From the Desk of Stephen A. Seach, Esquire
Chamber Chairman of the Board of Directors

The Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce exists to improve upon its members’ business success. We do this by providing members with valuable information, services and networking opportunities.

Since last March, our Chamber has provided all local business with updates on resources, loans, grants and programs that may be able to help them. The Chamber has teamed more importantly, to provide access to professionals who can help local businesses stay afloat and thrive in this challenging time.

The Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce has been awarded a CARES Act grant through Luzerne County. We are working with consultants and experts to learn what small businesses need and, on the status of safety rules.

When I look back at what people have been able to do in times of strife, I am encouraged. Following the Spanish Flu worldwide pandemic, came the Roaring 20’s. What will allow recovery in the Greater Hazleton Area is people helping people. From a business perspective, that is the Chamber helping its business men and women. It’s businesses paying their Chamber dues. It’s everyone sharing ideas that work, supporting each other by buying local and caring about everyone who lives in the Greater Hazleton area.
Hazleton COVID-19 Recovery & Resiliency Task Force to help establish workforce training needs in the Greater Hazleton Area. Additionally, it is the Wilkes University who presented on the findings of a recently commissioned Workforce Education & Training Needs Assessment specific to the Greater Hazleton. 2 complimentary Women's Networking Luncheon Passes provided by the Chamber/honorable mentions went to H&K Group, Kass Logistics and LVHN/Coordinated Health.

Annual Downtown Holiday Mixer

Our Annual Downtown Holiday Mixer looked different this year. It was an open air event and was held in the newly finished CAN DO Community Park located on the corner of Broad & Laurel Streets in Downtown Hazleton. It was a very brisk evening, but nonetheless, Chamber members visited the park and had the opportunity to enjoy a delicious sandwich and homemade holiday cookies prepared by Carmen's Bakery & Deli, as well as a seasonal beverage provided by T. Verrastro Beer Distributor. Attendees then visited various downtown locations which were holding holiday events and celebrations.

Red Carpet Breakfast Programs

Virtual Red Carpet Breakfast programs were held in January and February, Bill Andahazy from the Penn State Hazleton LaunchBox has been hosting our virtual breakfast programs for many months now and we appreciate his expertise. A huge thank you to Bill.

The January Red Carpet breakfast program featured John Fletcher, President of Lehigh Valley Hospital—Hazleton and the event sponsor was BB&T. The February Red Carpet breakfast program featured Guest speaker is Toni Doms from the Institute for Public Policy & Economic Development at Wilkes University who presented on the findings of a recently commissioned Workforce Education & Training Needs Assessment specific to the Greater Hazleton Area. The event sponsor was CAN DO, Inc. This assessment was commissioned by Partners in Education, along with members of the Greater Hazleton COVID-19 Recovery & Resilience Task Force to help establish workforce training needs in the Greater Hazleton Area. Additionally, it is thetarget of the grant is women who: are currently working and want to advance in their career through education or training; who are re-entering the workforce; OR are seeking to change their current career path and pursue something more in line with their interests or passions. The grant is also intended to be available to those who would not necessarily have access to scholarships or grants.

Women’s Empowerment Grant Recipients

Our Women’s Empowerment Grant recipients were recognized at our virtual Annual Business & Community Awards program which was held at the end of November.

The Women's Networking Empowerment Grant was established to encourage women to pursue training or education that will help start or advance a career. The target of the grant is women who: are currently working and want to advance in their career through education or training; who are re-entering the workforce; OR are seeking to change their current career path and pursue something more in line with their interests or passions. The grant is also intended to be available to those who would not necessarily have access to scholarships or grants.

The recipients of the 2020 Women's Empowerment Grants are Elizabeth Polchin and Elizabeth Hoffman.

Elizabeth Polchin of Drums was awarded $500. Ms. Polchin is currently a LPN pursuing a degree as an RN at Luzerne County Community College. She is expected to graduate in 2022. Elizabeth Hoffman of Drums was awarded also awarded $500. Ms. Hoffman is currently in the process of receiving her Master Degree in Social Work through Widener University's online program. She is expected to graduate in December 2021.

