



February 2023

CHAMBER CHATTER

*The Official Newsletter of the
Greene County Chamber of Commerce*

Phone: (724) 627-5926
Email: info@greenechamber.org
www.greenechamber.org



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2023 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SERVICES SURVEY

Own or operate a business in Greene County?

Click [here](#) to help protect your business in case of an emergency.

The Greene County Department of Emergency Services is requesting that each business in Greene County complete the attached 2023 Business Survey. They are updating and expanding the business contact database for use if there is an incident or situation involving your business. The information will be used only by the 911 Call Center and Greene County Emergency Management Agency office. If you have any questions, please contact Richard Policz, Director, Greene County Department of Emergency Services.



33rd Annual Chamber of Commerce Scholarship Application

Available Now!



www.greenechamber.org

melody@greenechamber.org

Applications must be submitted by
Thursday, April 13th.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Farley's Hotel Cafe

Farley Toothman - Owner

55 South Morgan Street

Waynesburg, PA 15370

(724) 747-3575

fdtoothman@gmail.com

Asher's at the Airport

Melissa & Matt Harding - Owners

417 E. Roy Furman Highway

Waynesburg, PA 15370

<http://www.ashersattheairport.com>

missy@hardinghospitality.com

Referred by the Peter's Township

Chamber of Commerce



Members Receiving their Ribbon Cutting Certificate!



Chase Blake

Cut to the Chase



Reba Herrod &
Cassidy
MK Beauty Room

RIBBON CUTTING

Farley's Hotel Cafe

Community in a Cup or Cone!

Friday February 17th, 2023
12:00pm-1:00pm
55 South Morgan Street
Waynesburg

STAY TUNED!

OUR 2023 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER...



Reminder!

Membership dues are due at this time! If you have already paid, we greatly appreciate the promptness. If not, please be sure to send those in as soon as possible.

You can send checks to

3157 Mt. Morris Road, Suite #103

Waynesburg, PA 15370.

Don't want to send a check? Visit our website [here](#) and pay online!



Show your customers that you are a member of the chamber!

Window clings are currently being mailed out to those members who have paid their 2023 membership dues investment. When customers walk in your front door this lets them know that you are proud to be a member of the chamber of commerce to support the economy and quality of life in Greene County. It also acts as a seal of approval for your business showing that you care enough to support the bigger picture by joining forces with your fellow members to promote the business community. If you have received yours and would like a few more to cover other entrances or locations, please let us know. We would be happy to send you out a few more.

We are so glad to have you as a member and look forward to serving you!



PROUD MEMBER
Greene County Chamber of Commerce



Investing in OUR Community

2023

Doing Business Better

Our Next Great Workforce Begins at Pennsylvania Free Enterprise Week!

“This experience has been like no other. I got a glimpse into the business world, and therefore have a newfound respect and interest for the field. I also learned how to work with an unfamiliar team. It was amazing to see the outcome when we put our minds together. One of the most beneficial aspects of this program was getting to hear from an array of fabulous speakers. They really changed my heart and changed my perspective. From an academic standpoint, I learned things about finance and business I have never learned in any school class. I discovered that business affects everything. As one of our speakers said, ‘Everyone you meet knows something you don’t.’ I not only learned from the program itself, but from my peers as well. PFEW was a truly life changing and eye opening experience.”



MacKenzie is pictured here, front row, second from right, with her team, GreenBots, a Household Appliance company, at PFEW.

This quote from Greene County PFEW graduate MacKenzie Wise from West Greene High School describes why we support Pennsylvania Free Enterprise Week. PFEW prepares students like Julia to assume roles as our next great employees, employers, and community leaders. Because workforce development remains the top priority of Pennsylvania businesses, this program is needed more than ever.

Offered by the Foundation for Free Enterprise Education (FFEE), PFEW is a hands-on program entirely funded and taught by practitioners from the PA business community, and that’s why it is so effective. Students form teams and run a modern manufacturing company using a powerful college-level simulation. They make the same decisions you make every day. Volunteer mentors provide guidance and insight into modern business operations.

Students attend PFEW on a fully tax-deductible \$695 sponsorship donated by a business, foundation, organization or individual, and they will discover business, the American free enterprise system and develop the skills today’s employers need.. FFEE is an approved Educational Improvement Organization through the PA Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program. I encourage you to provide PFEW sponsorships for our local students and, if possible, volunteers for the sessions.

