

# NETWORKS

## DIGITAL NEWS

### Booth Availability Winding-Down for Upcoming Home

If you're a business planning to exhibit at the upcoming Blair County Home Garden and Healthy Living Showcase, you're running out of time to reserve a booth. The Home Show Committee is finalizing the floor plan at the Blair County Convention Center. The 52nd annual event will take place on March 1-3 and it promises to be one of the best show yet! Anyone interested in reserving a booth or purchasing a sponsorship should call the Chamber at (814) 943-8151 or email [jfleck@blairchamber.com](mailto:jfleck@blairchamber.com).



### A/O Board to Discuss Committees at Thursday's Meeting

The Advocacy and Operations Board of the Blair Alliance for Business Growth and Economic Development will meet this Thursday at 7:30 a.m. at the Curry Innovation Center in downtown Altoona. The two-hour long meeting gives the board an opportunity to look at the Chamber's current committee structure. The board will then put together recommendations for keeping committees, dropping committees or creating new committees that meet the needs of the business community.

### HD500 (Free to Members!) to Focus on Greater Chamber Involvement

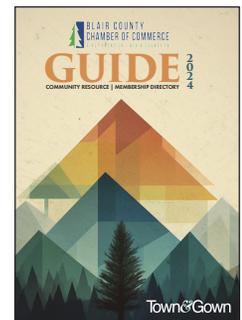
For the second February in a row, the Chamber's HD500 event will provide Chamber members and non-members the opportunity to learn about the great things that our committees do to help businesses to prosper here. And how you can get involved. Once again, the event will take place from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Heritage Discovery Center in Downtown Altoona. The date is Wednesday, February 21st. There will be great food from LaJo's, plentiful beverages from Levery Brewing Company and a whole lot of networking possibilities. And for Chamber mem-



bers it's FREE! Non-members can attend for just \$10. If you plan to attend, you also need to register so that we know you're coming. Either call (814) 943-8151 or register online at [www.blairchamber.com](http://www.blairchamber.com). This HD500 is sponsored by [Park Security](#), [Stuckey Automotive](#) and [Webber Advisors](#).

### Great Marketing Opportunities for Chamber Members

The Blair County Chamber is teaming up with Town&Gown again to produce the #1 marketing and recruitment tool for Blair County, as well as the region's top business-to-business resource! The 2024 Community Resource Guide/Membership Directory. Interested in advertising? Contact Jera Harter at [Jharter@barashmedia.com](mailto:Jharter@barashmedia.com) or 814-880-9601. Click this [link](#) to find out more!



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@TheBlairCountyChamber



## Topic of Next Non-Profit “Best Practices” is Strategic Planning

Strategic planning for non-profits becomes more challenging than ever as economies become tight and priorities change. To gain insight on how to get the strategic planning process “off and running,” the Chamber’s Committee of Non-Profit Businesses will hold a Best Practices Forum on March 1st from 8:15 to 9:45 a.m. at the Devorris Center for Business Development. Dr. Kevin Sensenig, President and Chief Learning Officer with Good Leadership, will present, “Unlocking the Power of Compelling Strategic Plan-

ning in Non-Profit Organizations.”

The cost to attend is \$10 for Chamber members and \$20 for non-members. To register to attend, call the Chamber at (814) 943-8151 or online at [www.blair-chamber.com](http://www.blair-chamber.com). Corporate sponsor of the March Best Practice is [Independent Catholic Foundation](#).



Kevin Sensenig

## Chamber, OOT Partnering on March “Breakfast Club”

On what has become a long-standing tradition, the Blair County Chamber and [Operation Our Town](#) will once again partner on the March 14th Breakfast Club. The event focuses attention on the incredible number of impactful measures undertaken by OOT that make Blair County a safer place to live and work. As part of the Breakfast Club, Blair County District Attorney Pete Weeks will provide an overview of drug trends and several Law Enforcement Awards will be presented. The 2024 OOT Community

Partnership Award will also be presented. The cost to attend the March Breakfast Club is \$20/person.

To register to attend, call the Chamber at (814) 943-8151 or online at [www.blairchamber.com](http://www.blairchamber.com). Corporate sponsor of the March Breakfast Club is [HoopsFest](#).



## Committee Meetings

- **Young Entrepreneurs Academy (YEA!) Committee**  
February 12th, 10:30 a.m., Devorris Center
- **BASICS Steering Committee**  
February 12th, 2:00 p.m., Devorris Center
- **Chamber Ambassadors**  
February 13th, 8:00 a.m., Devorris Center
- **Experiences and Lodging Roundtable**  
February 14th, 8:15 a.m., Church In the Middle of the Block
- **Sustainability Committee**  
February 14th, 1:30 p.m., Devorris Center

## Reserve Your Spot For the 2024 UPMC/ Chamber Golf Classic

Registration is officially open for one of the region’s most popular networking events. The [UPMC/Chamber Golf Classic](#) will be held on Thursday, May 16th at Iron Masters Country Club. As always, the Classic will feature great food and beverages, great prizes and, on occasion, great golf. Golfers can register as teams or as individuals. The event has sold out for the past several years so register early. Contact Jennifer Fleck at (814) 943-8151.

## Help High School Seniors Learn How to Interview

The [Greater Altoona Career & Technology Center](#) is holding Senior Mock Interviews on March 11-14 at the GACTC.



The school is looking for employers and other professionals to assist in providing mock interviews on any (or all) of those days. Anyone who is willing to help should email [wboffice@gactc.edu](mailto:wboffice@gactc.edu).

## Congratulations...

... to the [Van Zandt VA Medical Center](#) which has won a 2023 Federal Energy and Water Management Award from the Department of Energy’s Federal Energy Management Program. Congratulations, too, to [Groundhog Solar](#) of Altoona which partnered with the VA on the project that resulted in the award. Groundhog Solar has also been a longtime Chamber member.