in exchange for ad space in the Chamber's weekly newsletter. The purchasing businesses must be Chamber members but the bars and restaurants are not required to be. For more information on how to participate in Eat. Drink. Help., visit the Chamber Website at www.blairchamber.com and click on the Buy Here. Thrive Here logo.

BENefact
Chamber Membership
can save you money.

For August we are highlighting Chamber Membership Directories! Chamber members in good standing will have their business listing appear in both the annual print directory (distributed to every Chamber member business and found in every hotel room in Blair County) and the online directory (which receives thousands of hits each day!) located on the Chamber's website at www.blairchamber.com.



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Leadership Youth Program Graduates 17th Class



The Blair County Chamber of Commerce Leadership Blair County Youth (LBCY) program graduated 24 students representing Blair County school districts on July 30th. LBCY is a Blair County Chamber of Commerce program open to high school sophomores focusing on servant leadership. The youth program is formatted similarly to the Chamber's adult leadership program. LBCY has been used as a model for leadership youth programs throughout Pennsylvania and the tri-state region. The LBCY curriculum includes an overnight retreat, monthly sessions on community focused topics and a class project. Members of the 2020 Class are:

DEVYN AMIGH, Hollidaysburg Area High School; CASSIE BERKHIMER, Claysburg-Kimmel High School; ASHLEY BRUBAKER, Williamsburg Community High School; COLIN BUTLER, Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School; HAWKE CLAYCOMB, Claysburg-Kimmel High School; RAVEN CRISCITELLO, Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School; CARLY DIXON, Central High School;

MARISA HOOPER, Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School; COOPER KEEN, Bellwood-Antis High School; AIDAN KELLY, Altoona Area High School; MACKENZIE KELLEY, Altoona Area High School; CONOR MAURO, Claysburg-Kimmel High School; DANIELLE MUELLER, Altoona Area High School; JADEN QUINN, Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School; MORGAN REIGHARD, Williamsburg Community High School; NOELLE SHENK, Hollidaysburg Area High School; AMIRADAMA SMITH-BANKS, Altoona Area High School; MARIAN STEPHENS, Hollidaysburg Area High School; SOFIA VENEZIANO, Altoona Area High School; JOSHUA WAITE, Central High School; ALISSA WALKER, Williamsburg Community High School; TAELENN WHETSTINE, Central High School; TESSA WISE, Altoona Area High School; and EMILY ZHU, Hollidaysburg Area High School.

For more information on Leadership Blair County Youth, contact the Chamber at 943-8151.



LEADERSHIP BLAIR COUNTY YOUTH CLASS OF 2020



**Like us on Facebook at
The Blair County
Chamber of Commerce**



Chamber Seeking Next Group of Young Entrepreneurs

It's no secret that the best recipe for a successful community continuing to grow is for its businesses to be created and cultivated close to home. That recipe was the motivation for the Blair County Chamber's willingness to start a Young Entrepreneurs Academy (YEA!) program. The program will begin its fifth year in October and the application process for interested students has already begun. To apply, go to the Chamber Website at www.blairchamber.com and click on "Events and Programs."

Committee Meetings

Chamber Ambassadors
August 4th, 8:00 a.m.
Devorris Center

Workplace Wellness Committee
August 4th, 1:30 p.m.
Devorris Center

Young Professionals of Blair County
August 5th, 8:00 a.m.
Devorris Center

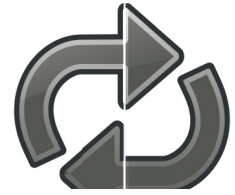
Young Entrepreneurs Academy (YEA!) Committee
August 5th, 9:00 a.m.
Zoom

Public Policy Committee
August 6th, 8:00 a.m.
Devorris Center

BASICS Early Childhood Subcommittee
August 6th, 10:00 a.m.
Devorris Center

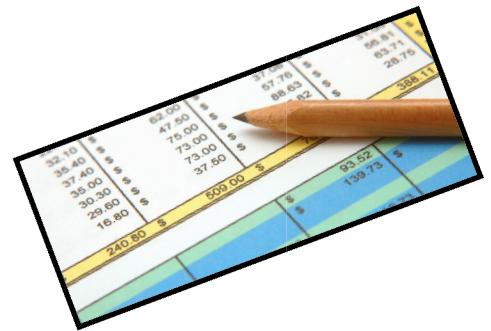
ARE YOU INSANE?

Do you do the same thing over and over again, always getting the same result, despite expecting a different one?



Then perhaps you are!

- Are you still bidding and spreadsheeting your health insurance?
- Are you increasing deductibles and co-pays?
- Are you having your employees share more of the cost?
- Has it done anything to save premium dollars on your health insurance?
- Does the situation keep getting worse?



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Chamber Inviting Applications for VP Position

The Chamber is beginning the application process for the position of Vice-President of Programming and Membership Education. The fulltime position is available due to the upcoming retirement of longtime Chamber VP Juda Juda who is currently working part-time and will be officially retired at the end of December. Her replacement will begin in September and will work with Judy on programs and events, most particularly on the Leadership Blair County



Adult and Youth programs, which are integral parts of the VP position. Interested applicants should email resumes and cover letters to jhurd@blairchamber.com.

