

## Informational Meeting on Hawaii Trip Set for Tomorrow

The Blair County Chamber is traveling to the Hawaiian Islands from January 31st to February 9th of next year. The trip will be done through Swinston Travel and includes small group tours to Oahu, Hawaii and Maui. If your goal is to take an all-encompassing tour to a fabulous place at a perfect time of the year, this tour is for you. An informational meeting on the tour will be held tomorrow, August 31st at 6:15 p.m. at the Devorris Center for Business Development. To attend the meeting, call the Chamber to reserve a seat at (814) 943-8151.



## Friday's "Best Practices" to Address Building Donor Relationships

There are few non-profit businesses that don't rely on some degree of donor support to accomplish their mission. But there are many that fall short of treating their donors with the respect that makes it likely that those donors will stay connected. As president of UPMC Altoona Foundation, Tim Balconi understands the critical donor influence and will share some of his insight at the next "Best Practices Forum," set for this Friday, September 3rd, from 8:15 to 9:45 a.m. at the Devorris Center for Business Development. His presentation is entitled,

"Building Relationships With Your Donors." The cost to attend the Best Practices Forum is \$10 for Chamber members and \$20 for non-members. Corporate sponsor of the Forum is ALSM. To register, contact the Chamber at (814) 943-8151 or register online at [www.blairchamber.com](http://www.blairchamber.com). Space is limited so register today.



TIM BALCONI

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## All-Stars for August Announced

Since sponsorships are such an integral part of the Chamber's ability to offer great events and programs to members, we recognize sponsors each month as "All-Stars." The All-Stars for August are: ABCD Corporation, Berry Solutions Group, Blair Mill Outlet, Blair School of Martial Arts, DQ Grill & Chill, Farmers Insurance-Billie J. Friday Agency, Holland Bros., Inc., Keller Engineers, Inc., KMS Interior Design, Link Computer Corporation, McCartney's Business Products, McQuaide Blasko, Inc., P. Joseph Lehman, Inc. Consulting Engineers, Park Home, Reliance Bank, SCORE and Stiffler, McGraw & Associates.

## Committee Meetings

Young Professionals of Blair County  
September 1st, 8:00 a.m.  
Devorris Center

Data Security Roundtable  
September 1st, 11:00 a.m.  
Devorris Center

Leadership Blair County  
Adult Committee  
September 1st, 3:00 p.m.  
Devorris Center

Public Policy Committee  
September 2nd, 8:00 a.m.  
Devorris Center

# Nominations Now Being Accepted for ACE Award

The Blair County Chamber's Farm-City committee has announced that nominations are now being accepted for the annual Agricultural Community Excellence (ACE) Award. Nominations may be submitted by individuals, organizations, businesses, farm families and/or through self-nomination if desired. The Award began as a continuation to the Chamber's successful "Farm Family of the Year Award" that was initiated in 1970. In addition to farm families, the ACE Award also allows for nominations of agriculturally oriented individuals, agribusinesses and non-profit organizations. You can



download a nomination form on the Chamber's website at [www.blair-chamber.com](http://www.blair-chamber.com). Nominations will be accepted until September 17th. For more information contact the Chamber at 814-943-8151.

## Grant Funding Available to Small Businesses and Farmers

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) announced that \$1 million in 2021 Small Business Advantage Grant funding is available to small businesses and farmers who want to improve their operations through energy efficiency, pollution prevention, and natural resource protection. "Many small business owners with an innovative mindset see the economic opportunity in energy efficiency and sustainability. DEP is committed to assisting small business owners and small farmers in Pennsylvania who want to improve their operations, reduce operating costs, and increase profitability, while helping to improve the natural resources all Pennsylvanians depend on," said DEP Secretary Patrick McDonnell. Pennsylvania small business owners and farmers with 100 or fewer full-time employees can get Small Business Advantage Grants for HVAC and boiler upgrades, high-efficiency LED lighting, solvent recovery and waste recycling systems, auxiliary power units that eliminate truck engine idling, and



other projects that reduce energy use. Grant funding also supports streambank buffers, fencing to keep livestock out of streams, and other agricultural stormwater runoff management projects that reduce sediment and nutrient pollution in local waters. The 2021 Small Business Advantage Grants program has \$1 million available for projects. Small businesses and farms can apply for 50 percent matching funds up to \$5,000. Extra consideration is given to those in Environmental Justice areas. Information on how to apply is available at [www.dep.pa.gov/smallbusinessadvantagegrants](http://www.dep.pa.gov/smallbusinessadvantagegrants).

