

May 11, 2020

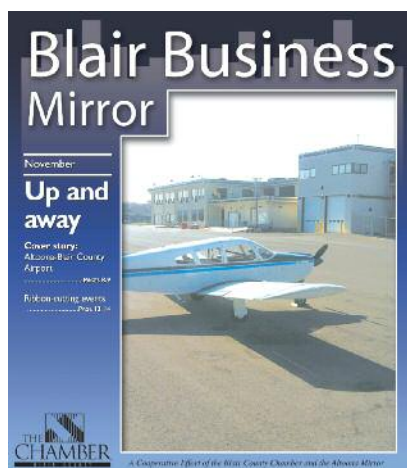
## Perseverance is paying off

Blair County moves to "yellow"



## Blair Business Mirror On a Brief Hiatus

The most recent issue of the *Blair Business Mirror* was published in March. The challenges caused by the Coronavirus made it difficult for businesses to be available for feature story interviews. Those challenges also caused the cancellation of many Chamber programs and events that would have been the basis of other feature stories in the *Blair Business Mirror*. So the decision was made by the Altoona Mirror and the Chamber to cancel future issues until August. In the meantime, the Chamber and the Mirror will meet to discuss any format changes to the publication. The *Blair Business Mirror* has been



published for nearly two decades. It has been a great way for people in Blair County to learn more about our outstanding business community.

## Chamber Signs Letter Endorsing Assistance For Non-Profits

The Blair County Chamber joined civic groups, trade associations and other non-profits from across the country in asking the U.S. Congress to extend eligibility for the Paycheck Protection Program to all non-profit organizations when Congress considers the next Covid-19 emergency assistance legislation. Thousands of non-profit organizations – including ours – were left out of the Phase 3 CARES Act.

CARES  
.....  
PPP



## Committee Meetings

BASICS Steering Committee  
May 11th, 8:00 a.m.  
Zoom

Sustainable Blair County  
May 13th, 1:30 p.m.  
Zoom



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The Blair County  
Chamber of Commerce

## Update on May Events and Programs

The status for our May Chamber Calendar is listed below:

•Young Professionals CEO Panel Event	May 7th	Postponed to Sept.
•Leadership Blair County Youth Graduation	May 13th	TBD
•Chamber Breakfast Club	May 14th	Cancelled
•Young Entrepreneurs Academy Graduation	May 18th	Postponed to Aug. 4
•Executive Roundtable	May 20th	Still On (Zoom)
•Business Before Hours	May 27th	Postponed (TBD)
•Public Speaking Workshop	May 28th	Postponed to 2021
•Business After Hours	May 28th	Postponed (TBD)

## Have You Posted Your Signage Yet?

By now, all of our Chamber members should have received an email with two attachments that contain very important messages. One, for those who have been permitted to remain open, says "Still Here – and Ready For the Next Challenge"; the other, for those who have been mandated to close but are now being permitted to reopen, says "We're Back – Determined to Be Better Than Ever." If you have not received the email containing the attached messages, contact Joe Hurd at [jhurd@blairchamber.com](mailto:jhurd@blairchamber.com). If you've already posted one of the signs at your business, take a photo and send it to Linda Stotler at [lstotler@blairchamber.com](mailto:lstotler@blairchamber.com). We'll let others share in your happiness!



## Business Excellence Dinner Rescheduled to October 19th

One of the Chamber's most prestigious recognition events has experienced a date change. The Business Excellence Dinner, which had been scheduled for June 22nd has been moved to October 19th. The venue stays the same – The Casino at Lakemont Park. This year's honoree of the Lifetime Achievement Award for Business Excellence is Mark Barnhart, the CEO of NPC, Inc.



## Open For Business

### Let the Chamber Know That You're "Open For Business"

As businesses begin to re-open, it's important that we are able to offer both assistance and support. So the Chamber Website now includes a special section called "Open For Business." This is a member's only section and we invite members to let us know when they've opened and any special plans they have to put a little bit of emphasis on returning to active status! Send your "Open For Business" information to Linda Stotler at [lstotler@blairchamber.com](mailto:lstotler@blairchamber.com).

### Is Now the Time to Join a Chamber Committee?

With efforts being made to hold at least periodic committee meetings virtually, now might be a good time for Chamber members who haven't been able to attend committee meetings in the past to now consider joining a Chamber committee. A description of those committees is in the center section of the Chamber's Membership Directory as well as on the Chamber Website. Anyone who would like to be added to a Chamber committee should email Joe Hurd at [jhurd@blairchamber.com](mailto:jhurd@blairchamber.com).

# bizX Trade Show Postponed Until 2021

The 3rd Annual bizX trade show, which had been scheduled for September, will not take place in 2020. The Blair County Chamber and the Chamber of Business & Industry of Centre County, who partnered on the show, mutually agreed to cancel this year's event. "With the uncertainty associated with Covid-19, it made little sense to plan a show that would likely have a number of restrictions tied to it," explained Chamber President Joe Hurd. "We look forward to working with the CBICC in 2021."



## CONGRATULATIONS

... to Don DeLozier, owner of the U.S. Hotel and Prime Sirloin, who became the first person to sign the "Voices of Blair County" banner last Wednesday. That banner, co-sponsored by the Chamber and donated by Lamar Advertising, was taken to Harrisburg by State Representative Jim Gregory to let people in Harrisburg know that Blair County is strong and committed to getting back on its feet.

## SUCCESS STORIES!

★ Saleme Insurance in Altoona responded to a tip that the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul was in need of drinks for those being fed at the local food pantry. The business created a fund to help those in need and recently presented a check to Sister Paula for \$1,000 to purchase water. With the help of employees and an offer by Erie Insurance to match a portion of donations, Saleme Insurance intends to donate to other organizations as well.

★ Several Veeder-Root teams, recognizing the need to support local healthcare networks, pitched-in to create intubation shields and 3D printed masks. The equipment has offered a little peace-of-mind to people in these unprecedented times.

★ Blair County Farm Bureau coordinated a Free Milk Giveaway on March 9th at DelGrosso's Amusement Park parking lot. They gave away 3,800 gallons of milk.

★ The Lakemont Lions Club donated 25 pizzas and sodas to employees at UPMC Altoona.

## BENefact

Chamber Membership can save you money.

For May, we are highlighting BRANDbytes. This member's only benefit allows Chamber member businesses to place a full page ad in the NETWORKS DIGITAL NEWS email newsletter the first Monday of the month of your choosing. This member benefit places your brand and message directly into nearly 4,000 inboxes! Both Preferred Placement and Standard Placement are available. Utilize this cost effective benefit by emailing Jessie at [jcovert@blairchamber.com](mailto:jcovert@blairchamber.com).

**[Click here for a complete list of benefits exclusive for Chamber Members.](#)**

For business resources and news go to [www.blairchamber.com](http://www.blairchamber.com)