

April 2023



CHAMBER CHATTER

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

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CELEBRATE "ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONAL'S DAY" AT THE WOMEN IN BUSINESS LUNCHEON

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26TH

Working 9-5: A Musical Tribute to the Working Woman

Presented by Holly Jones

The First Baptist Church

303 West High Street

11:30 - Registration & Lunch

12:00 - Program

Cost - \$25/member \$30/non-member

Honor Your Staff!

Suprise your most valuable employee or you entire staff with the **"2023 Outstanding Staff" Award**
For an additional \$10 per person, you can honor your employee with a special certificate and gift.

*Enjoy a Milk Chocolate Fountain,
Raffle Baskets, & Door Prizes.
Served lunch, catered by Back Bay
Catering, will consist of Lasagna,
Salad, & Rolls.*

*Gourmet Cupcake will be provided
by Canonsburg Cake Company.*

*RSVP by April 21st by emailing
info@greenechamber.org or
filling out the google form.
Sponsorships are also available!*



CELEBRATE "ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONAL'S DAY" AT THE WOMEN IN BUSINESS LUNCHEON SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES

All Sponsorships Receive:

- Logo on the sponsor thank you signage at the event and on each table
- Logo and/or Company name on all advertising for the event, Facebook page, monthly newsletter and weekly eBlasts (if reserved to meet publishing deadlines)

Platinum Sponsor - \$1,000

- Eight reservations
- Eight Outstanding Staff Awards

Gold Sponsor - \$500

- Four reservations
- Four Outstanding Staff Awards

Silver Sponsor - \$250

- Two reservations
- Two Outstanding Staff Awards

Bronze Sponsor - \$100

- One reservation

Patron Sponsor - \$50

Donate a Raffle Prize!



*Email us by April 21st by
info@greenechamber.org
if you are interested in
sponsoring!*

March Business Connection Luncheon

Thank you to Equitrans Midstream for sponsoring our event as well as State Representative Bud Cook for being our speaker, Dickey's Barbeque Pit for being our host and preparing the delicious meal and congratulations to Michelle Rockwell with TRPIL for winning the door prize!



The chamber team recently participated in the Great Gathering at Southpoint.



Chamber of Commerce Hosts Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Prompt Quality Painting & Design Studio

The Greene County Chamber of Commerce recently hosted an official ribbon cutting ceremony for a new business located at 76 West High Street in Waynesburg. Surrounded by family, friends and local dignitaries, owner Tim Frye officially cut the ribbon on his new business on Thursday, March 16.

As State Representative Bud Cook stated, “We are on a roll in Greene County!” The event is among the 9 ribbon cuttings taking place in Greene County in the first few months of 2023! The ceremony featured congratulatory remarks from several speakers, including Eric Cowden, representing State Sen. Camera Bartolotta’s office, Mike Belding, Chair of the Greene County Commissioners, Commissioner Betsy Rohanna McClure, Jeanine Henry, Board President of Waynesburg Prosperous and Beautiful, Melody Longstreth, Director of the Greene County Chamber of Commerce, as well as Rep. Cook. Tim Frye then spoke and shared the evolution of this new venture, which originated as Prompt Quality Painting, which Tim has owned and operated for nearly 30 years.

In addition to providing a place to work with customers to visualize their home or commercial improvements, the attractive space at 76 West High Street includes a training facility for contractors as well as a meeting space which will be developed into a small business center that other contractors can utilize. Tim has incorporated work from many other local, small businesses into the space, including the artwork placed on the walls.

Following the speakers, those in attendance witnessed the official ribbon cutting. Guests were then treated to refreshments. The Greene County Chamber of Commerce is honored to participate in welcoming new businesses to our area.

For more information on Prompt Quality Painting and Design Studio, please visit www.promptqualitypainting.com or call 724-852-1734.



