

# NETWORKS

## DIGITAL NEWS



## HAPPY Holidays and Thank You to Our Incredible Members!!

Since we won't be sending-out a newsletter or a Business Insight Page on Christmas Day, we wanted to make sure that everyone in our membership was aware of how thankful we are to have you as members. You're the best!! Happy holidays to you all from the Chamber staff and Board of Directors.

## Chamber Board of Directors to Hold Its Last Meeting

A tradition that began in 1887 will officially end on Thursday as the Blair County Chamber Board of Directors will hold its last meeting at 7:30 a.m. at the Devorris Center for Business Development. The merger between the Chamber and Altoona-Blair County Development Corporation will create an Alliance Board so the Chamber will now have an Advocacy and Operations Board that will oversee programs, events and committees for the organi-



zation. To address the Chamber Board, contact Joe Hurd at (814) 943-8151 by Tuesday at noon.



## An Emotional Good-Bye For a Great Lady!



The end of 2023 will also be the end of employment for a special Chamber staff member. Marilyn Templon, who has served as the Chamber's receptionist-secretary for the past 15



years, will be officially retiring. Besides her role in coordinating programs and events for the organization, Marilyn also oversaw the Chamber's travel program which has grown tremendously, thanks to her! Marilyn will be missed!!



## Committee Meetings

### WE-LEAd Committee

December 19th  
8:30 a.m.  
Devorris Center

### Leadership Blair County Youth Committee

December 20th  
3:30 p.m.  
Devorris Center

# Shop LOCAL

THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!



## Ribbon Cutting



## Military Families Ministry USA



The Chamber held a ribbon cutting ceremony celebrating the new location of Military Families Ministry USA located at 1 Main Street, Bellwood, in the Bell Mansion. Military Families Ministry was founded in 2010 and provides support to service members, veterans and their families. The organization also sends care packages to deployed troops and helps families at home during the deployment. For more information, go to [www.militaryfamiliesministry.com](http://www.militaryfamiliesministry.com). Pictured at the ribbon, from left, Donna Gority, Chamber Ambassador; Joe Hurd, President/CEO, Blair County Chamber of Commerce; Kelly Fedelli, the office of State Senator Judy Ward; Wes Harpster, Vice President, Director of Veteran Outreach; State Representative Lou Schmitt; and Carter Cerully, Chamber Ambassador.

## Leadership Youth Class to Do Community Service Projects

The Leadership Blair County Youth Class will have its next session on Wednesday at the [Greater Altoona Career & Technology Center](#). Session #4 will feature, "Servant Leadership/Community Service Projects." Class members will travel to a variety of destinations to assist area businesses and organizations in completing tasks. The class will also learn about the process of applying for grants from



Jodi Cessna of the [Central Pennsylvania Community Foundation](#). For more information on Leadership Blair County Youth, contact the Chamber at (814) 943-8151 or visit the Chamber Website at [www.blairchamber.com](http://www.blairchamber.com).

**Stay connected.**



**Blair County Chamber of Commerce**

# WELL DONE!

## Congratulations...

... to [Conemaugh Nason Medical Center](#) in Roaring Spring, which earned statewide recognition for awareness issues from the Hospital and Health System Association of Pennsylvania.  
... to [UPMC Altoona](#) which was recently recognized as a 2024 High Performing Hospital for Maternity Care by U.S. News & World Report.

## Bouncing Around Blair!



There are so many social media platforms to find the "Bouncing Around Blair" episodes. Visit YouTube and watch our [shorts](#), [TikTok](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#)!

# SAVE THE DATE

**BLAIR COUNTY ALLIANCE  
ANNUAL MEETING**

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:  
**WINONA DIMEO-EDIGER**  
OF ROLECALL.PRO

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26, 2024  
7:30 - 9:30 AM  
BLAIR COUNTY CONVENTION CENTER

[reservations @ blairchamber.com](mailto:reservations@blairchamber.com)



## Ribbon Cutting



### LIFeSTYLE ALTUS



The Chamber held a ribbon cutting ceremony celebrating the grand opening of **LIFeSTYLE ALTUS** located at 601 7th Ave., Altoona. LIFeSTYLE ALTUS is an elevated Italian brewpub which exclusively serves Wild Brewing Co. beer and Italian cuisine. The beautifully appointed decor and unique menu, guarantees an exceptional experience. Taking part in the celebration are, from left, Eva Eagler, Chamber Ambassador; Steve McKnight, President/CEO, ABCD Corporation; Joe Hurd, President/CEO, Blair County Chamber of Commerce; State Representative Lou Schmitt; Erica Ferrari holding Nico; Davide Ferrari, Owner; Stefano Ferrari, Owner; Todd Spitzer, ALTUS General Manager; Mark Moschella, Owner; Sarah Ferrari, Interior Designer; Amanda Walker, the office of State Senator Judy Ward; and Kara Bennett, Chamber Ambassador. Absent from photo is Bill Pratt, Owner.



## Chosen Your Booth Yet For the 2024 Home Garden and Healthy Living Showcase?

The planning process continues 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 have been 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.

## Ribbon Cutting



### Fair Winds Wealth Strategies

The Chamber held a ribbon cutting ceremony to launch the new corporate image and brand identity of Fair Winds Wealth Strategies located at 260 Convention Center Dr., Duncansville. Fair Winds offers big firm perks in a boutique experience through Wells Fargo Advisors Financial Network. For more information go to [fwws.com](http://fwws.com). Pictured at the ribbon, from left, Sherri Stayer, Chamber Ambassador; Michele Ivory, the office of State Senator Judy Ward; Brian Law, Innovative Tomato; State Representative Lou Schmitt; Joyce Weakland; Kimberly Gildea, Owner; Brian Uhlinger, Owner; Joe Hurd, President/CEO, Blair County Chamber of Commerce; and Carol Stern, Chamber Ambassador.

## Safety Committee Gearing-Up For a Busy 2024. Get Involved!

One of the Blair County Chamber's most active committees for a number of years has been its Safety Committee. The committee is considering new initiatives for 2024 and is hoping to add a number of new members to get the new year off to a good start. If you're involved in a safety-related position at your business or just have an interest in safety, contact Joe Hurd at (814) 943-8151 or email him at [jhurd@blairchamber.com](mailto:jhurd@blairchamber.com). Committee participation is a great way to get involved in the Chamber and it's great for professional development as well. Contact Joe today!!