

Chamber to Designate November as "Small Business Month"

More than 85% of the Blair County Chamber membership is comprised of small businesses. So it makes perfect sense that the Chamber would designate an entire month to paying tribute to these businesses, especially at a time when a pandemic has made them most vulnerable. That month will be November. The Chamber is planning a variety of programs during the month calling attention to the important role that small businesses play in the Blair County economy. "It's really incumbent upon us to focus attention on these businesses at this critical time," admitted Darin Tornatore, the Chamber's Board Chair. "Many of them have struggled and continue to struggle through no fault of their own." For more information on "Small Business Month," contact Linda Stotler at (814) 943-8151 or email her at lstotler@blairchamber.com.



Congressman Joyce is November's "Breakfast Club" Speaker

What will the results of Election Day mean for the Blair County business community? What will it mean for America? Those are a couple of the questions that Congressman John Joyce will tackle as the speaker at the Chamber's November 12th Breakfast Club, set for 7:45 a.m. at The Casino at Lakemont Park. "As strange as it sounds, the election results may still be inconclusive more than a week after Election Day," acknowledged Chamber President Joe Hurd. "We appreciate the Congressman's willingness to come in and unravel everything." The cost to attend the Breakfast Club is \$20



for Chamber Members and \$30 for non-members. A buffet breakfast is included. To register, call the Chamber at (814) 943-8151 or register online at www.blairchamber.com. Sponsor of the November Breakfast Club is L.R. Webber Associates.

Senator Ward to Speak at Friday's LBC Alumni Breakfast

Senator Judy Ward will be the speaker at the Leadership Blair County Alumni Breakfast, to be held this Friday, October 30th from 7:30 to 9:00 a.m. at The Casino at Lakemont Park. Senator Ward is a graduate of the LBC program. The event will include the presentation of a check from the LBC Alumni to the AASD Free Little Library. Registration for the breakfast is available on the Chamber Website at www.blairchamber.com.

Committee Meetings

Home Garden & Healthy Living Showcase Committee
October 27, 8:30 a.m.
Devorris Center

BASICS Budget Ad Hoc Committee
October 28, 9:00 a.m.
Zoom

Safety Committee
October 28, 3:30 p.m.
Zoom



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Chamber Board Preparing for Strategic Planning Session

The Board of Directors of the Blair County Chamber will participate in a Strategic Planning session on November 4th that will serve as the basis for a new plan for the organization. The session will be facilitated by Dr. Kevin Sensenig of Interaction Dynamics Group. "Like most organizations, the Chamber is going through a transition as the result of changes to various aspects of business and education," remarked Board Chair Darin Tornatore. "Our board



members and staff are looking forward to taking the information that was obtained through our recent member-survey and crafting a plan to move forward."

"Buy Here. Thrive Here." Yard Signs Still Available

The "Buy Here. Thrive Here." message continues to resonate throughout Blair County as more and more consumers are taking a look at effective ways to direct more of their spending dollars to local businesses. If you like the message and want to help keep it in front of people for an extended period of time, the Chamber is happy to provide a yard sign to you to place at your business (or even at your home). If you'd like to access a sign, simply come to the Chamber Office, located in the Devorris Center for Business Development. There is no cost to obtain a sign.



Ribbon Cutting



Slingers Throw House

The Chamber held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for Slingers Throw House, located at 2324 N. Branch Ave., Altoona. Slingers Throw House offers axe throwing entertainment in a safe and unique atmosphere. The Sling Shack party room is perfect for parties, family gatherings and corporate events. Pictured at the ribbon, from left, Nancy McClelland, Chamber Ambassador; Amanda Walker, the office of State Senator Judy Ward; Sgt. Matt Plummer, Altoona Police Department; Mayor Matt Pacifico, City of Altoona; Officer Jon Burns, Altoona Police Department; Shawn Lucas, business partner; Brian Lucas, owner; Glenn Campbell, Altoona Fire Department; Joe Hurd, President/CEO, Blair County Chamber of Commerce; Rob Chathams, Altoona Fire Department; Debbie Eckenrode, Chamber Ambassador.

Don't Underestimate the Power of the Power Card!

If you're a member of the Chamber and your business has goods or services that can be discounted, you won't want to miss the opportunity to place an offer on the Chamber's POWER Card. With more than 40,000 cards in circulation, it's a great way to get your offer directly into the hands of potential customers and gain an extraordinary amount of exposure for your business. You decide what you'd like to offer and the expiration date and simply submit it to Jessie Covert at jcovert@blairchamber.com.



Congratulations!

... to Dr. Zane Gates of Empower3 Center for Health who received the Physician of the Year Award from the Pennsylvania Society of Physician Assistants at the Annual PSPA Conference.

... to LaVonne Falbo of LaVintage Décor who was named president-elect of the Altoona Area Business Community.

BENefact

Membership Directories!

The Chamber has both an online and print directory. Your Chamber membership allows your business listing to appear in both. Be sure to keep your business listing current by advising us of any changes you make to your business name or contact information. Help us make it easy for new customers to find you!