

Still Time to Complete the Job Vacancy Survey

The workforce challenges that our region faces have resulted in the creation of a survey by the Chamber to ascertain how many employees are currently needed for businesses to function effectively. The Job Vacancy Survey can be accessed from the Chamber Website at www.blairchamber.com. It's extremely important that all businesses and organizations, both Chamber members and non-members, complete the survey. It takes only a few minutes to complete and the data that it yields will help us determine a workable strategy.



Prestash to Speak at Thursday's Breakfast Club

Transportation, particularly dealing with roads and bridges, plays a key role in Blair County's economy. Businesses rely on customers having access, travel and tourism relies on visitors being able to move about. So what will the next few months bring in terms of traffic disruptions? To answer that question, Tom Prestash, District Executive of PennDOT District 9, will be the keynote speaker at the next Blair County Chamber "Breakfast Club" on June 10th beginning at 7:45 a.m. at The Casino at Lakemont Park. Prestash's presentation is entitled "Maneuvering Around the Cones." He will outline PennDOT's strategy for completing key highway and bridge projects with as little inconvenience as



Tom Prestash

possible for drivers. The cost to attend the Breakfast Club is \$20 for Chamber members and \$30 for non-members. To register, call the Chamber at (814) 943-8151 or register online at www.blairchamber.com. Corporate sponsor of the June Breakfast Club is ChamberChoice.



Suicide Prevention is Topic of Friday's "Wellness Chat"

Wellness covers a variety of important topics and the Chamber's Workplace Wellness Committee focuses attention on many of those through "Wellness Chats." The next Chat, held virtually this Friday from 8:30 to 9:00 a.m., focuses on individuals that experience depression and suicidal thoughts. The presenter will be Jacque Harpster from UPMC Crisis who will talk about The Columbia Lighthouse Project which helps to identify risk and prevent suicide. There is no cost to Chamber members to attend the Wellness Chats. Non-members can attend for \$10. To register, go to www.blairchamber.com. Sponsor of the Wellness Chat is Healthy Blair County Coalition.

BENefact

Is a re-opening on the books? Celebrating an anniversary or remodel? Did you know Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies aren't just for new businesses? This FREE member benefit can be utilized for any milestone your business is celebrating. Contact Linda at lstotler@blairchamber.com to schedule.

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Informational Program to Be Held on Empower360

The Chamber is holding a series of informational sessions on healthcare options to assist Chamber members in understanding the wealth of opportunities available to employers. The first of those sessions will be held on June 16th from 11:00 a.m. to noon at the Devorris Center for Business Development. Please join us to learn how Empower360 is utilizing ICHRA (Individual Coverage HRA) to save businesses like yours on their healthcare costs. This informative session



features insights and information from Dr. Zane Gates, Empower360 Founder, and Jordan Taradash, Empower360 CEO. There is no cost to attend but registration is strongly encouraged. Simply visit the Chamber Website at www.blairchamber.com.

Leadership Blair County Adult Class to Graduate

The 27th Class of the Chamber's Leadership Blair County Adult program will graduate this Thursday. Graduation ceremonies will be held beginning at 5:00 p.m. at The Casino at Lakemont Park. The 2021 Class consisted of fifteen members. For



more information on Leadership Blair County, contact Gwen Querry at (814) 943-8151 or email her at gquerry@blairchamber.com.

Data Security Roundtable Begins Recruitment Effort



Back in April, the Blair County Chamber's Board of Directors created a Data Security Roundtable to raise awareness of the many security-related threats confronting businesses

of all size. The Roundtable is officially open to any Chamber members that either provide data security or have some interest in the topic. There is no cost to belong. Simply contact Joe Hurd at (814) 943-8151 or email him at jhurd@blairchamber.com.

Leadership Adult Program Accepting Applications for 2022

One of Pennsylvania's most successful adult leadership programs is accepting applications for its 2022 Class. Leadership Blair County will begin its 27th year in August. The program focuses on the concept of Servant Leadership and provides a comprehensive array of

informational sessions that also creates exceptional networking opportunities. Each class is limited to twenty-four participants. To apply, visit the Blair County Chamber Website at www.blairchamber.com. The LBC Adult application deadline is June 30th.



For a stronger business community

Consider a Contribution to the Unity Fund!

The past twelve months have created a boatload of challenges for Blair County businesses. Even with some of the programs provided by the government, money has been tight and businesses have had to make tough decisions to stay financially afloat. To help those businesses, the Chamber established the Unity Fund. The purpose of the Fund is to allow businesses that have reached inactive status with the Chamber to apply for funding of up to 50% of their delinquent dues. If your business is able to help out with a contribution, contact Cindy Cessna at (814) 943-8151 or email her at ccessna@blairchamber.com.

