

Highmark/Chamber Golf Classic is Thursday at Iron Masters

Despite the fact that the Chamber needed to change the date of the event on two different occasions, the Highmark/Chamber Golf Classic is not only happening this Thursday, it's happening with a full complement of golfers. The Chamber will welcome 144 golfers and a host of volunteers to Iron Masters Country Club for a day of networking, good food and drink as well as light competition on what promises to be a day of sunshine and blue skies. The Chamber's Golf Committee did a fabulous job in pulling this event together and it especially thanks the following businesses that have stepped-up as sponsors: Premier Sponsor: Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield, Lunch/Dinner Sponsor: PSECU, Ball Sponsor: Curry Fluid Power, Photo Sponsor: Jersey Mike's Subs, Comfort Cart Sponsors: Doing Better Business, Siffler McGraw and Blair County Planning Commission, Tee/Green Sponsors: Altoona-Blair County Development Corporation, Allegheny Lutheran Social Ministries, ARM Group, LLC, Arrow Land Solutions, Berry Solutions Group, Blair Companies, Blair County Planning Commission (WalkWorks), Crossroads Physical Therapy and Rehab, Inc., Crystal Springs, Curry Designs, Debbie Eckenrode, Farmers Insurance, E.B. Endress, Encompass Health, First National Bank of PA, Garvey Manor, Haberstroh, Sullivan & George, LLP, Harry's Construction Kitchen and Bath Design Center, Hometown Bank of Pennsylvania, IPI Security, Irwin Financial, Keller Engineers, Inc., Keystone Payroll, Keystone Environmental, Leonard S. Fiore, L.R. Kimball, Lung Disease Center of Central PA, McCartney's Business Products, Okonak, Dean & Lechner, PC Works Plus, PennCrest BANK, Penn State Altoona, Premier Pest Control and Lawn Care, Reliance Bank, Roberts Oxygen, Seltzer Financial Strategies, Sheetz Inc., Splish Splash Car Wash, Spring Cove Container, Stiffler McGraw, Stuckey Automotive, The Health Insurance Place, UPMC Altoona, Ward Transport & Logistics Corp., Young, Oakes, Brown & Company, P.C. and Zito Business.



Elected Officials Asked by Chamber to Support Liability Protections

U.S. Senators Robert Casey and Patrick Toomey and U.S. Representative John Joyce were contacted by Blair County Chamber President Joe Hurd and asked to support the SAFE TO WORK Act, which is included in the U.S. Senate's

newest Covid-19 response legislation. The act would provide targeted, temporary and much-needed liability protections to businesses, schools and other entities that are following public health protocols.



Outdoor Trade Show Another Opportunity for Business Revival

The "Buy Here. Thrive Here." initiative continues to create opportunities to help local businesses get back on their feet. From a widespread media campaign to a gift card purchasing program aimed at helping bars and restaurants, BHTH is in high-gear and getting set for the next great opportunity. The opportunity will take place on Friday, September 11th. From 4:00 to 8:00 p.m., the Chamber and Lakemont Park will partner on an outdoor trade show and community stress-free event, guaranteed to start everyone's weekend on a high note. There will be food trucks, music and access to local businesses selling products and providing information. For a small fee, businesses can reserve display tables or areas to set-up tents inside and outside park pavilions. For more information, contact the Chamber at (814) 943-8151.

BENefact

Chamber members will have their business listing appear in both the annual print directory and the online directory. This is a great way to reach thousands of potential customers!

WE-LEaD Webinar to Focus on Board Service

Serving on a board of directors can be satisfying, career-building or potentially litigious, depending on a variety of factors. To provide perspectives on board service, the Chamber's WE-LEaD Committee will present a free webinar on August 19th from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. Entitled, "Taking Your Seat at the Director's Table," the program will feature a panel discussion format. Panelists are: Becky Stevens of Morgan Stanley Wealth Management, Sara Fiore-Gunnett of



Leonard S. Fiore, Inc. and Jackie Lantzky of CNB Bank. Although the webinar is free, participants must register to receive the link. To register, go to www.blairchamber.com.

Young Professionals to Host CEO Panel Discussion

Why should young professionals in Blair County commit to living and working in the county for the long haul? That will be the basis of a panel discussion hosted by the Young Professionals of Blair County on September 10th beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Blair County Convention Center in Altoona. The panel discussion is expected to last 45-60 minutes and will be followed by a networking reception featuring light hors d'oeuvres. The panel consists of Ann Benzel of Benzel's Bretzel Bakery, Andrea Cohen of Blair Companies, Jim Kilmartin of Pinnacle Cleaning and Center City Church, and Matt Stuckey



of Stuckey Automotive. Moderating the panel discussion will be Steve McKnight, President/CEO of Altoona-Blair County Development Corporation. The cost to attend the panel discussion is \$15/person. To register, contact the Chamber at 943-8151 or [register on-line](http://register-online). Corporate sponsor of the event is CNB Bank.