Chamber of Commerce Hosts Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Asher’s at the Airport

The Greene County Chamber of Commerce recently hosted an official ribbon cutting ceremony on Tuesday, March 14 with family, friends and local dignitaries gathered in the celebration as owners, Matt and Missy Harding, officially cut the ribbon on their new restaurant located at the site of the former Airport Restaurant in Waynesburg.

Several speakers welcomed those in attendance and wished Asher’s at the Airport much success. They included Eric Cowden, representing State Sen. Camera Bartolotta, State Rep. Bud Cook, Commissioner Betsy Rohanna McClure and Melody Longstreth, Director of the Greene County Chamber of Commerce. Ami Cree, Greene County Controller shared remarks on behalf of Jeanine Henry, Board President of Waynesburg Prosperous and Beautiful. Matt Harding expressed his appreciation to everyone for their assistance and support in establishing this new venture, one of several varied businesses that he and his wife, Missy, own and operate. He also introduced Head Chef and Restaurant Manager, Dawn Swafford.

Following the speakers, those in attendance witnessed the official ribbon cutting. Guests were provided with samples from Asher’s at the Airport’s extensive breakfast and lunch menus. The Greene County Chamber of Commerce is honored to participate in welcoming new businesses to our area.

For more information on Asher’s at the Airport in Waynesburg, their menu, and hours, please visit www.ashersattheairport.com or call (724)200-2605.



RIBBON CUTTINGS

Chamber of Commerce Hosts Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Phillips & Ross, LLC

On Tuesday, April 4th, family, friends, staff and local dignitaries gathered to share in the celebration at 82 West High Street, Waynesburg for the 1 year anniversary and ribbon cutting of Phillips & Ross, LLC.

The ceremony featured congratulatory remarks from several speakers, including Eric Cowden, representing State Sen. Camera Bartolotta's office, Mike Belding, Chair of the Greene County Commissioners, Commissioner Betsy Rohanna McClure, Commissioner Blair Zimmerman, Jeanine Henry, Board President of Waynesburg Prosperous and Beautiful, and Melody Longstreth, Director of the Greene County Chamber of Commerce. Jessica Phillips then spoke and shared the journey to where they were and what services they provide.

Following the speakers, those in attendance gathered for the official ribbon cutting. Guests were then treated to light refreshments afterwards. The Greene County Chamber of Commerce is honored to participate in welcoming new offices as well as new businesses to our area.

For more information on Phillips & Ross, LLC you can contact them at (724) 255-0404



Members Receiving their Ribbon Cutting Certificate!

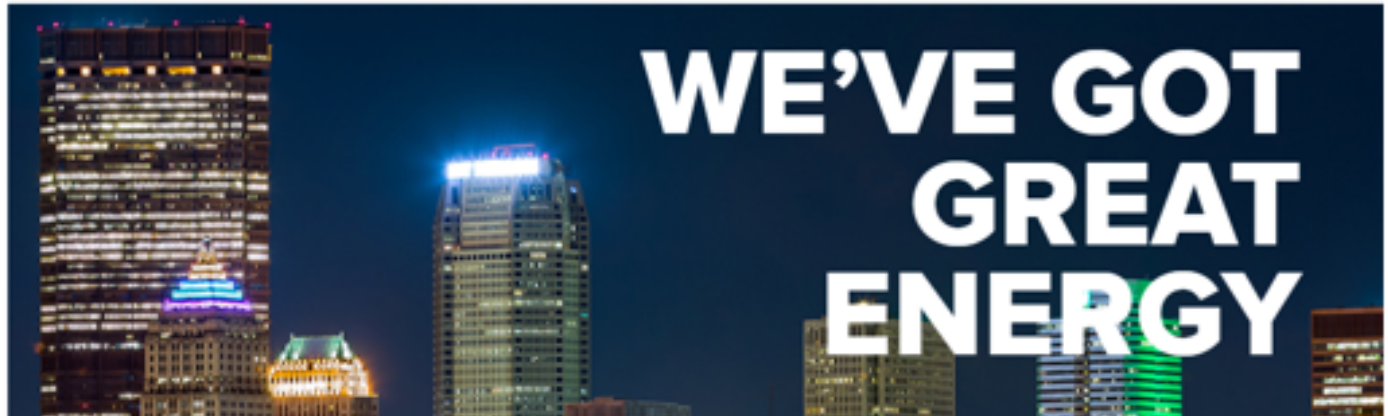
Missy Harding & Dawn Swafford
Asher's at the Airport



