

NETWORKS

DIGITAL NEWS

Chamber Gala

A Fun Night Honoring Special People

In the Chamber of Commerce world, recognition plays a huge part in how the business community moves forward. It's also how it builds incentives for outstanding performance. For many years, the Blair County Chamber of Commerce has made a high priority of honoring businesses and individuals in a variety of important categories. That practice will continue in 2024 as the Chamber has scheduled a major event on June 20th at the Blair County Convention Center. The Awards Gala is an upscale combination of the recognition portion of the Chamber's Annual Meeting and the Business Hall of Fame luncheon. Putting those events together and adding a social component will make for an enjoyable evening, predicts Altoona-Blair County Development Corporation CEO Steve McKnight. "We've looked at a number of ways to pay tribute to exceptional performance by businesses while also acknowledging how important it is that we take some time to relax and have some fun," he pointed out. "We feel that this Gala will accomplish both." The event begins with a red carpet champagne reception followed by banquet stations, an award ceremony and concluding with live music and dancing, featuring The Pines. The award ceremony pays tribute to three businesses and six individuals. All expressed gratitude for being selected. "We were absolutely thrilled and deeply honored to receive the news," admitted Michael DelGrosso,

Chief Sales & Marketing Officer at [Del-Grosso Foods](#). DelGrosso's will receive the **Business of the Year Award**. "It's a testament to the dedication of so many people over the past 77 years, especially our current team, who rose to the occasion to ensure that our recent expansion was a success." The **Small Business of the Year Award** goes to [Bedford Candies](#). "This means so much to us because, as a small business in today's economy, it's tough to stand out, create brand recognition and stay relevant to customers," according to Danae Weyant, who is the company's Marketing Coordinator. "For us, this award serves as a reminder of why we do what we do." [Roaring Spring Community Library](#) is the third business recipient. The library will receive the **Non-Profit Spotlight** which recognizes a not-for-profit organization that has demonstrated resilience, creation and delivery of impactful programs. "This type of recognition is all about the hard work and dedication of our staff, volunteers and community supporters," disclosed Michelle McIntyre, the library's director. "It's incredibly gratifying to see our efforts acknowledged in such a meaningful way." From the individual award side, the sentiments were much the same. "I am so humbled and grateful for this type of recognition," said Deborah Prosser, who will receive the coveted **ATHENA Award**. "Looking at the past recipients, I really don't feel worthy." Carter Cerully will receive the

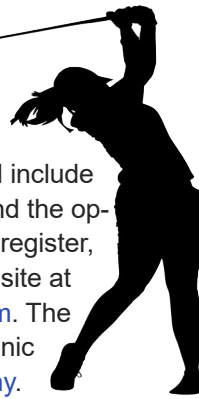
Donna D. Gority Servant Leadership Award. "When I first got involve in the community, Donna Gority was one of the first people I'd recognize at events," he noted. "This award is very special because it speaks to the qualities that I aspire to." David Kimmel will be the honoree for the **George Award**, which honors volunteerism in the community. "I'm aware that this is one of the Chamber's special and unique awards." Kimmel pointed out. "I was completely surprised and very humbled." So, too, was Joe Logan, a longtime teacher and coach at [Central High School](#) who will receive the **Judith A. Rossi Educator of the Year**. "I could never have envisioned receiving an honor like this one," he stated. "It validates that I'm doing something right" Kara Bennett and Cory Gehret, active in so many Chamber activities, will receive the **Chamber Spirit Award** and the **Chamber Extra Mile Award** respectively. "I'm very passionate about what the Chamber represents," Bennett emphasized. "I'm proud to be a member!" Make your reservations by visiting the Chamber website at www.blairchamber.com. In the meantime, you can purchase sponsorships for the Gala as well as ads of congratulations to recognize the award winners. Call Jessie Covert at (814) 943-8151.

Make your reservations
blairchamber.com
814-943-8151

WE-LEaD Golf Clinic is Wednesday

The Blair County Chamber's WE-LEaD Committee will hold an instructional Golf Clinic this Wednesday, June 5th from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at [Blair County Golf & Driving Range](#) in Hollidaysburg. The cost to attend is \$25 for Chamber members and \$35 for non-members. Enjoy a fun evening on the driving range to practice your hole-in-one shot or to simply learn the basics. John Madey and his staff will be on-hand to

provide instruction. You can bring your own clubs or clubs will be provided for you. The event will include light hors d'oeuvres and the opportunity to BYOB. To register, visit the Chamber website at www.blairchamber.com. The sponsor of the Golf Clinic is [Value Drug Company](#).



PennDOT Executive to Speak at Breakfast Club



Vince Greenland

Locating the orange barrels has often posed a challenge to Blair County motorists unfamiliar with upcoming highway and bridge projects. At the next Chamber Breakfast Club, many of those locations will be identified by no less an authority than the new [PennDOT District 9](#) Executive. Vince Greenland, who was promoted to that position just a few

months ago, will be the keynote speaker at that event, set for June 13th at 7:45 a.m. at The Casino at Lakemont Park. His presentation is called, "Reducing Inconvenience." The cost to attend Breakfast Club is \$20 for Chamber members and \$30 for non-members. To register, call the Chamber at (814) 943-8151 or register online at www.blairchamber.com. Corporate sponsor of the June Breakfast Club is [Amtran](#).

Non-Profit Committee Plans "Best Practices"

The next "Best Practices" program by the Blair County Chamber's Committee of Non-Profit Businesses will be held on June 14th from 8:15 to 10:00 a.m. at the Devorris Center for Business Development. Mike Lysakowski, Senior Director of Marketing and Communications at [Skills of Central Pennsylvania](#) will present, "Media Relations 101: Why Your News Release Got Trashed." The cost



to attend is \$10 for Chamber members and \$20 for non-members. Skills is also the sponsor of the Best Practices. To register, call the Chamber at (814) 943-8151 or online at blairchamber.com.

