

Chamber Office Closed on Veteran's Day

The Blair County Chamber Office will be closed this Thursday, November 11th, in commemoration of Veteran's Day. The Office will re-open on Friday at 8:30 a.m. To access Chamber information or register for Chamber programs and events while the Office is closed, visit the Chamber Website at www.blairchamber.com.



Farm-City Dinner is Wednesday in East Freedom

The Blair County Chamber of Commerce Farm-City Committee will host its annual Farm-City Dinner this Wednesday, November 10th at Freedom Township Fire Hall, 139 Municipal Street, East Freedom. A milk-punch reception will begin at 6:30 p.m. followed by a lasagna dinner at 7 p.m., courtesy of DelGrosso's. The featured speakers for the evening will be Joe DelGrosso and Amy Mearkle of DelGrosso Foods. The highlight of the evening will be the presentation of the 2021 Blair County Agricultural Community Excellence (ACE) Award. The award is designed to honor individuals, farm families, agribusinesses or agricultural organizations in ac-



knowledge of exceptional contributions to the agricultural industry. This year, the Chamber Farm-City Committee will honor Doug and Veronica Smith of Dry Creek Farm. The deadline to purchase tickets to the event has passed. For desperate attempts to do so anyway, contact Stacy Hoover at (814) 943-8151.

Wingate by Wyndham Altoona to Host Next "Business After Hours"

The next Chamber "Business After Hours" will be held on Thursday, November 18th from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Wingate by Wyndham Altoona, located at 909 Chestnut Avenue. The cost to

attend is \$7 for Chamber members who register by November 10 and then \$10 after that date. Non-members can attend for \$20. To register, visit the Chamber Website at www.blairchamber.com.



Data Security Workshop to Focus on Cyber Attacks

The Chamber's Data Security Roundtable will host a Data Security Workshop on November 17th from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Devorris Center for Business Development. There is also a Zoom option. The workshop is entitled, "Will Your Business Survive a Cyber Attack?" It will include a panel discussion highlighting the Five Functions of the NIST Network, the correct way to prepare-for and react-to a cyber attack. The cost to attend is \$10 for Chamber members and \$20 for non-members. To register, go to www.blairchamber.com. Corporate sponsor of the Data Security Workshop is UDNI.

Congratulations...

... to Michael and Sherry DelGrosso who were honored by Penn State and WPSU with the Fischer Award of Distinction. The award annually recognizes friends, donors, alumni and volunteers who have distinguished themselves through extraordinary service to advance Penn State's Outreach and Online Education.

Altoona Police Chief to Speak at Chamber "Breakfast Club"

Altoona Police Chief Joe Merrill will be the keynote speaker at the next Blair County Chamber "Breakfast Club," set for November 18th at 7:45 a.m. at The Casino at Lakemont Park. Chief Merrill will talk about the challenges and opportunities he sees for the City, the workforce shortages that face the police force and the business community and the importance of creating mutually beneficial relationships between citizens and law enforcement. The cost to attend the Breakfast Club is \$20 for Chamber members and \$30 for non-members. To register, call the Chamber at (814)



Police Chief Joe Merrill

943-8151 or register online at www.blairchamber.com. Corporate sponsor of the November Breakfast Club is DiAndrea Media.

Ribbon Cutting



House to Home

The Chamber held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for House to Home, located at 310 Union Ave., Altoona. House to Home is part of the non-profit Square One Community which is committed to seeing people go from just surviving to thriving through many outreach programs. House to Home are retail locations that sell gently used furniture and home goods. For more information, go to www.sq1.community. On-hand for the ceremony were, from left: Amanda Walker, Chamber Ambassador; Joe Hurd, President/CEO, Blair County Chamber; Vikki and Jeff Long, Graystone Court, Corporate Sponsor; Ryan Peace, Square One Community, Board Member; Cindy Brumbaugh, Store Team Member; Chris Trethewey, Square One Community, Board President; Kim Trethewey, Store Team Member; Mike Hammer, TCC:Element Pastor; Michele Ivory, the office of State Senator Judy Ward; Tara Saltzburg, Chamber Ambassador. Absent from photo: Pam Miller, Miller Home Furniture & Mattress, Corporate Sponsor.



Be a part of the moment. Watch the video [here!](#)

Committee Meetings

BASICS Steering Committee
November 8th
8:00 a.m.
Devorris Center (w/ Zoom option)

Young Entrepreneurs Academy (YEA!) Committee
November 8th
10:30 a.m.
Zoom

Chamber Executive Committee
November 9th
8:30 a.m.
Zoom

Sustainable Blair County Committee
November 10th
1:30 p.m.
Devorris Center

Sponsorship Opportunities Available on Business Insight Page

There are sponsorship opportunities available for any business that would be interested in gaining some great exposure by having its ad on the bottom of the Business Insight Page. That page, exclusively of Chamber news, runs each Monday in the Altoona Mirror. The cost is inexpensive and is a great place to advertise for the upcoming holidays. If you're interested, email Jessie Covert at jcovert@blairchamber.com.

Check out the Business Insight. Click below.



Workplace Wellness Offering Best Practices "Sanity Sessions"

From the committee that brought you "Wellness Chats" comes Best Practices "Sanity Sessions." The Chamber's Workplace Wellness Committee has been hosting Wellness Chats for 30 minutes on the second Friday of each month. Each Chat has addressed some aspect of wellness related to the workplace. The committee decided to commit the last two months of the year to having people share their best practices on some aspect of wellness. "It's been a tough year for everyone," admitted Phyllis Baker, who chairs the Workplace Wellness Committee. "We felt it would be nice to have people share their good thoughts and their frustrations with others, just as sort of a

Sanity Session November 12

cleansing exercise. That's why we're calling it a Sanity Session." The Sanity Sessions will be held from 8:30 to 9:00 a.m. on November 12th and September 10th. Both are on Zoom. There is no cost to Chamber members to participate. Non-members pay \$10. To register and get the Zoom Link, go to www.blairchamber.com.

Informational Program on Ireland Tour Set for November 17th

Now that the Blair County Chamber has moved its Hawaiian Islands Trip (to September 12-22), the first trip in 2022 is to Ireland. That trip is from April 27 – May 6 and is done in partnership with Epic Journeys and Collette Vacations. An informational meeting has been scheduled for November 17th at 6:00 p.m. at the Devorris Center for Business Development. Anyone interested in attending should contact the Chamber at (814) 943-8151. There is no cost or obligation to attend.



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Chamber Members Asked to Update Contact Information

As the Chamber begins the process of compiling information for the 2022 Membership Directory, it's extremely important that you let us know if your contact information is up-to-date. And what to do if it's not! You can review your membership information online at www.blairchamber.com. Go to the Chamber Membership tab and then click on the Member Directory link to find your business listing. Members can make changes directly in the database on the website by going to the Chamber Membership tab and clicking on the Members Only link to log into your membership account or by emailing your changes to Cindy Cessna at ccessna@blairchamber.com.

BENEFact Did you know...

The 2022 **Brand Enhancement Guide** is now available! Now is the time to secure your 2022 sponsorships and receive the 10% package discount! Tons of opportunities are available exclusively to Chamber member businesses. Something for every budget! Contact Jessie at jcovert@blairchamber.com to get a copy emailed to your inbox.