Allen Frye
Prompt Quality Painting & Design Studio

Melody Longstreth & Bud Cook
50th Legislative District
House Representative





With the volatility in today's market, electricity offers can be confusing and who do you trust for your home to give you peace of mind.

Buy with *Confidence* for your home with your Greene County Chamber's home energy protection program brought to you by World Kinect Energy Services!

Secure a competitive residential electric and gas rate thru WGL Energy, a Tier 1 local, trusted, and reliable supplier, that we at World Kinect Energy endorse as one of our key partners.

Act Now, follow the instructions, and click below for residential offerings in your territory!

LATEST RATES

1. Select your [utility](#)
2. Under "Friends and Family" select "Greene County Chamber of Commerce"
3. Click Residence
4. Hit the GREEN BUTTON and follow the instructions. Have your bill [ready](#)

If you have questions please follow up with your dedicated energy advisor for the Greene County Chamber of Commerce:

LOREN MARTELLO
LMARTELLO@WORLD-KINECT.COM

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**APRIL 18TH AT 6PM
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2023 Calendar of Events Mark your calendars!

Lunch & Learn - "PaCEO" - Thursday, April 13th—CareerLink

Admin Luncheon— Wednesday, April 26th— First Baptist Church

Shoe Sensation Ribbon Cutting - Friday, April 28th

Lunch & Learn - "New Hire Reporting" - Thursday, May 11th—CareerLink

Business Connection Luncheon - Wednesday, May 24th—Dickey's Barbeque Pit

Annual Golf Outing—Friday, June 2nd - Greene County Country Club

LONG TERM DISABILITY BENEFITS REVIEW

Although long term disability (LTD) benefits may lack the appeal of other more often utilized programs in a company's benefit portfolio, for an employee who becomes disabled due to an accident, injury or illness, it becomes a critical and much appreciated safety net.

Designed to replace lost income when an employee is unable to work for an extended period of time, business owners have a choice to provide coverage to all employees as part of an employer-paid core benefit or make the program optional and employee paid, often as part of the company's voluntary benefits portfolio. However, most insurance companies require a minimum level of participation when underwriting an LTD plan, providing an incentive for employers to automatically enroll all employees in the plan and make it a 100% employer paid benefit.

It should be noted that the upside for employees paying for the program with after-tax dollars or paying through a voluntary program is that if they become disabled and receive benefits, the payments will be tax-free.

LTD plans typically have a waiting period of 90 or 180 days, pay 50-60% of the disabled employee's monthly income up to a stated maximum length of time, based on a very specific definition of "disability". The carrier may or may not include commissions and bonuses in an employee's income. Of particular importance is the carrier's definition of disability. The most liberal definition of the term is "own occupation", which allows the employee to collect benefits if they are unable to work due to illness or injury, in their current profession. On the other end of the spectrum is a definition requiring an inability to work in "any occupation", making it much more difficult for the employee to collect benefits.

The pricing for the benefit program is based on the level of benefits provided, and the demographics of the company's workforce, among other factors. Larger companies and those with prior coverage will usually be required to submit past rate history or utilization information.

For the business owner, it is worth shopping carriers on a regular basis to compare not only pricing but the specific benefits offered by each insurance company, including any exclusions and limitations. Brokers and benefit consultants typically know the best carriers in each region for various industries and can more effectively shop and compare programs for the business owner or designated benefit manager.

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.