## Congratulations...

... to Saleme Insurance of Altoona which recently received national recognition for its "Crazy Happens" multi-media advertising campaign. The campaign won Best of Show in the Sales/Marketing/Branding Campaign division at the Insurance Marketing and Communications Association's 2021 Showcase Awards.

... to PS Solutions in Altoona which was recently recognized by Inc. magazine on its annual "Inc. 5,000" list. PS Solutions was the only company in Blair County named to the list.

**SUBSCRIBE**



## New Way to Register to Receive This Newsletter

If you're reading this, there's a pretty good chance that you're already on the list to receive this newsletter on a regular basis. But if you know of someone – Chamber member or not – who might want to receive it, send them to the Chamber Website at [www.blairchamber.com](http://www.blairchamber.com). On the homepage, there is a button that says "click here to subscribe." Once you click you will be sent to a Google form to get information (such as name and email). The person will then be set up to receive NETworks Digital News.

### Did you know?

**The Chamber has an Instagram!**



Follow us @theblair\_chamber



Follow us on Facebook at The Blair County Chamber



## "Steps Challenge" to Begin September 11th

Are you ready for Fall? The Let's Move Blair County and the Workplace Wellness Committee of the Blair County Chamber are conducting the next two-month Steps Challenge for teams, schools, community groups, workplaces, faith-based organizations, and/or individuals. Are you ready to take the next step to help us build a healthy Blair County? The goal this year is to reach 200,000,000 steps as a community! Sign up and you will receive weekly updates to log steps, highlighted snapshots of Blair County that week to visit, motivational tips, and strategies for healthy eating and active lifestyles. Each week, you will be required to report the total number of steps with weekly log-in of activities completed each week. We will email a conversion chart so you can convert into steps your other activities such as tennis, swimming, weightlifting, baseball, running, etc. The challenge runs September 11,



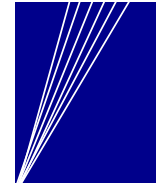
2021 through November 6, 2021. We will acknowledge and present an awesome trophy to the top teams and individual with the most steps as leaders in helping to build a healthier Blair County. Like us on Facebook, check out our [website](#) for the Active Living Brochure, and don't forget to share the challenge with your family, friends, or co-workers to spread the word! We can also provide hard copies of the brochure for your group at no cost.

## Ribbon Cutting LaJo's Italian Sausage



The Chamber held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for LaJo's Italian Sausage located at 1101 8th Ave., Altoona. Founded in 1960, LaJo's has become a well-known authentic Italian market. The store has undergone a recent renovation and has expanded its product line while keeping the original recipes. Pictured at the ribbon, from left, Eva Eagler, Chamber Ambassador; Dave Butterbaugh, Altoona City Council; Alex Seltzer, Blair County Chamber Board of Directors; Christopher Cook, owner; Parker; Ohen; Jennifer Cook, owner; State Senator Judy Ward; and Sherri Stayer, Chamber Ambassador.

## WE-LEaD Schedules "Network in the Park"



The Chamber's WE-LEaD program (Women Encouraging – Leadership, Education and Development) will hold a networking event on September

13th from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. "Network in the Park" will be held in the C2 Trolley House at Lakemont Park. The cost to attend is \$25 for Chamber members and \$35 for non-members. The price includes one complimentary beverage and appetizers. To register, call the Chamber at (814) 943-8151 or register online at [www.blairchamber.com](http://www.blairchamber.com). Corporate sponsor of the event is Morgan Stanley.

## Young Professionals Event to Launch New Initiative

On September 9th, the Young Professionals of Blair County will officially launch a new initiative at a special networking event (Ready to Launch!). Sponsored by Berry Solutions Group, the event will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at U.S. Hotel in Hollidaysburg. The cost of \$15 for members and \$20 for not-yet-members includes appetizers and a drink ticket. There will also be an opportunity to learn more about how young professionals can become part of a membership-based group at a very low cost. Join YP that night and you will also receive a complimentary voucher to attend a Chamber Business After Hours. For more information or to make reservations for the networking event, call the Chamber at (814) 943-8151 or register online at [www.blairchamber.com](http://www.blairchamber.com).