

Sustainability Workshop is Tomorrow at Devorris Center

The Chamber's Sustainable Blair County Workshop, to discuss ways to help the local business community to better understand and implement sustainable practices, will be held tomorrow from 8:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at the Devorris Center for Business Development. The event will begin with a buffet breakfast, courtesy of Prime Sirloin, at 8:00 a.m. The discussion phase, which will be done in focus groups, will begin at 8:30. There is no cost to attend but participation is limited so registration is required. Contact the Chamber at (814) 943-8151 or register online at www.blairchamber.com.



Friday's Best Practices Forum to Focus on Fundraising

Fundraising as a scholarly field is a relatively new phenomenon. Still, present conditions have led fundraising professionals and market researchers to study the role and function of advancement and development work. That information will serve as the basis of the next Best Practices Forum, scheduled for this Friday, March 4th from 8:15 to 9:45 at the Devorris Center for Business Development. Best Practices Forums are educational programs, done quarterly by the Chamber's Committee of Non-Profit Businesses. The speaker for the next Forum will be Jim Watt, Vice-President of Advancement at Juniata College. He is currently pursuing his PhD in Organizational Leadership Development from Eastern University. His re-



search focuses on leadership and its impact on fundraising, specifically in competitive markets. Watt's combined experience and academic pursuit will be presented in a form that should offer usable best practices that will help impact your organization. The cost to attend the Best Practices Forum is \$10 for Chamber members and \$20 for non-members. To register, visit www.blairchamber.com.

Growing.
Expanding.
Advancing.



Advanced Medicine. Here.

www.phhealthcare.org

Safety Committee to Hold Safety Trivia Night & Networking

The Blair County Chamber's Safety Committee will hold a Safety Trivia Night & Networking event this Thursday, March 3rd from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Zach's Sports & Spirits, 5820 Sixth Avenue in Altoona. Bring your own team or join a team that evening. There will be pizza, salad and a cash bar. No charge for Chamber members; \$10 for non-members. To register, call the Chamber at (814) 943-8151 or register online at www.blairchamber.com. Corporate sponsor of Safety Trivia Night & Networking is Spring Cove Notary & Services.



Looking for good help is hard to find...



JOB BOARD

We just made it easier!

Ribbon Cutting



Super 8

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held for the newly renovated Super 8 located at 3535 Fairway Drive, Altoona. The Super 8, conveniently located off I-99, offers nicely appointed rooms available for booking with daily and weekly rates. Amenities include a wide variety of breakfast items and exercise room. For more information, go to www.wyndhamhotels.com/super-8. Pictured at the ribbon, from left: Nancy McClelland, Chamber Ambassador; Loreen Bencie, the office of U.S. Senator Pat Toomey; Mayor Matt Pacifico, City of Altoona; David Korman, General Manager; Jenny Quarello, Front Desk; Nita Sanders, the office of State Representative Lou Schmitt; and Joe Hurd, President/CEO, Blair County Chamber of Commerce.



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

"Breakfast Club" to Feature Operation Our Town

In what has become a tradition, the Blair County Chamber and Operation Our Town partner each March on a special Breakfast Club program that pays tribute to the many people in the business community and in law enforcement that help keep our county vibrant and safe. This year's Breakfast Club will be held on March 10th beginning at 7:45 a.m. at The Casino at Lakemont Park. Among the presentations that morning will be the awarding of the Community Partnership Award to the Gloria Gates Memorial Foundation. There will also be law enforcement awards presented. District Attorney Peter Weeks and Jim Walstrom will provide an overview of the many accomplishments of Operation Our Town



during 2021. The cost to attend Breakfast Club is \$20 for Chamber members and \$30 for non-members. For reservations, call (814) 943-8151 or register online at www.blairchamber.com. Corporate sponsor of the March Breakfast Club is Durbin Companies.



Presidents' Forum Informational Zoom Meeting Set

The Presidents' Forum, a professional development program for upper-management members of the Blair County Chamber, held an informational meeting last Wednesday as the Chamber hopes to add additional Forum Groups in late spring. Several people who expressed interest in Forum were not able to attend so a Zoom meeting has been scheduled for March 8th at 8:00 a.m. If you are a Chamber member and would like to learn more about the Presidents' Forum, email Joe Hurd at jhurd@blairchamber.com and you will be sent the Zoom link as well as some informational materials.

Congratulations...

... to Kate Kooman Starkey of Kooman & Associates who was recently named to the Forbes Top Women Wealth Advisors Best-In-State list. Kooman Starkey was the only financial professional from Blair County to be recognized.

Save the Date

The highly-anticipated Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield Chamber Golf Classic will be held on Thursday, May 19th at Iron Masters Country Club. To register, contact Stacy Hoover at the Chamber at (814) 943-8151. This event always sells-out so reserve your spot early!

Save This Date Too!

The Blair County Job Fair, co-sponsored by PA CareerLink, the Blair County Chamber and ABCD Corporation will be held on April 13th at the Jaffa Shrine. For more information, contact PA CareerLink Blair County at (814) 940-6200.

Home Garden & Healthy Living Showcase Less Than One Month Away!

The 51st Annual Blair County Home Garden & Healthy Living Showcase continues to sign up exhibitors. If you haven't signed up yet, the time to access prime booth locations is drawing to a close. This is the first-ever Home Garden & Healthy Living Showcase held at the Blair County Convention Center. Even if your business is still catching-up on work that you didn't get to last year, it's important to meet your new customers at this special event. For more information, contact Stacy



Hoover at (814) 943-8151 or email her at shoover@blairchamber.com. The Showcase is a partnership between the Blair County Chamber and the Blair-Bedford Builders Association.

Ribbon Cutting



C&J Rental Management The Columns Banquet Center

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held for the grand-opening celebration of C&J Rental Management—The Columns Banquet Center located at 1206 11th Ave., Altoona. The Columns has undergone a major restoration that has made it a premiere wedding venue and event space. for more information go to www.thecolumnsdowntown.com. Joining the celebration were, from left: Nicole Berrow, Chamber Ambassador; Mayor Matt Pacifico, City of Altoona; Vincent Eilenberger, Facility Coordinator; Parker Cook; Jennifer and Chris Cook, owners; Ohwen Cook; Jesse Ickes, Altoona City Council; Steve McKnight, President/CEO, ABCD Corporation; Joe Hurd, President/CEO, Blair County Chamber of Commerce; and Sherri Stayer, Chamber Ambassador.



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

Chamber Partnering With Moore Power Sales on Sales Program

The Chamber is helping to observe International Woman's Day by partnering with Moore Power Sales on a program called "The Unapologetic Saleswomen." The program is virtual and begins on March 8th at 8:30 a.m. There is no cost to participate. Presenters will be John Moore of Moore Power Sales and Dana Gordon of the Industrial Modernization Center in Williamsport. To register for the program, [click here](#).



Workplace Wellness Survey to Help Businesses Help Employees

Businesses throughout Blair County have struggled to maintain a steady flow of commerce. The employees of those businesses have struggled to either avoid or recover from Covid-19. The Blair County Chamber's Workplace Wellness Committee would like to help employers design programs and events to keep employees healthy while also potentially saving money for the business itself. The Committee has issued a short survey to ascertain what businesses are currently doing to address employee wellness and what they feel is important moving forward. To access the survey, [click here](#).