MYBENEFIT
ADVISOR

WELCOME NEW REPRESENTATIVE



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Heidi Jamison

Executive Assistant and Community Coordinator

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Waynesburg PA, 15370

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hjamison@ironsenergy.com



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Hannah Myers

Director of Dining Services

51 West College Street

Waynesburg, PA 15370

(724) 852-3264

hannah.myers@aladdinfood.com

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and Culture*



Pennsylvania New Hire Reporting Program In-Person Workshop

May 11th, 2023 from 11:30am to 1:00pm

PA CareerLink® Greene County

200 Greene Plaza, Waynesburg, PA 15370

Presented by: Dennis Marsh | Statistician Supervisor 1

**Department of Labor & Industry | Center for Workforce Information
& Analysis**

****HRCI CREDIT APPROVED****



New hire reports result in more money for dependent children through non-custodial parent wage garnishment



If you paid wages to an individual, the individual must be reported



New hire reports help stop and recover erroneous payments in unemployment and worker's compensation programs



Payroll service providers may submit reports on your behalf



Submit your new hire report as soon as an individual begins work



Boxed lunches from Dickey's Bar-B-Que will contain a Pulled Pork Sandwich, Mac & Cheese, Chips, and a Cookie

Compliments of Washington County Council on Economic Development



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**WASHINGTON COUNTY COUNCIL
ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**



Please email us at info@greenechamber.org to register for this event.

AUXILLARY AIDS AND SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST TO INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER/PROGRAM. TTY/TTD: 724-852-2234

From the “Business View Magazine”—Airport Improvement Projects Taking Flight

It’s no secret that an airport serves as a gateway to a community. This is certainly the case for Greene County’s airport. Keeping the goals of revitalization for both the county and the airport centerstage has produced business opportunities, a training ground for the next generation of aviation professionals, and vital general aviation services for Greene County. As airport improvements take flight for the general-purpose airport, work continues to ensure that airport improvements reflect the needs of the county and its valued residents.



“The Greene County Airport is a general use, county owned airport and managed by Bret Moore and the folks at the county recreation department,” explains Mike Belding, Chairman of the Greene County Commissioners. “They take care of the physical property; the mowing, maintenance and upkeep. To be honest, the airport has been on the back burner for 12 or 15 years and just recently we have increasingly focused on opportunities at the airport which would present both economic development and education.”

Belding spent 27 years as a helicopter pilot in the Marine Corps. He is passionate about flying – but perhaps even more passionate about Greene County. He sees the airport as a viable way to build the community and provide options to young people growing up in the area and finding it hard to find career opportunities. Franklin Township, home to the airport, is a smaller community with just over 7500 people and was traditionally linked to coal mining and natural gas industries.

“The airport has 3500 feet of asphalt runway with a parallel taxiway and several hangars,” Belding explains. “They are all leased out at this point to private pilots. There are three tenants at the airport. The first is a nonprofit organization, Support Our Aviation Resources (SOAR).”

“SOAR meets monthly and advocates for activities at the airport and work hand-in-hand with the Greene County Flying Club which is also a nonprofit with certified flight instructors and conducts a ground school class once or twice a year – it’s a great resource for hobbyists,” he adds.

“In terms of promoting aviation, we also have the Pittsburgh Soaring Association that found their airspace near Pittsburgh increasing congested so they came down last fall. Gliders give us diversity in our aviation assets,” Belding describes. “You can solo a non-powered aircraft at age 14 and then you can pilot a powered aircraft at 16, so this is a great way to get young people interested in aviation.”

Belding highlights one of the airport’s most recent initiatives has been its involvement in a program that is facilitated at Carmichaels Area High School. “They have a STEmpilot computer simulator program run out of the library – and it creates a sort of career pipeline, if you will. Students get started in high school in the simulator, then offered a one-week aviation summer camp and at the end of that they visit the Greene County Airport and receive an orientation flight with the Young Eagles program.

Belding outlines that the airport has essentially “started a grow our own pilot program where they [kids] can start in high school by getting into a glider program at 14 and then get into powered flight instruction and solo at 16 years of age. Hopefully, that aviation bug will stick with them and help develop a career path either as commercial or military aviators.”

