

NETWORKS

DIGITAL NEWS



Nominations are now being accepted for annual ACE Award

Nominations are officially open for the annual Agricultural Community Excellence (ACE) Award, a prestigious honor dedicated to celebrating the driving forces behind Blair County's vital agricultural community.

Agriculture remains a cornerstone of our local economy and is still considered the number one industry in Blair County. In fact, our agricultural sector yields an annual market value of over \$110 million. The ACE Award, created by the Chamber's Farm-City Committee, recognizes the hard work and dedication that keep this industry thriving. It is designed to give well-deserved credit to those who passionately promote and sustain our agricultural heritage.

Nominations are not restricted solely to traditional farm families. The Chamber encourages community members to nominate agriculturally oriented individuals, agribusinesses, and nonprofit organizations. Self-nominations are also welcomed and accepted.

The ACE Award will be presented at the Farm-City Dinner on Tuesday, Nov. 10, at Morrisons Cove Memorial Park in Martinsburg. This annual event serves as a bridge between urban and rural communities, making it the perfect stage to honor our agricultural champions.

Do you know a farmer, a local agribusiness, or an organization making a difference in Blair County agriculture? Help us shine a spotlight on their contributions by submitting a nomination today. Nomination forms can be downloaded from the Chamber's website by [clicking here](#). Deadline to submit nominations is Friday, Oct. 9.



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August All-Stars

Since sponsorships are such an integral part of the Chamber's ability to offer great events we recognize sponsors each month as "All-Stars."

The All-Stars for August are:

- Altoona-Blair County Airport
- Contour Airlines
- Kish Bank
- Lung Disease Center of Central Pennsylvania
- UDNI



Understanding the invoice process

When registering for all Chamber events, we want to share a quick reminder regarding invoice payment.

All event invoices are issued directly to the individual registrant. If you are not the person responsible for processing payments at your organization, please be sure to forward your invoice to the appropriate person or accounting department as soon as possible.

Since invoices are tied to individual registrations, your organization will not receive a separate copy automatically. To ensure timely payment and avoid any delays with your registration, it's important that the invoice reaches the correct person.

If you need a copy of your invoice resent or have any questions, please don't hesitate to let us know. Email us at chamber@blairchamber.com.

Registration open for Academy

The Public Service Academy, a project of the Blair County Chamber's Public Policy Committee, is accepting registrations for the September sessions. The Academy is designed to encourage and educate people on ways to become part of the political process, either as an elected official or as a volunteer on boards, commissions, or agencies.

The Academy will feature a two-part educational program that will explain the available opportunities and process to run for elected offices. The first three-hour session will be held Sep-

tember 23 from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. The second session will be held on September 30, also from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. Both sessions will be held in the Devorris Center for Business Development Boardroom located at 3900 Industrial Park Drive, Altoona.

The cost to participate is \$25 per person, which includes both sessions. Pizza and beverages will be served at each session beginning at 5:30 p.m. Participants must complete both sessions to earn the certificate of completion. Deadline to register is September 18. To register click [HERE](#).

It's back! Popular digital catalog coming back for holiday shopping season

The holiday season is just around the corner, and it's time to celebrate our amazing small businesses! And this year we're so excited to be putting together another digital catalog to highlight the best deals and sales for the holidays and Small Business Saturday!

"Small businesses are what make Blair County such a great place to live and work. It's very important to get the word out about them to remind people of all of the amazing local products and services there are. The catalog did really well last year and got a lot of engagement. We're hoping to do the same thing this year by offering the small businesses in the area a free and easy opportunity to promote themselves," said Jessie Covert, Membership Development Manager.

This is your chance to showcase your business, any special offers, and get noticed in our community. Each participating business will get its own dedicated page in the catalog, making it super easy for customers to find and support you! Don't have a graphic for your deal? No worries at all! We're



happy to create one for you, so you can focus on what you do best – running your business!

Whether it is your business flyer or a promotional flyer, send a 8.5"x11" pdf or jpg to Jessie to add to the catalog! Send your holiday deals and any graphics to Jessie Covert at jcovert@blairchamber.com. Let's team up to promote local shopping and make this season unforgettable for everyone!

Congratulations

...to [Caporuscio Plumbing & Heating](#) on its 50th anniversary. Established in 1976, Caporuscio has been a trusted provider in the the plumbing, heating, air conditioning and drain cleaning industry for decades.

...to [Pennsylvania Business Central](#) on its 35th anniversary. What began as a publication dedicated to connecting the region's business community has evolved into a multimedia business information network serving 23 counties. The publication was founded by State College entrepreneur Greg Woodman.

...to [Sheetz, Inc.](#) upon being named to this year's "Companies That Care" list by Great Place To Work and People Magazine. The annual list, now in its 10th year, highlights the top companies in the U.S. that have succeeded in business while also demonstrating outstanding respect, care and concern for their employees and a deep commitment to their communities.

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

Anywhere! Any time!
Register for events online
blairchamber.com