Turn Your Generosity Into Dividends for Your Own Business!

The Chamber's effort to help local bars and restaurants stay financially afloat during a difficult time is gaining momentum as more businesses recognize the need to assist one another by participating in the "Eat. Drink. Help." Initiative. As an offshoot of Buy Here. Thrive Here., this new program incentivizes businesses to purchase gift cards from bars and restaurants in exchange for ad space in the Chamber's weekly newsletter. The purchasing businesses must be Chamber members



but the bars and restaurants are not required to be. For more information on how to participate in Eat. Drink. Help., visit the Chamber Website at www.blairchamber.com and click on the Buy Here. Thrive Here logo.



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Congratulations...

... to Freedom Excursions by Scully which has been certified ASSURClean by the United Motorcoach Association. Freedom Excursions is participating and trained in addressing SARS-Co V2 prevention strategies and continues to monitor federal regulations and public health guidelines.

... to Mount Aloysius College, which for the 13th consecutive year, has been recognized as a College of Distinction. That designation indicates that they meet or exceed standards in student engagement, teaching, community and outcomes.

Committee Meetings

LBC Alumni Committee
August 17, 2:00 p.m.
Zoom

Digital Roundtable
August 18, 1:30 p.m.
Zoom

LBC Youth Committee
August 19, 3:30 p.m.
Zoom

"Chamber Chat" Will Help Employers Deal With Wellness Issues

Among the many challenges created for businesses by Covid-19 are those which threaten employee health. To bring specific health issues to the forefront, the Chamber's Workplace Wellness Committee will debut a new initiative called "Chamber Chat," which will provide periodic Zoom programs with expert presenters and the opportunity for attendees to ask questions and share best practices. The first of seven "Chats" will take place on September 25th from 8:30 to 9:00 a.m. "We've limited them to a half-hour so that employers and employees can gain some good insight without tying-up a significant amount of work time," explained Phyllis Baker of Blair Regional YMCA, who co-chairs the committee with Courtney Seidel of Stiffler McGraw. "There is no cost to



participate." Among the six topics will be: Mental Wellness, Exercise, Employee Assistance, Nutrition, Insurance and Attitude. The dates of the Chamber Chats are: September 25th, October 9th and 23rd, November 6th and 20th and December 4th and 18th. To register for the September 25th program, [click here](#) or call the Chamber.

"Bourbon, Bridles & Bluegrass Added to 2021 Chamber Trips

As the Chamber optimistically prepares its travel program for 2021, it will begin the year with an exciting trip to several destinations within the United States. On April 23-30, the trip will be "Bourbon, Bridles and Bluegrass," which begins with a flight to Louisville, Kentucky; includes visits to Lexington; Asheville, North Carolina and Chattanooga, Tennessee; and finishes-up in Nashville prior to flying home. That trip will be done with a partnership between the Chamber,



Ketrow KURTZ Travel and Globus. There will be an informational webinar on September 17th from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. To register for the webinar, [click here](#).

Little Free Libraries Initiative Runs Through August 28th



The Chamber's Leadership Blair County Alumni is assisting the Altoona Area School District in creating Little Free Libraries in eight elementary school neighborhoods. Books should be targeted to children between the ages of

five and eleven. They can be new or gently used. Monetary donations will be used to purchase books through participating vendors at reduced prices. Books can be dropped off at the Chamber Office between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. from August 3rd to August 28th. Checks can be made payable to the Blair County Chamber Foundation.

Chamber Inviting Applications for VP Position

The Chamber is beginning the application process for the position of Vice-President of Programming and Membership Education. The fulltime position is available due to the upcoming retirement of longtime Chamber VP Juda Juda who is currently working part-time and will be officially retired at the end of December. Her replacement will begin in September and will work with Judy on programs and events, most particularly on the Leadership Blair County Adult and Youth programs, which are integral parts of the VP position. Interested applicants should email resumes and cover letters to jhurd@blairchamber.com.

Do You Know a Young Person With a Business Idea?

It's no secret that the best recipe for a successful community continuing to grow is for its businesses to be created and cultivated close to home. That recipe was the motivation for the Blair County Chamber's willingness to start a Young Entrepreneurs Academy (YEA!) program. The program will begin its fifth year in October and the application process for interested students has already begun. To apply, go to the Chamber Website at www.blairchamber.com and click on "Events and Programs."

