

## Breakfast Club Speaker to Set the Stage for 2024 Elections

The general election on November 7th settled a few local races and even a couple judicial races statewide. But at the federal level, not much of significance is happening. Not much yet. Once this election ends, a new election cycle begins and 2024 promises to be a whopper! To discuss the details of what all is at stake, particularly for the business

community, the Blair County Chamber will welcome Kevin Courtois, Vice-President of the Great Lakes Office of the [U.S. Chamber of Commerce](#), to help sort it out. Courtois has spoken at Chamber Breakfast Clubs on two other occasions. The presentation will take place at the next Chamber Breakfast Club this Thursday, November 16th beginning at 7:45 a.m. at The Casino at Lakemont Park. The cost to attend is \$20 for Chamber members and \$30 for non-members. A buffet breakfast is included. To register, call the Chamber at (814) 943-8151 or register online at [www.blairchamber.com](http://www.blairchamber.com). Corporate sponsor of the November Breakfast Club is [L.S. Fiore, Inc.](#)



## Penn Highlands Community College to Host Thursday's HD500

The Chamber's next HD500 event will be held this Wednesday, November 15th from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at [Pennsylvania Highlands Community College](#), located in the Logan Valley Mall. The event will be filled with ample food and drink, heartfelt conversations and a lively discussion of the College's academic and workforce development program. The cost to attend is \$10 for



Chamber members and \$20 for non-members. Register online at [www.blairchamber.com](http://www.blairchamber.com) or call (814) 943-8151.



## Chamber Board of Directors to Meet Thursday

The Board of Directors of the Blair County Chamber will meet on Thursday, November 16th at noon at the Devorris Center for Business Development. The board will focus on completing the necessary steps prior to approving a merger with Altoona-Blair County Development Corporation. That merger is expected to take place in January.

## Congratulations...

... to the Blair County Chamber members who were recently honored by [Pennsylvania Business Central](#) as 2023 Women Making a Difference. They are: Brittany Mayer of the [Blair County Chamber](#), Debra Dellaposta of [Doing Better Business](#), Julieanne Steinbacher of the law firm of [Steinbacher, Goodall & Yurchak](#), Candice Richards and Lindsay Oparowski of [PSECU](#), Becky Crilly of [Reliance Bank](#), Amy Seltzer of [Seltzer Financial Strategies](#), Rachel Prosser of [Altoona-Blair County Development Corporation](#), Lauren Bowen of [Juniata College](#), Elizabeth Burke of [Burke & Company](#), Cristin Long of the law firm of [McQuaide Blasko](#), Jamie Stumph of [Advantage Resource Group](#), Carol Myers of [First Summit Bank](#) and Kristie McKnight of [Kish Bank](#).



**Let's Celebrate!**  
Commemorate your milestones with a ribbon cutting  
- available at no cost to Chamber members -  
email Linda at [Lstotler@blairchamber.com](mailto:Lstotler@blairchamber.com)

# 2024 Home Garden and Healthy Living Showcase Accepting Exhibitors



The planning process has officially begun for the 2024 Blair County Home Garden and Healthy Living Showcase which will be held March 1-3 at [Blair County Convention Center](#). Exhibitor packets will be sent to businesses that participated in the Showcase in 2023. Any business that didn't participate in 2023 but would like to exhibit in 2024 should call the Chamber at (814) 943-



8151. The Showcase is done as a partnership between the Blair County Chamber and [Blair-Bedford Builders Association](#). This will be the 52nd year of the event.



## New Technology Committee Seeking Members

What started as a Data Security Roundtable has morphed into a full-scale Technology Committee that will deal with all aspects of technology as they relate to business. Interested in joining? All Chamber members are eligible. Simply call Joe Hurd at (814) 943-8151 or email him at [jhurd@blairchamber.com](mailto:jhurd@blairchamber.com).

## Best Practices Forum to Focus on College Partnerships

Partnerships are important in helping non-profit businesses to work more closely with local colleges and for local college students to have access to opportunities provided by non-profit businesses. The next Best Practices Forum, hosted by the Chamber's Committee of Non-profit Businesses, will be held December 1st from 8:15 to 9:45 a.m. at the Devorris Center for Business Development. The program will focus on the specifics of making great relationships take place where they can do the most good. Entitled, "Colleges and Non-Profits: Partners in Progress,"



the panel discussion format will feature Lauren Priscilla Jacobson of [Penn State Altoona](#), Sara Worley of [Juniata College](#) and Andrew Stopko of [Saint Francis University](#). The cost to attend Best Practices is \$10 for Chamber members and \$20 for non-members. Space is limited. Register at [www.blair-chamber.com](http://www.blair-chamber.com) or call (814) 943-8151.

## Greece Trip to Include Land Visits, Three-Night Cruise

The Blair County Chamber's upcoming trip to Classical Greece (April 18-30, 2024) still has a few vacancies but those are expected to close quickly over the next two months, according to Cynthia Watters of [Epic Journeys](#). "It's a fabulous trip at a great price," Watters admitted. "I'm really surprised that it hasn't closed already." The highlights of the trip include visits to Athens, Olympia, Delphi and Meteora. There is also a three-night cruise with stops in Mykonos, Santorini, Crete, Patmos and Ephesus. For further information, contact Epic Journeys at (814) 266-5070.

## Chamber Gearing-Up for "Shop Small Saturday"

Once again this year, the Blair County Chamber will partner with [American Express](#) in observing Shop Small Saturday on November 25th. The Chamber has received merchandise from American Express and is in the process of putting together a marketing campaign to piggyback with the Shop Small campaign called "Stroll Before You Scroll." This is a way to encourage shoppers to shop our local businesses before buying online. Members will be seeing videoclips on our social media channels throughout the month. Brit-



tany and Megan from the Chamber will be visiting small business members to hand deliver Shop Small merchandise. If you'd like to have Brittany and Megan visit your small business, call the Chamber at (814) 943-8151.



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# Stroll before you Scroll

**SHOP SMALL SATURDAY ■ NOVEMBER 25**

This holiday shopping season, before you scroll and click the buy button, take a stroll around the neighborhood and SHOP SMALL. Your choices can benefit small businesses and the communities you care about in a huge way.

## Show love. Shop small.



**A Shop Small Neighborhood Champion**



**The history...**

Shop Small is our way of celebrating and supporting small businesses all year long. Back in 2010, American Express proudly founded Small Business Saturday® as a way to encourage everyone to Shop Small during the holidays. Since then, Shop Small has grown into an ongoing initiative for Amex and a year-round movement everyone can get behind.