

August 8, 2022

Senator Ward to Speak at Next Chamber "Breakfast Club"

State Senator Judy Ward will be the keynote speaker at the next Blair County Chamber Breakfast Club, set for Thursday, August 11th beginning at 7:45 a.m. at The Casino at Lakemont Park. The format for the presentation will follow the normal guidelines for elected officials. Chris Michelone, chair of the Chamber's Public Policy Committee, will ask questions to the Senator that were submitted by the committee and by Chamber members. If time permits, the Senator will answer questions from the audience. The cost to attend Breakfast Club is \$20 for Chamber members and \$30 for non-members. To register to attend, call the Chamber at (814) 943-8151 or register online at www.blairchamber.com. Corporate sponsor of the August Breakfast Club is [Stuckey Automotive](#).



Business Excellence Award Nominations End This Friday

The Blair County Chamber of Commerce will present its 20th Lifetime Achievement Award for Business Excellence on October 17th at its annual Business Excellence Dinner. Nominations for that award will be accepted until the end of the business day on August 12th. "This award recognizes a Blair County business leader who has made a substantial impact on our business community for an extended period of time," explained Richard Fiore, Jr., chair of the Chamber's Board of Directors. "This event was created solely to pay tribute to just that one person."



The first recipient of the award, in 2001, was the late Ernie Wissinger. The most recent recipient, chosen in 2020 but not recognized until 2021 due to Covid-19, was Mark Barnhart of NPC. Nomination forms are available at www.blairchamber.com.

Women's Golfing Event is Next Tuesday!

Business women looking for ways to effectively network on the golf course and impress your golf group at the same time, take notice! The WE-LEaD Committee of the Blair County Chamber is holding an event called "Teeing It Up" next Tuesday August 16th from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. at Blair County Golf & Driving Range in Hollidaysburg. The event will feature hands-on instruction from John Madey and his staff on how to drive the ball farther and in the desired direction. It will also feature a great buffet meal from Holland Brothers and a variety of beverages from Levity Brewing. The cost is just \$35 for Chamber members and \$45 for non-members. Corporate sponsor of Teeing It Up is [Seltzer Financial Strategies](#). To register, call the Chamber at (814) 943-8151 or register online at www.blairchamber.com. Bring your own clubs or borrow some from the range!

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Chamber to Host River Cruise in August, 2023

The Blair County Chamber of Commerce, in cooperation with Epic Journeys, will be hosting a Rhine and Moselle Rivers trip, August 27 – September 4, 2023. The itinerary includes a 7-day river cruise with stops in Amsterdam, as well as, Cologne, Germany; Strasbourg, France and Basel, Switzerland and more. Ground transportation from Altoona to the airport is included in the trip. An informational meeting will be held on August 24 at 6 p.m. at the Devorris Center for Business Development, 3900 Industrial Park Dr.,



Altoona. There is no obligation or cost to attend. To register, call the Chamber at 814-943-8151 or register online at www.blairchamber.com.

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Ribbon Cutting



Innovative Extracts

The Chamber held a ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating the grand opening of Innovative Extracts located at 210 1/2 Allegheny Street, Hollidaysburg. Innovative Extracts is a veteran-owned business that takes pride in producing high-quality natural CBD products that exceed industry standards from crops grown on their farm in Portage. For more information go to www.ie-cbd.com. Pictured at the ribbon, from left, Amanda Walker, Chamber Ambassador; Jessie Covert, VP-Sales and Membership Development, Blair County Chamber of Commerce; Christian Strayer, Associate Store Manager; Matthew Sinosky, Co-owner; Vince Golden, Owner; Seth Sunseri, Wholesale Manager; Andy Golden, Owner/Manager; State Senator Judy Ward; and Jessica Sheets, Chamber Ambassador.



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

Submitted a Nomination For the ACE Award Yet?

The [Farm-City Committee](#) of the Blair County Chamber has announced that nominations are now being accepted for the 2022 Agricultural Community Excellence (ACE) Award. The award allows for nominations of agriculturally-oriented individuals, agribusinesses and non-profit organizations that make a positive impact on agriculture in Blair County. The ACE Award will be presented on November 2nd at the Chamber's Farm-City Dinner. To access a nomination form, contact the Chamber at (814) 943-8151 or visit the Chamber website at www.blairchamber.com. The deadline to nominate is September 2, 2022.

*Agricultural
Community
Excellence*
AWARD



LBC Alumni to Raise Funds For Children

The [Leadership Blair County Alumni Association](#), a committee of the Blair County Chamber, will be launching a campaign called "Hope for Families" that will raise funds to purchase bedding as well as accepting bedding donations for needy children. This initiative replaces Basket of Hope. Bedding donations should include new bedding (pillows, pillow cases, comforters, sheets, blankets or even a complete bedding set) in neutral colors and gender neutral prints – twin size only. Monetary donations will be ac-



cepted with 100% used toward the purchase of bedding. The campaign goal is to provide bedding for 125 children, ages 5-16. Donations can be dropped off at the Chamber Office on August 29, 30, 31 and September 1 and 2 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Save the Date: Home Run for Safety Set for September 7th

One of the region's most popular events is returning in September. The "Home Run for Safety" will be held at PNG Field on September 7th from 7:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. The event is hosted by the Blair County Chamber's Safety Committee in association with the Altoona Curve. Keynote speaker is Tony Samento, president of Samento Industrial Training Systems in Mechanicsburg, PA. There will be Safety Stations on topics like CPR/First Aid, Emergency Action Plans, Fire Safety, Electrical Safety, Incident Management and Ticks/Lantern Fly. There will also be vendor booths. Businesses can become vendors by contacting Stacy Hoover at (814) 943-8151 or emailing her at shoover@blairchamber.com. The cost to attend Home Run for Safety is \$20 for Chamber members and \$30 for non-members if registered



by August 19th. After August 19th it goes to \$30 for Chamber members and \$40 for non-members. To register, visit www.blairchamber.com. Breakfast sponsor for the event is Care Smart Solutions.

Congratulations...

... to [Sheetz, Inc.](#) which was named as one of the "Companies that Care" by Great Place to Work and PEOPLE Magazine. This is the second time in three years that Sheetz has earned this national ranking.

FoundationFACT \$112,000+...

funds raised by the [LBC Alumni Association](#), which was incorporated into the [Chamber Foundation](#) in 2008, to provide educational programs for alumni and charitable contributions that directly support the Blair County community.

Cyber Security Roundtable to Host Networking Event

The Chamber's Cyber Security Roundtable will host a networking event on August 25th from 5:30 to 7:30 at Zach's Sports & Spirits in Altoona. "We're inviting anyone who handles cyber security at a business or anyone who has an interest in discussing the many challenges associated with protecting data," explained Zach Beckel of UDNI, who chairs the Roundtable. The event is called, "Bits, Bytes & Brews." There is no cost to attend – all food and drink is the responsibility of the attendees. No need to register either. Just show up!! Direct questions to Joe Hurd at (814) 943-8151 or email to jhurd@blairchamber.com.



Committee Meetings

Young Entrepreneurs Academy Committee

August 8th
10:30 a.m.
Devorris Center

BASICS Steering Committee

August 8th
2:00 p.m.
Devorris Center

Chamber Ambassadors

August 9th
8:00 a.m.
Devorris Center

Attractions/Hotel Roundtable

August 10th
8:15 a.m.
Quality Inn Altoona