Little Free Libraries Initiative Begins Today

The Chamber's Leadership Blair County Alumni is assisting the Altoona Area School District in creating Little Free Libraries in eight elementary school neighborhoods. The District has received a grant to fund one of the libraries and LBC Alumni is raising money and collecting books to furnish the remaining seven. Books should be targeted to children between the ages

of five and eleven. They can be new or gently used. Monetary donations will be used to purchase books through participating vendors at reduced prices. Books can be dropped off at the Chamber Office between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. from August 3rd to August 28th. Checks can be made payable to the Blair County Chamber Foundation.



Nomination Period Underway for ACE Award

The Blair County Chamber of Commerce is continuing to accept 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](#).



Annual Appeal Funds Leadership Blair County Youth Program



The Blair County Chamber Foundation has launched its Annual Appeal to raise funds that offset the costs associated with the Leadership Blair County Youth

program. That program, which is 100% funded by the Foundation, costs \$42,000 to operate. "We're grateful to the many businesses, organizations and individuals that contribute to the Appeal," explained Foundation President Brian Irwin. "It has allowed us to operate this outstanding LBC Youth program without relying on either the students or the school districts to cover the cost." Anyone who would like to contribute to the Appeal should contact Cindy Cessna at the Chamber at (814) 943-8151.

Congratulations...

... to Professionals Auto Body, which has been recognized once again with General Motors' highest designation certification.

... to Nick Damin, who recently became President/CEO of Damin Printing Company, located in Ebensburg.

... to the members of the Blair County Chamber who were recognized last week by Pennsylvania Business Central magazine as "Health Care Heroes." They are: Conemaugh Health System (Nason), Homewood at Martinsburg, Altoona Lung Specialists, Encompass Health Altoona and UPMC (Altoona).

Operation Our Town Mini-Golf Tournament



Keystone Falls - 18 Hole Mini-Golf

Monday, September 14, 2020

Schedule of Activities

3:00pm - Tee time for OOT Mini-Golf Tournament at Lakemont Park

5:00pm - US Foods Neighborhood BBQ at Park Hills Golf Club

Great prizes, food, and fun!

For registration and sponsorship information, visit:
<http://www.operationourtown.org/oot-mini-golf-tournament>

All funds raised benefit local drug enforcement and prevention programs through grants from Operation Our Town in conjunction with:





Saluting Our Renewals!

The Chamber would like to thank those members that have continued to invest with the organization by renewing their membership in the month of July.

Celebrating 57 Years

Union Tank Car Company

Celebrating 40-43 Years

Amtran

Lawn Doctor of Altoona

Celebrating 31-38 Years

Altoona Ophthalmology Associates

Altoona Soft Water, Inc. & Crystal Pure
Bottled Water Inc.

AMED

Bettwy Electric, Inc.

Blair County Oil & Supply

Burchfield Organization, Inc.

Tom Burkholder's Antiques

The Cashman Financial Group, Inc.

Child Advocates of Blair County, Inc.

Gieg Law Offices, LLC

Image Signs, Inc.

Lakemont Park

Mountain Research, LLC

NPC, Inc.

Joseph A. Oricko, Architect

Rea, Rea & Lashinsky

Santella Funeral Home

Teeter Group

L. R. Webber Associates, Inc.

Celebrating 20-29 Years

Albemarle Corporation

Altoona Curve Baseball

Carnegie Equipment, Inc.

Corle Building Systems

Empower Business Solutions

The Hancock Group, Inc.

Inco Beverage, Inc.

James E. Van Zandt VA Medical Center

Lisa Mancinelli, State Farm

Insurance Agency

Makdad Industrial Supply Co., Inc.

McAleer's Plumbing, Heating & A/C, Inc.

Pro Active Sports, Inc.

Starfleet Productions, Inc.

Celebrating 10-19 Years

American Rescue Workers, Inc.

AseraCare Hospice - Altoona

Bellwood-Antis School District

Blair County Convention & Sports

Facilities Authority

Blair Gastroenterology Associates

Canary Labs

Damin Printing Company, LLC

Discovery House Blair County

Effectv

Gearharts Moving & Storage, Inc.

Holiday Financial Services

Iron Masters Country Club

Joe Krentzman & Son, Inc.

K & C Denture Center

J. Kirk Kling, Law Offices

Metzler Brothers Tank, Truck &

Trailer, LLC

The Milky Way

S. Smith Books

Smith's Welding and Fabrication

Snare & Associates Mortgage Services, LLC

Valley Auto Service, Inc.

Window World of Altoona

Celebrating 5-9 Years

Bar's Auto Electric, Radiator & Air Conditioning, Inc.

Bella Lucia, Inc.

Derman Funeral Home, Inc.

The Giorgio Foundation

Groundhog Solar

JW Hoist & Crane, LLC dba Altoona

Hoist & Crane

Keystone Environmental, Health, & Safety
Services, Inc.

Microtel Inn & Suites by Wyndham, Altoona

Second Avenue United Methodist Church

Celebrating 1-4 Years

Bedford Candies

Paula Binus

Royce Ann Boyd

Consolidated CCS

Craig Fencing, Inc.

East Freedom Surgical Associates, LLC

Escape Rooms Altoona

Greenland's Lodge

Hometown Bank of PA

Homevestors dba Freedom Junction Properties

Hoss's Steak & Sea House

PA Simple Cremation

Ronald McDonald House Charities Mid-Penn

Staples - The Office Superstore

Zito Business