Volunteers Ready to Serve the Chamber

The Greater Hazleton Chamber Board of Directors starting a new three year term ending April 30, 2024.

2nd three year term - Michele Uytosniski, Manpower; Anna Jean Onuschak, Top of 80's; Neal DeAngelo, III, The Whistler Investment Group.

1st three year term, Rossanna Gabriel, Hazleton Integration Project and

Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce

2021 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, March 16th
Google Tools Web Series: Posting & Updating your Google Listing

Thursday, March 18th
Virtual Red Carpet Breakfast featuring guest speaker Hazleton Mayor Jeff Cusat

Thursday, March 25th
25th Annual Greater Hazleton Job Fair at the Laurel Mall

Thursday, March 25th
“You Go Girl” Series: Life Skills for Young Women - How to Use Social Media Responsibly & Professionally

Thursday, April 22nd
Virtual Red Carpet Breakfast featuring guest speaker State Representative Tarah Toohil

Saturday, April 24th
Great PA Cleanup - Volunteer Groups Needed!

Friday, April 30th
Annual Icebreaker Golf Outing at Sand Springs Country Club

Thursday, May 20th
Red Carpet Breakfast featuring State Senator John Yudichak

Tuesday, May 25th
Women's Luncheon Program - Hypnosis & You

Thursday, June 3rd
Red Carpet Breakfast featuring Congressman Matt Cartwright

Thursday, June 10th
Regional Women's Leadership Conference at Kalahari Resort

Thursday, June 17th
129th Annual Meeting & Executive Business Exposition at Pasco Schiavo City Park

Thursday, June 24th
Annual New Member Gathering for all new members in the last year!

Thursday, July 22nd
Saturday
April 24, 2021

Group/Organization: ____________________________________________________________

Contact Person: ______________________________  Signature: _________________________

(By signing this form, I certify my understanding that the "Great PA Cleanup" litter pick up involves activities near state and local roadways and that there are certain risks involved with such participation. I hereby release the Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce from any liability associated with those risks)

Street: _____________________________________________  City: ______________________  Zip: __________

Phone: ______________________________  Email: ___________________________________________

Approximate Number of Participants:  Adult(s)______  Children______

Approximate Starting Time (An early start is preferred, but not required): ___________

Proposed Route For Cleanup and location of bagged litter:

______________________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________________

Supplies (bags, vests, gloves, etc.) must be picked up at the: Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce, 8 West Broad Street, Mezzanine Level, Downtown Hazleton

Between the hours of 8 am and 4 pm from Monday, April 19th through Friday, April 23rd

You are responsible for picking up your own supplies - PennDOT or the Chamber of Commerce will not deliver them

Please return this form by Friday, April 16th, to enable us to schedule and arrange for your participation

NOTE: THIS IS A LITTER CLEANUP AND PENNDOT WILL NOT PICK UP LARGE ITEMS SUCH AS APPLIANCES, FURNITURE, MATTRESSES, ETC.

Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce
**Spotlight On Members**

DO YOU HAVE “NEWSWORTHY” INFORMATION TO INCLUDE IN THIS PUBLICATION? EMAIL IT TO dguydish@hazletonchamber.org

**FCNB Bank** announced a $6,000 Pennsylvania Education Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) donation to Marywood University for their Momentum Program.

Employees from **FCNB Bank**, as part of Operation Elf, recently donated $4,285 to the Catherine McCauley Center to help 50 individuals have a brighter holiday season. The funds will be used to purchase toys and clothing for those in need.

Melanie Broyan, the Director of Patient Access at **Lehigh Valley Hospital - Hazleton** was recently named as one of the Top 20 Under 40 by the NEPA Business Journal. The Hazleton Chamber of Commerce would like to applaud this wonderful accomplishment!

