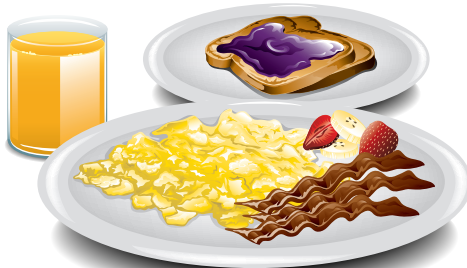


Stuckey to Speak at July "Breakfast Club" Event

After its maiden voyage into the Zoom world, the Blair County Chamber's monthly "Breakfast Club" returns to its original format on July 9th at The Casino at Lakemont Park. Matt Stuckey of Stuckey Automotive will be the keynote speaker. Stuckey will provide an overview of the Chamber's Buy Here. Thrive Here. initiative which encourages businesses and consumers to buy products and services from local companies to keep more dollars being spent and re-spent in the county. Similar to the Buy Here. Live Here. program that the Chamber launched six years ago, Buy Here. Thrive Here. has a much greater sense of urgency due to the many local businesses that have been struggling to get back on their feet as the result of Covid-19. The cost to attend the Breakfast Club, which begins at 7:45 a.m., is \$20 for Chamber Members and \$30 for non-members. To register, call the Chamber at (814) 943-8151 or register online. Corporate sponsor of the event is Park Home/Park Security.



July 9

Buy Here. Thrive Here. Official Kickoff Set for July 13th

Even though the Chamber will have already hyped its "Buy Here. Thrive Here." initiative at the July Breakfast Club, it's stepping-up its game on July 13th with a media blitz to remind people in Blair County of the importance of buying products and services from local businesses. "You'll see and hear a lot about Buy Here. Thrive Here. on that day and for the next few months," admitted Linda Stotler, the Chamber's VP of Communication and Marketing. Our business sponsors and media partners have played significant roles in helping to advance this important message." More spon-



sorship dollars are still needed to help sustain the program. If you're a business or individual who would like to help with Buy Here. Thrive Here., contact Joe Hurd at (814) 943-8151 or email him at jhurd@blairchamber.com.

Chamber Makes Retention Effort High Priority

It's been a tough few months for Blair County businesses. While both the federal and state government have provided some financial assistance, it has still been difficult for businesses to resume some degree of "normal." The Blair County Chamber understands those struggles and wants to help any Chamber members who may not be able to renew their memberships by the renewal date. "We never want to lose a member because of their inability to pay," explained Chamber Board Chair Darin Tornatore. "We're willing to look at ways to help that member stay connected." Any member who would like to discuss any issues related to membership renewal should contact Joe Hurd at (814) 943-8151.

Registered for Chamber Golf Classic Yet?

The Highmark/Chamber Golf Classic is still nearly two months away but the number of available golfing spots is dwindling. Don't be one of those golfers who waits until the last minute and misses out on a great event! To register as a golfer or a volunteer, contact Stacy Hoover at 943-8151. If you'd like to be considered for one of the remaining sponsorships or to reserve a tee-and-green sign, contact Jessie Covert at that same number.

Chamber Welcomes Two Interns

Through the years, the Chamber's marketing effort has been able to get an extra boost, thanks to a talented array of interns from higher education. In most cases, the Chamber has one intern each summer. This summer, however, with so many new programs on the drawing board and so many other programs postponed until the fall, the need for extra help necessitated bringing-in two. "We're very fortunate to have found two outstanding young people with great skills and even greater enthusiasm," explained Chamber VP Linda Stotler, who interviews and selects the interns. The two interns are Dayton Grassmyer of Altoona, a student at Duquesne University and



Dominick Frucella of Duncansville, a student at Penn State Altoona. For more information on the Chamber Internship Program, contact Linda Stotler at lstotler@blairchamber.com.

Trial Membership Catching the Attention of Prospective Members

If Covid-19 taught the Blair County Chamber one lesson in particular it is that the more businesses involved in meeting significant challenges head-on, the more can be accomplished. Toward that end, the Chamber is offering a free trial membership to any non-member business that would like to experience what the Chamber is all about. "We've already got a great membership base," acknowledged Chamber President Joe Hurd. "But our current members, especially in troubled times, are responsible for carrying the entire business community. We'd like to be able to re-distribute the load to a larger number of participants." Trial members will have the opportunity to learn about the organization and will be able to take part in programs and

events at member rates. "There are still some members-only benefits that aren't included in the trial offer," Hurd pointed out. "We're hoping at the end of the trial period (of up to six months), that the business will see the many advantages of being a Chamber member and will sign-on for full membership status. If they don't choose to do that, then they're under no obligation to stay involved." Any business interested in trial membership should call Hurd at (814) 943-8151 or email him at jhurd@blairchamber.com.



Leadership Adult Applications Are Available for 2021 Class



Applications are being accepted for the 27th class of the Chamber's Leadership Blair County Adult program. The deadline to apply is July 30th. "Despite the challenges associated with Covid-19, there continues to be great enthusiasm for both Leader-

ship Adult and Leadership Youth," explained the Chamber's Judy Juda, who oversees both programs. "We're anticipating a healthy number of applicants and look forward to another great class." To apply for the 2021 LBC program, call the Chamber at 943-8151 or download an application from the Chamber Website at www.blairchamber.com.

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Congratulations...

... to the United Way of Blair County's Family Resource Center which announced that it will again be doing the "Stuff the Bus Campaign" to help children in our area who wouldn't otherwise be able to afford school products and materials. Anyone willing to help with the campaign should call (814) 317-5567, ext. 405