Emphasizing the flexibility that pilots enjoy in terms of where they are located and where they can be employed, Belding points out that it is important for youth to see these types of advantages and not rule out aviation as a viable career path.

“I talk about aviation as one of these career paths where you can live almost anywhere and commute to work. As a pilot, you could get to Pittsburgh and fly out of an international airfield or if they got hired in Boston or Chicago they could commute from Pittsburgh to those other airports. We are excited about the education opportunities to get pilots started and then let them transform it into a career. For us, it is all about creating opportunities and promoting aviation on the airfield.”

From the “Business View Magazine”—Airport Improvement Projects Taking Flight Cont...

In his current role as a commissioner, Belding is able to work in a position that feeds his love of aviation. He acknowledges, however, that it takes a whole community to make an airport work, and any attention paid to the needs of the airport benefits the county. The relationship is instrumental in ensuring aviation success and extends to potential business opportunities for the county as a whole. The continued attention that is given to airport grounds and maintenance is also a crucial link to ensure both the airport and the county are successful.

“We oversee maintenance and repair in terms of building and landscaping,” explains Bret Moore, Director of Recreation for Greene County, “and we are also responsible for the oversight and planning of any events that happen on the field such as drag races or balloon festivals.”

About a year and a half ago there was a small fire in the administration building which also housed a district magistrate and the airport restaurant. This event prompted repairs and reconstruction of the building which will reopen with the restaurant under new management in January 2023. Belding points out that in the past, the restaurant was invaluable in terms of getting people to the airport. It served as a magnet for the hobbyist who would fly in for a meal. Hopefully, the new restaurant will create an even bigger draw.

Belding is cognizant that growth depends on funding. Fortunately, the county, state, and even the FAA are looking favorably toward growth at the airport. Some of the larger projects include updating their fuel tank to be able to provide Jet-A Fuel as well as Avgas. The perimeter security fence is currently inadequate and needs brought up-to-date. Finally, they are looking to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation for funding to replace and upgrade the runway, taxiway and approach lighting systems.

“We also have grant requests out for a community hanger,” adds Belding, “which includes the specific type of hanger the gliders require with their large wingspan. We have also asked the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) to fund a feasibility study on future opportunities at the airport. We have talked about a light manufacturing industry, a business, or a little bit larger, more formal flight school in addition to the Greene County Flying Club.”

“We anticipate a professional study would steer us in the right direction. We are also looking for that one organization that would be an anchor business on the field – drawing in others and supporting our growth. We just need to find that entity that wants to be first in the door as the Greene County Airport starts revitalizing itself,” Belding outlines.

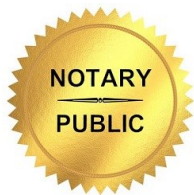
“The main focus throughout the county,” he continues, “is diversifying the activities that we present to people. Within 60 miles of Greene County, there are 1.1 million people, and we want to provide them new opportunities. The gliders and instruction are key and present a unique opportunity for young folks. Through the STEMpilot program we can get them interested in flight – we have the opportunity to point them in a new direction and see this as a stepping stone. People could solo a glider and be flying a plane before they get their driver’s license.”

Belding points out that development of the airport is of critical importance to this rural community which, like many others, is seeing a decrease in population. Over the last decade, the population of Greene County has shrunk by 7.1%. Although the coal industry is being replaced with natural gas production to some extent, the local economy will continue to be impacted by declining coal production.

“The airport offers opportunities,” Belding concludes. “We want to reverse the trend and diversify the economy so that we do not have to raise property taxes or limit services. The airport can be an economic driver itself, but I think its place as a promoter and educator for our community is key.”

“We want our young folks to be able to learn here and travel outside the county – but we also want to entice them to come back home and raise their family. We want them to find industries that are already moving here or ways to work remotely and live here. Careers in aviation are one of the opportunities we want to present to your young folks. The Greene County Airport has the potential to be at the center of this revitalization,” he concludes.





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