FFEE offers two additional programs that prepare students for the workforce. The Stock Market Game (SMG) teaches students in grades 4-12 about investing and financial literacy, and the Speaker Series helps students explore careers and discover the knowledge and skills needed to become great employees. All Foundation programs are singularly focused on promoting the ideals of free enterprise and developing our young people into productive, engaged employees and leaders. To learn more about these fantastic FFEE programs, visit www.pfew.org or contact Scott Lee, VP of marketing & development for the Foundation for Free Enterprise Education at (814) 833-9576 ext. 8, or scott@pfew.org.

SAVE THE DATE



GREENE COUNTY CAREER DAY

For colleges, employers & career professionals to meet w/ high school students!

WHEN:

8:30 AM - 11:30 AM

**REGISTRATION &
SETUP:**

7:30AM - 8:30 AM

23

MARCH

WHERE:

CARMICHAELS FIRE HALL

420 W. George Street, Carmichaels, PA 15320

To register for a table please contact
Bobbi Neighbors w/ the following information:

- Number of tables
- Company name
- Company information
- If electricity is needed



724-943-3401 ext. 2242

PRESENTED BY:

GREENE COUNTY CONSORTTIUM OF
SCHOOL COUNSELORS

PTC

PITTSBURGH
TECHNICAL COLLEGE



**YOUR FUTURE SUCCESS
STARS HERE**



PA CHAMBER JOINS GOV. SHAPIRO, ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS IN HIGHLIGHTING NEW OFFICE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN PENNSYLVANIA



On behalf of its nearly 10,000 members representing businesses of all sizes and all industries across Pennsylvania, the PA Chamber stood alongside Gov. Josh Shapiro and administration officials today at a press conference announcing the creation of three entities dedicated to fostering innovation, supporting transformational economic development, and creating opportunity for businesses and workers in Pennsylvania.

The Pennsylvania Office of Transformation and Opportunity, the Economic Development Strategy Group, and the Governor's Innovation Council will collectively be tasked with cutting red tape and increasing state government's responsiveness to businesses in order to spur private sector investment and job growth in Pennsylvania.

"The Pennsylvania Chamber's mission is to drive economic opportunity, and we engage with our members extensively to understand how to improve the Commonwealth's business climate and competitiveness," PA Chamber President and CEO Luke Bernstein said. "Regulatory and permitting reform continue to be among the critical issues that businesses would like to see addressed – initiatives the PA Chamber has discussed with Gov. Shapiro during his campaign and throughout his transition. We are thankful that Gov. Shapiro is taking immediate action to strengthen and streamline our economic development efforts and improve the regulatory climate. We look forward to working with the governor and his administration to make Pennsylvania more competitive."

Pennsylvania's uncompetitive tax structure and slow permitting process has long stood as a deterrent to business investment. Last year, Arkansas made headlines for securing a \$3 billion investment from a leading steel company for new, highly efficient mills to be built in the state. Asa Hutchinson, the state's governor at the time, said that the plants, which will support 900 jobs paying six figures, would be built "before you could even get a permit to start construction in Pennsylvania."

Recently enacted reforms to Pennsylvania's Tax Code – including the reduction of our Corporate Net Income Tax rate from 9.99 percent to 4.99 percent by 2031 – and today's executive order are important steps toward making Pennsylvania more competitive and incentivizing economic growth.

The Governor's Office is creating the Office of Transformation and Opportunity to help develop and lead an overall growth strategy and implement economic development projects – coordinating with Commonwealth agencies, expediting permit reviews, and ensuring the speed of business reviews and the approval of key incentive programs. The Economic Development Strategy Group will be directed to advise Gov. Shapiro on Economic Development projects and processes to attract and retain employers, recruit innovation leaders, and create good-paying jobs here in Pennsylvania. Lastly, the Governor's Innovation Council will be tasked with bringing together a regionally diverse group of leaders and experts to advise the governor and his team on industry trends and important investment opportunities.

2023 WILL SEE PUSH FOR FINANCIAL WELLNESS

Soaring inflationary pressures and mounting recession fears have combined with pandemic and employment concerns to create a heightened level of financial stress among employees. For employers, this represents both a dilemma and an opportunity. The employee benefit portfolio that may have worked well in the past may not adequately address these needs going forward. By investing in planning and some resources, however, business owners can both demonstrate their concern for employees and solidify if not increase worker morale and productivity at the same time. Here are a few programs employers can implement to show their support:

Emergency Savings Accounts

By creating an emergency savings account (ESA) for employees, business owners can help workers save for financial emergencies by allowing deposits of after-tax dollars from their paycheck into a savings account. Workers can then withdraw the funds as needed via a debit card or electronic transfer. An ESA eliminates the need for workers to have the discipline and time to manually save the money. As a bonus, employers can offer incentives to employees, such as a matching deposit (up to specified limits).