Congratulations...

...to [Homewood Retirement Community](#), which is observing its 50th year in business, serving Blair County and beyond.

Committee Meetings

Young Professionals Committee
June 4th, 8:15 a.m., Devorris Center

Public Policy Committee
June 6th, 8:00 a.m., Devorris Center

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and Independence in our Community



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eco NIGHT

AT NATUREWORKS PARK

Committees Collaborating on "EcoNight"

The Chamber's Committee of Young Professionals and Sustainable Blair County Committee will partner on an event this Thursday, June 6th from 5:30 to 7:30 at [NatureWorks Park](#) in Hollidaysburg. Chelsey Weyant, Stormwater Coordinator and Lisa Haas, Conservation Education Specialist will be educating attendees on the features of NatureWorks Park, programs of the Blair County Conservation District and their newest volunteer opportunities. There will also be a "picnic in the pavilion." Cost to attend is \$15/person. [Berry Solutions Group](#) is the event sponsor. To register, call the Chamber at (814) 943-8151 or online at www.blairchamber.com.



Saluting Our Renewals!

We would like to thank those members that have continued to invest with the organization by renewing their membership in the month of May.

Celebrating 40-49 Years

Frederick Lock & Key, Inc.
Dennis L. Olewine, Contractor

Celebrating 30-39 Years

Altoona Beauty School, Inc.
Black's Home Sales, Inc.
Copy-Rite Banner Zone
Cove Forge Behavioral Health System
DeGennaro's Used Cars & Service
E. Merrill Smith Funeral Home, Inc.
Gieg Law Offices, LLC
Hollidaysburg Manor Apartments
Horizon Farm Credit
Kimmen Plumbing & Heating, Inc.
Link Computer Corporation
Minetech Engineers, Inc.
Ritchey Well Drilling, Inc.
Tony D. Branda Mustang & Shelby Parts

Celebrating 20-29 Years

Allegheny Ridge Corporation
Altoona Water Authority
Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC
Blair County Golf & Driving Range
First Stop Shop, Inc.
Lightner Communications
Penn State Extension, Blair County Office
Pennsylvania Highlands Community College
Society of St. Vincent DePaul -
Altoona-Johnstown
The Baltimore Life Companies
Wells Fargo Advisors

Celebrating 10-19 Years

Coldwell Banker Town & Country
Real Estate/Scott White
Empire Communication Systems, Inc.
Epic Journeys, LLC
Genter Enterprises, Inc. dba
Sinking Valley Pest & Lawn
and Robert's Pest Control
Griffith Family Foundation
Intermunicipal Relations Committee COG

Mels Business Systems, Inc.

dba MBS Keystone
Senior Life Altoona
Southern Alleghenies Service
Management Group
The Good Funeral Home, Inc.
TRS Roofing, Inc.
Zach's Sports and Spirits

Celebrating 5-9 Years

Allied Mechanical & Electrical
Beauchamp Plumbing & Heating, Inc.
Blair School of Martial Arts, LLC
Grane Hospice Care
Great Commission Schools
HealthCare First Credit Union
Holiday Inn Express & Suites
Holiday Pools and Spas
Luther Sitework Solutions, LLC
MacInnis Group, LLC dba PennStress
Mountain View Eye Associates
Outsource Bookkeeping Services, Inc.
dba Liberty Tax Services
Rita's of Altoona
Sylvan Veterinary Hospital
The Film Center
Top Hat Chimney Sweeps
Ventura Construction Services, Inc.

Celebrating 1-4 Years

Allegro Luxury Vacations/ Magic Family Travel
Appalachian Running Company
B&E Powder Solutions, Inc.
Cardiology Associates of Altoona
Curry Designs
Juniata College
Just Breathe Salt Spa & Yoga Studio, LLC
Kish Bank
Roaring Spring Paper Products
Russell Tire / Central PA Truck
Simply Clean Carpet &
Upholstery Services, LLC
Veterans Leadership Program



All-Stars for May Announced

Since sponsorships are such an integral part of the Chamber's ability to offer great events and programs to members, we recognize sponsors each month as "All-Stars." The All-Stars for May are: Altoona Curve Baseball, Arrow Land Solutions, Berry Solutions Group, Blair Companies, Blair County Convention Center, Central Roof Coatings, Corle Building Systems, Inc., CrossRoads Physical Therapy, Crystal Springs, Curry Fluid Power, Doing Better Business, DQE Communications, Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Altoona, Epic Pyrotechnics, Everest Medical Weight Loss, First Commonwealth Bank, First National Bank of PA, Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield, Home-town Bank of Pennsylvania, Homewood Retirement Centers, InnerPeaceCounseling, IPI Security Services & Private Investigations, Irwin Financial, Jersey Shore State Bank, Keller Engineers, Inc., Ketrow KURTZ Travel, Keystone Environmental, Kish Bank, Leonard S. Fiore, Inc., Lung Disease Center of Central Pennsylvania, McCartney's Workplace Solutions, Mountain Filtration Systems, NPC, P. Joseph Lehman, Inc., Consulting Engineers, Park Security, PennCrest Bank, Pennsylvania Highlands Community College, PSECU, Reliance Bank, Roaring Spring Family of Businesses, Roberts Oxygen Company, Inc., Seltzer Financial, Sheetz, Inc., Slingers Throw House, South Hills School of Business & Technology, Splish Splash Car Wash, Stiffler McGraw, Stuckey Automotive, Sullivan Law Offices, LLC, The Academy, Early Education Center, The EADS Group, UPMC Health Plan, UPMC Altoona, YOBCO, Webber Advisors, and Western Edge Seafood.