

NETWORKS

DIGITAL NEWS

Public Policy committee receives update from Planning Commission

This month, the Blair Chamber Public Policy Committee hosted newly appointed Director of the Blair County Planning Commission, Jessica Sheets. Sheets gave an overview of immediate priorities and action items the Commissioner is taking on along with specific projects impacting economic and community development



across Blair County. Planning is underway now for a updated comprehensive plan for the county along with many changes to the Commission's mission and scope. Sheets will continue to serve on the Chamber's Public Policy and Municipal Roundtables to ensure regular and open channels of communication.

Leadership Blair County Alumni to host annual breakfast

By Sherri Stayer, LBC Alumni Committee/Class of 2012 graduate

Registration is now open for the 2026 Leadership Blair County Alumni Breakfast to be held on Friday, September 25th, beginning at 7:30 a.m. at the Blair County Convention Center.

You will not want to miss hearing our keynote speaker, Senator Judy Ward, Senator for the 30th District of the State of Pennsylvania and Leadership Blair County Graduate of the Class of 2004.

In June of 2026, the newest group of Leadership Alumni graduated, and the newest class has been selected and will begin their Leadership journey on September 11th.

The LBC Alumni Breakfast is a wonderful opportunity to hear Senator Ward's presentation, as well as witness the impact the Leadership Blair County



LBC Alum load cars for a local charity with donations from its 2025 Gifts of Hope program.

Alumni make in our community, including Scholarships, WeCare Grants and Gifts of Hope.

The cost to attend the breakfast is \$20 for dues-paying Alumni and \$25 for non-dues paying Alumni.

Registration can be made online by clicking [HERE](#).

Donate prizes, gain exposure



Want an easy way to boost your business's visibility? Consider donating a door prize for an upcoming Chamber After Hours! Many business owners hesitate, worrying their item is too small, but everything is deeply appreciated by the Chamber *and* the lucky winner. Prizes don't need to be grand; a simple gift card, a promotional mug, or a service voucher works perfectly. When your business name is put into the hands of an excited prize winner, you instantly capture the attention that every successful business needs. It's an easy, low-pressure way to build lasting local connections. Drop off your contributions today and let us showcase your business! For more information, contact Jessie Covert at jcovert@blairchamber.com.

Chamber member special offer

The Blair County Chamber is partnering with Saint Francis University Shields School of Business on an upcoming Leadership Development Series. Be sure to check out page three of this newsletter for information on the series. Chamber members are eligible for a 25% discount off registration. Use promo code **PARTNER25**.

Ribbon Cutting



Adoration Hospice

The Chamber held a ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating the opening of Adoration Hospice (formerly Grane Hospice) located at 115 Union Avenue, Altoona. Adoration Hospice offers skilled nursing, personal care, volunteer, chaplain, and bereavement services, and more. Adoration Hospice rebranded from Grane Hospice on July 1, with the same team, same great care; just with a new name. For more information go to www.adorationhealth.com. The Adoration Hospice team was joined by Chamber and community representatives including the offices of Congressman John Joyce, State Senator Judy Ward, and State Representative Andrea Verobish. Pictured, center, are Ellen Askey, RN; Laura Glass, Senior Community Liaison; Mark Katich, VP, Operations; Joe Lehner, Executive Director; and Brennan Luciano, Director of Business Development. Therapy dogs, Harper, Desirea, and Banner also joined in the celebration.

Committed to our community



The Chamber's Young Professionals energized the United Way's Stuff the Bus campaign by collecting donations of essential school supplies. Their hands-on efforts ensure local children start the school year equipped for success. Strong community partnerships like this highlight just one of the many ways these rising leaders consistently give back and support the next generation and our community. Ready to make an impact? Join the Young Professionals by emailing Megan Rossman at the Chamber at mrossman@blairchamber.com.

Congratulations

...to [Pennsylvania Highlands Community College](#) on receiving reaffirmation of accreditation from the Middle State Commission on Higher Education. This standing confirms that the college continues to meet the rigorous standards of quality and accountability expected of accredited institutions.

...to the [Altoona Mirror](#) on being recognized with the Sweepstakes Award in the circulation category, after staff members collected 22 individual and group honors in the annual Keystone Media Awards contest. The Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association sponsors the annual contest.

Please join us!

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT FOR
**BUSINESS 2026
EXCELLENCE**

— HONORING —

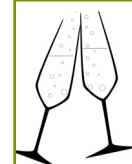
PATTY SHAW

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
SHIRLEY'S COOKIE COMPANY

**Business Excellence Dinner
September 22**

Blair County Convention Center

RSVP HERE



WE-LEAD

Women Encouraging
Leadership, Education
and Development

*20th Anniversary
Celebration*

September 17 • 5-7 p.m.
Blairmont Club

REGISTER HERE



Shields School of Business

Saint Francis University

In partnership with
Blair County Chamber of Commerce

Leadership Development Series

Build the Skills to Lead with Confidence.

What You'll Learn:

- ✓ **Lead More Effectively**
- ✓ **Strengthen Workplace Culture**
- ✓ **Navigate Conflict with Confidence**

Complete all three workshops and earn a **Leadership Foundation Badge** from Saint Francis University.



REGISTER BELOW



francis.edu/francis-in-the-marketplace

\$199 per session

Chamber Members receive 25% discount.
Use promo code PARTNER25

Dates & Time:

September 15, October 13,
and November 17
8:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Workshop Location:

Curry Innovation Center
1425 11th Avenue
Altoona, PA 16601