Lifestyle Spending Accounts

Lifestyle Spending Accounts (LSA) provide a method for employers to assist their employees in paying for health, wellness expenses and even other costs that are not typically covered under a group health insurance program. Many business owners like LSAs since they can decide which expenses are reimbursable and how much each employee receives. Unlike flexible spending accounts, employers fund the LSA with money that is taxable to the employee after it is spent.

Student Loan Assistance

Companies can design programs to either make tuition payments to the loan servicer or directly to the employee. Eligible candidates can be required to have been working for the company for a specified minimum period of time or have successfully completed a degree. Typically, an employer matches annual payments made by the student and can set a lifetime cap. As an example, a company can match annual payments up to \$2500 per year and/or a lifetime cap of \$10,000.

Financial Guidance Resources

These programs, sponsored by an employer, can provide access to resources and tools focusing on assisting employees in their effort to gain financial literacy. The business owner may utilize a wide range of options, including a partnership with financial consultants that can provide workplace seminars, speaking with employees concerning their financial needs and educating the staff on budgeting, saving, investing and managing debt.

The Greene County Chamber of Commerce offers its members access to My Benefit Advisor as a solution for employee benefits, including voluntary offerings. For more information about My Benefit Advisor, visit our website at greene.mybenefitadvisor.com or contact Mike Galardini at (800) 377-3539.



Non-profits and Church Security Grants Available

PCCD has opened the solicitation for the FY22-23 Spring 2023 Nonprofit Security Grant Fund Program, which is a grant program (awards range from \$5,000 to \$150,000; match is required for awards over \$25,001) for nonprofit organizations who principally serve individuals, groups or institutions that are included within a bias motivation category for single bias hate crime incidents as identified by the [FBI's Hate Crime Statistics publication](#). Applicants are eligible for security enhancements designed to protect the safety and security of the users of a facility located in the Commonwealth that is owned or operated by the nonprofit organization.

The 30-day period to submit your request for funding is from Tuesday, January 31 to Thursday, March 2, 2023 at 11:45 PM.

Go to our website at <https://www.pccd.pa.gov/schoolsafety/Pages/Non-Profit-Security-Grant-Fund.aspx> for information about the initial request process and to submit your request (via SurveyMonkey). Please feel free to distribute this email to any individual or organization that may be interested in applying. *Thank you!*

YOU HAVE CONCERNS. WE CAN HELP. LET'S TALK.



**CLEAR
ENERGY
ADVICE**



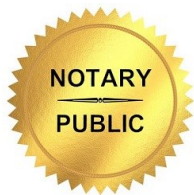
Utility rates have increased dramatically in the last year with no end in sight due to increases in demand globally for our natural gas. In this new market volatility is king and puts your energy budgets at high risk!

- Have you reviewed your businesses energy management strategy?***
- Need help reviewing your gas/electric bills or current contracts?***
- Assessed your risk in this new market?***
- Does your organization need help with sustainability goals?***

Put your trust in local experts who's only business is energy and can assist with locations in Greene County and beyond!

Contact your local chamber or World Kinect Energy Services now, for Clear Energy Advice!

Loren Martello
Senior Energy Consultant
lmartello@world-Kinect.com



Curbside or In-Office Notary!

Notary service is available by appointment. Notary work (excluding title transfers) is free to chamber members as part of your membership benefits.

Email melody@greenechamber.org

or call 724-998-2386

to schedule an appointment.

Place Your Ad Here!

Contact

melody@greenechamber.org

for more information!

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Want To Volunteer But Don't Know How To Get Started?

RSVP TODAY!

RSVP (Retired & Senior Volunteer Program) of Greene County offers meaningful and rewarding volunteer opportunities for adults ages 55 & over.



**AmeriCorps
Seniors**

Benefits of Volunteering:

- Supplemental Accident Insurance
- Mileage Reimbursements
- Opportunity to Meet New People
- Make a Difference in your Community

RSVP volunteers may serve as:

- Financial Literacy Course Instructor
- Food Bank/Pantries
- Home Delivered Meals Drivers
- Store to Door Grocery Delivery
- Telephone Reassurance
- VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) Tax Preparer



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