Committee Meetings

Sustainable Blair County Committee
June 8th, 1:30 p.m.
Devorris Center

Attractions/Hotel Roundtable
June 9th, 8:15 a.m.
ArtsAltoona

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Saluting Our Renewals!

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

Celebrating 55 Years

Frye's Sweeper & Sewing Center, Inc.

Celebrating 41-44 Years

Galliker Dairy Company
Frederick Lock & Key, Inc.
Dennis L. Olewine, Contractor

Celebrating 35-40 Years

AgChoice Farm Credit, ACA
Black's Home Sales, Inc.
Tony D. Branda Mustang & Shelby Parts
Carlin & Associates
Kimmen Plumbing & Heating, Inc.
Minetech Engineers, Inc.
Ritchey Well Drilling, Inc.

Celebrating 30-34 Years

Copy-Rite Banner Zone
Cove Forge Behavioral Health System
DeGennaro's Used Cars & Service
Fox 8 /ABC 23 - Peak Media
Gieg Law Offices, LLC
Hollidaysburg Manor Apartments
Link Computer Corporation
New Pig Corporation

Celebrating 20-29 Years

Allegheny Ridge Heritage Area/
Allegh. Ridge Corp.
Altoona Beauty School, Inc.
Altoona Center for Nursing Care
Altoona Water Authority
The Baltimore Life Companies
First Stop Shop, Inc.
Penn State Extension, Blair County Office
E. Merrill Smith Funeral Home, Inc.
Wells Fargo Advisors

Celebrating 10-19 Years

Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC
AseraCare Hospice - Altoona
Blair County Golf & Driving Range
Electric Motor & Supply, Inc.
Empire Communication Systems, Inc.
Genter Enterprises, Inc.
dba Sinking Valley Lawn Care
Intermunicipal Relations Committee COG
Lemme Audiology Associates
Lightner Communications

D.B. Mackey Insurance Agency
Mels Business Systems, Inc. dba MBS Keystone
Pennsylvania Highlands Community College
Society of St. Vincent DePaul -
Altoona-Johnstown
Southern Alleghenies Service
Management Group
UPMC Health Plan - Johnstown Office
US Foods
Zach's Sports and Spirits

Celebrating 5-9 Years

Beauchamp Plumbing & Heating, Inc.
Blair School of Martial Arts, LLC
Coldwell Banker Town & Country Real
Estate/Scott White
Corl-Grove Services, Inc.
Empower 360
Epic Journeys, LLC
Fusco, Riley, Reismeier Financial Group, LLC
The Good Funeral Home, Inc.
Grane Hospice Care
Griffith Family Foundation
HealthCare First Credit Union
Luther Lawn Service, LLC
MacInnis Group, LLC dba PennStress
Mountain View Eye Associates
Outsource Bookkeeping Services, Inc.
dba Liberty Tax Services
Senior Life Altoona
Sylvan Veterinary Hospital
TRS Roofing, Inc.

Celebrating 1-4 Years

Allied Mechanical & Electrical
BrandDemon Strategy+Design
Curry Designs
Elite Office Cleaning
The Film Center
Great Commission Schools
Holiday Pools and Spas
Just Breathe Salt Spa & Yoga Studio, LLC
Merakey
Rita's of Altoona
Roaring Spring Paper Products
Top Hat Chimney Sweeps
Ventura Construction Services, Inc.
John Wolf
Young Life of Central Pennsylvania

Congratulations!

... to Allan Bobb, Machine Room Superintendent and Colin Symons, Furnish Prep Manager, who recently became the first employees invited to the ownership team of American Eagle Paper Mills since the company re-opened in 2003.

... to The EADS Group, which has been recognized by Engineering News-Record as one of the country's 2021 Top 500 Design Firms.

... to NPC, Inc., which received the "Small Business in Caring Award" from the PA Early Learning Investment Commission for its outstanding support of the Claysburg-Kimmel School District.

Farm-City Committee Looking For More Members

The Chamber's Farm-City Committee is instrumental in helping promote the many benefits of agriculture to our Blair County economy. The committee is working on a number of initiatives during 2021 and is hoping that people within the Chamber membership who support agriculture might be willing to serve on the committee. The commitment is not extensive timewise. For more information or to join the committee, contact Stacy Hoover at (814) 943-8151 or email her at shoover@blairchamber.com.



Contact us...

Phone: 814-943-8151

Fax: 814-943-5239

Email: chamber@blairchamber.com

Facebook:

The Blair County Chamber of Commerce

www.blairchamber.com

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