

NETWORKS

DIGITAL NEWS

LBCY graduates class of 2025



The Blair County Chamber of Commerce Leadership Blair County Youth (LBCY) program graduated 22 local students at a ceremony on May 7th at the Port Sky Café at Penn State Altoona. LBCY is a Chamber program open to high school sophomores that focuses on servant leadership. The youth program is formatted similarly to the Chamber's adult leadership program. LBCY has been used as a model for leadership youth programs throughout Pennsylvania and the tri-state region. The LBCY curriculum includes monthly sessions on community focused topics, guest speakers, field trips, community service, and a class project. Throughout the year, students raised funds for grants, which were then matched by The Chamber Foundation. This year, the class chose The Door and Family Services Teen Shelter as the grant recipients.

Leadership Blair County Youth **CLASS OF 2025**

EVELYN ADAMS	BRAYLON LITZINGER
RAINA ALEXANDER	ADAM LOUCKS
CATIE CAMMARATA	REUBEN MANFRED
BRIANNA CLOSSIN	ALEXANDER MCCARTNEY
NICHOLAS DUNMIRE	SOPHIA MCCLELLAND
NOAH GULVAS	GRANT MILLER
RILEY HARPSTER	REESE MILLER
ALYSSA HITE	KINSLEY PALILLA
MARLETTE HOTT	OLIVIA RISHEL
ABIGAIL KEYSER	TYLER RODGERS
RYANN LANTZY	MORGAN RUGGERY



An event filled with levity and fun!

What better way to unwind after a long day at work than to hang out with friends and the Chamber crew at HD500. This popular event is a great way to refuel your tanks for the rest of the week with great food, beverages and door prizes. On Wednesday, May 28, [Levity Brewing Company](#), located at 1411 Eleventh Avenue, Altoona, will open their doors from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. as your host. Never been to Levity? What are you waiting for! You'll feel right at home in the beautiful 2-layer taproom with views of the brewing operation. Free parking is available in the front and back of the building. Cost to attend is \$10 for Chamber members and \$20 for non-members. Register online at www.blairchamber.com.



Ribbon Cutting



Laser Creations

A Chamber ribbon-cutting ceremony was held for Laser Creations, LLC, located at 243 Mini Mall Road, Ebensburg. The family-owned business offers personalized laser engraved items including wedding and corporate gifts, sports teams, promotional products and more. For more information, go to lasercreationsllc.square.site. Joining in the celebration are, from left: Christie Yingling, Chamber Ambassador; Megan Rossman, Blair County Chamber of Commerce; Jason Hockey, Owner; Liz Mundok, Sales Executive; Sami Kozen, Graphic Designer; and Greg Haffling, Chamber Ambassador.

Always nice to be recognized

Consumer Affairs published something we already know, our mountain community here in the First Frontier Altoona-Blair County is among the top places to move. See an excerpt from the report below as it appeared in Consumer Affairs.

The five best places to move to in Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania ranks as the eighth-best state to move to, in part, by having some of the most affordable health care and strong public education. The state offers an attractive balance of urban, suburban and rural settings, all within close driving distance to New York City and other major cities. Whether you're looking to start your new career or want to enjoy the state's inexpensive amenities, discover these Pennsylvania gems. Rankings: 1. Bethel Park, 2. Drexel Hill, 3. Levittown, 5. Plum

Altoona ranks fourth

Altoona stands out as the only non-suburban city in the top five list. The city of just over 43,000 offers the most affordable housing in Pennsylvania without sacrificing in other areas. Penn State, about 45 miles northeast, and local industries drive economic opportunity.



- Most affordable living: With a median rent price of \$903 and a median home sale price of \$148,964, Altoona ranks as the most affordable city to move to in Pennsylvania.
- High walkability: 90% of residents live within a 10-minute walk to a park — the 13th highest percentage on our list.
- Well-educated population: 92.6% of residents have earned at least a high school diploma, the ninth-highest rate in the state.
- Accessible health care: Altoona ranks 10th in the state for health care access, with 20.2 health care professionals per 1,000 residents.

For the full report go to www.consumeraffairs.com.

LBC Adult accepting applications

The Blair County Chamber's Leadership Blair County Adult program is accepting applications for the 2026 class. The program is focused on exploring Blair County and learning how to be a servant leader. The adult class accepts 24 students and chooses those students based on interviews done at the end of summer. The due date for applications for the adult program is June 30th. Applications can be found at blairchamber.com on the [Programs](#) page. Be part of a program that creates lifelong connections.



CONGRATULATIONS

...to [Colonial Courtyard at Tyrone](#) for earning U.S. News & World Report 2025 Best Senior Living status by achieving the highest possible rating in both Assisted Living and Memory Care.

...to Kaitlyn Tomlinson of [First Commonwealth Bank](#) and a Leadership Blair County graduate, for receiving a Top Originator Award from the Scotsman Guide which acknowledges exceptional talent, dedication and innovation.