

June 14, 2021

Job Vacancy Survey Deadline Approaching

The workforce challenges that our region faces have resulted in the creation of a survey by the Chamber to ascertain how many employees are currently needed for businesses to function effectively. The Job Vacancy Survey can be accessed from the Chamber Website at www.blairchamber.com. It's extremely important that all businesses and organizations, both Chamber members and non-members, complete the survey. It takes only a few minutes to complete and the data that it yields will help us determine a workable strategy. Deadline to complete the survey is this Friday, June 18th.



Informational Program to Be Held on Empower360

The Chamber is holding a series of informational sessions on healthcare options to assist Chamber members in understanding the wealth of opportunities available to employers. The first of those sessions will be held this Wednesday, June 16th from 11:00 a.m. to noon at the Devorris Center for Business Development. Please join us to learn how Empower360 is utilizing ICHRA (Individual Coverage HRA) to save businesses like yours on their healthcare costs. This informative session features insights and information from Dr. Zane Gates, Empower360



Founder, and Jordan Taradash, Empower360 CEO. There is no cost to attend but registration is strongly encouraged. Space is limited. Simply visit the Chamber Website at www.blairchamber.com.



Foundation Board Meets Wednesday

The Board of Directors of the Blair County Chamber Foundation meets this Wednesday at 8:00 a.m. at the Devorris Center. The Foundation Board will be kicking-off the Scholarship Program recruitment effort that raises funds for the Leadership Blair County Youth program. For additional information on the Foundation, contact Cindy Cessna at (814) 943-8151 or email her at ccessna@blairchamber.com.

Epic Pyrotechnics LLC
NEW CONSUMER FIREWORKS STORE
NOW OPEN MONDAY - SATURDAY 10AM - 9PM
SUNDAY 10AM - 2PM
814.317.5225
RT. 22 & SPRING STREET, HOLLIDAYSBURG, PA

BENEFact

Is a re-opening on the books? Celebrating an anniversary or remodel? Did you know Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies aren't just for new businesses? This FREE member benefit can be utilized for any milestone your business is celebrating. Contact Linda at lstotler@blairchamber.com to schedule.

HIRING?
POST IT ON OUR
JOB BOARD!
blairchamber.com/job-board

A photograph of a diverse group of professionals, including a woman in a hard hat, a woman in a lab coat, a man in a blue jumpsuit, and a man in a suit, standing together.

Chamber's Unity Fund Gets First Contributions

The Membership Committee of the Blair County Chamber created a Unity Fund to help businesses impacted by Covid-19 to return to active status in the Chamber. Now three businesses represented on that Membership Committee have been the first to contribute to the fund. Manpower of Altoona, Park Home and Jersey Shore State Bank have each pledged \$500 to get the ball rolling so that Chamber members that need assistance can begin submitting applications. "Our committee is convinced that the Unity Fund is a viable way to allow Chamber members to continue to enjoy the benefits of membership," explained Alex Seltzer of Manpower.



The strength of the Chamber has always been the willingness of businesses to work together and help one another if that time comes. For many, that time has come." Anyone willing to make a contribution of any amount to the Unity Fund should contact Joe Hurd at (814) 943-8151. Chamber members who would like to apply for help through the fund can do so through the Chamber Website at www.blairchamber.com.

Chamber Board of Directors to Review Strategic Planning Progress

When the Blair County Chamber's Board of Directors meets this Thursday at 7:30 a.m. at the Devorris Center, one of its agenda items will be to review the progress being made toward the goals set in the organization's Strategic Business Plan. "Since the full board will not meet again until September, it's important that we provide some input to the staff to keep us on pace with the initiatives we're hoping to accomplish," explained Board Chair Richard Fiore, Jr. "Many of those initiatives deal with membership develop-



ment, an important part of keeping our members engaged in the many challenges facing business today." Anyone who would like to address the Board should contact Joe Hurd by Tuesday at noon at (814) 943-8151.

Leadership Adult Program Accepting Applications for 2022

One of Pennsylvania's most successful adult leadership programs is accepting applications for its 2022 Class. Leadership Blair County will begin its 27th year in August. The program focuses on the concept of Servant Leadership and provides a comprehensive array of

informational sessions that also creates exceptional networking opportunities. Each class is limited to twenty-four participants. To apply, visit the Blair County Chamber Website at www.blairchamber.com. The LBC Adult application deadline is June 30th.



For a stronger business community

Consider a Contribution to the Unity Fund!

The past twelve months have created a boatload of challenges for Blair County businesses. Even with some of the programs provided by the government, money has been tight and businesses have had to make tough decisions to stay financially afloat. To help those businesses, the Chamber established the Unity Fund. The purpose of the Fund is to allow businesses that have reached inactive status with the Chamber to apply for funding of up to 50% of their delinquent dues. If your business is able to help out with a contribution, contact Cindy Cessna at (814) 943-8151 or email her at ccessna@blairchamber.com.

Committee Meetings

BASICS Steering Committee
June 14th, 8:00 a.m.
Penn Highlands Community College

Home Garden & Healthy Living
Showcase Committee
June 15th, 8:30 a.m.
Devorris Center

Chamber Golf Committee
June 15th, 4:00 p.m.
Devorris Center

Leadership Blair County
Youth Committee
June 16th, 3:30 p.m.
Devorris Center

Welcome New Members...

The Chamber welcomed its newest members at Breakfast Club held June 10.



Pictured, from left: Kristy Knouse, **Defiant Distillery** and **ReKlaimed Vines Winery**; Kate McKnight, **Frick/Ketrow Insurance Agency**; Cory Gehret, Blair County Chamber Board of Directors.

Congratulations!

... to Ward Transport and Logistics which last week celebrated its 90th year in business.

Farm-City Committee Looking for More Members

The Chamber's Farm-City Committee is instrumental in helping promote the many benefits of agriculture to our Blair County economy. The committee is working on a number of initiatives during 2021 and is hoping that people within the Chamber membership who support agriculture might be willing to serve on the committee. The commitment is not extensive timewise. For more information or to join the committee, contact Stacy Hoover at (814) 943-8151 or email her at shoover@blairchamber.com.

Ribbon Cutting



Epic Pyrotechnics Fireworks

The Blair County Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating the grand-opening of the new retail location of Epic Pyrotechnics Fireworks located at 1211 Blair Street in Hollidaysburg. Epic Pyrotechnics Fireworks is a professional fireworks company that offers unique displays for a variety of events. The new retail location features an extensive assortment of consumer products. Pictured at the ribbon, from left: Sherri Stayer, Chamber Ambassador; Todd Covert, co-owner; Jake Simonis, co-owner; Amanda Walker, the office of State Senator Judy Ward; and Nancy McClelland, Chamber Ambassador.

Data Security Roundtable Recruitment Effort Continuing

Back in April, the Blair County Chamber's Board of Directors created a Data Security Roundtable to raise awareness of the many security-related threats confronting businesses of all size. The Roundtable is officially open to any Chamber members that either provide data security or have some interest in the topic. There is no cost to belong. Simply contact Joe Hurd at (814) 943-8151 or email him at jhurd@blairchamber.com.

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