On December 18, 2020, **Landmark Community Bancorp Inc.**’s Board of Directors announced that it has reinstated the company’s quarterly cash dividend of $.08 per common share for the fourth quarter of 2020, reflecting the Company’s strong capital position and earnings generation during 2020. For shareholders of record as of January 4, 2021, the dividend will be payable on January 12, 2021. Based on the $0.10 closing price of Landmark Community Bancorp, Inc. stock on December 17, 2020, the declaration date, this represents an annualized yield of 2.38%.

The Fall Classic Charities Golf Invitational was held in mid-September 2020 at **Sand Springs Golf Club** in Drums. The Northeast Regional Cancer Institute received $8,000 as one of the benefitting organizations.

Daniel J. Reavy of **McMahon Associates** has been elected by the Board of Directors to the status of Board Chair Emeritus. Dan has dedicated his career to making the North Penn region the best place to live, work and raise a family. The Chamber has been a fortunate recipient of his over 25 years of involvement, from being a founding sponsor of Community Reading Day, establishing the Government Affairs committee and as Board Chair overseeing the establishment of some of our most successful programs. Dan has been one of The Chambers biggest cheerleaders and with the election to Board Chair Emeritus, he will continue to be an invaluable advisor.

**FCNB Bank** announced their latest project supporting the community with a $30,000 grant used to purchase a new digital sign located in the City of Hazleton to help business owners, self-employed contractors, and entrepreneurs with their marketing efforts. JD Snapshot focuses on the vision of seeking businesses looking to utilize digital marketing implementation to grow their brand equity and revenue streams. Their strategies include helping brands gain more awareness, outreach driven traffic to their business, sales conversions, and to nurture consumer bases through advertising.

**Maternal and Family Health Services** is a private non-profit health and human services organization dedicated to meeting the health and human service needs of NEPA by providing women, children and families with information, education, prevention and quality care. They cover 16 counties in NEPA.

**Kiki’s Bakery and Cafe** is located at 317 E. Broad Street in West Hazleton, PA 18202. Phone: 570-926-8020. Kiki’s has a large variety of baked goods available for takeout or to be enjoyed in their comfortable café.

**Tom’s Kitchen** is located at 656 State Route 93 in Sugarloaf Twp., PA. Phone: 570-788-3808. Email: Tomskitchen656@gmail.com. Tom’s Kitchen is also on Facebook. The restaurant is open 7 days a week and features many specials including a $5 hamburger night.

**JD Snapshot, LLC** is located at 921 N. Locust St., Hazleton, PA 18201. Phone: 267-602-7355; Email: info@jdsnapshot.com; Website: jdsnapshot.com. Also can be found on Facebook. The business is dedicated to helping businesses, self-employed contractors, and entrepreneurs with their marketing efforts.

**Belfor Restoration Company Allentown** is located at 754 Roble Road, Suite 150, Allentown, PA 18109. Phone: 484-488-3990. Website: www.belfor.com; Email: jeff.horvath@usbelfor.com. Belfor offers single source solution for a property restoration of your residential, commercial or industry as well as disaster recovery services. Services include: emergency board up and site containment, smoke and soot removal, water extraction and dehumidification.

**The New Mountain Laurel Resort and Spa** is located at 81 Tree Tops Drive, White Haven, PA 18661. Phone: 570-443-8411. Email: alewis@mountainlaurelresort.com; Website: mountainlaurelresort.com. Mountain Laurel is a resort located in the Poconos and open 24/7 days a week. They offer peace and comfort with a restaurant, bar, swimming pool and many other amenities. Facilities are available for large or small gatherings. Call for details and prices.

**Tri State Truck and Trailer Repair Corp** is located at 25 Kiwains Blvd, West Hazleton, PA 18202. Phone: 570-202-3965. FAX: 272-205-8144. Email: tristaterepairshop@gmail.com. The company will repair heavy duty trucks in shop and also provide road service.

**Michelle Toennesmann** is an independent contractor realtor located at 890 Grant Street, Hazleton, PA 18201. Phone: 570-926-5941. Email: onmytoes19@gmail.com. Michelle is an independent realtor living in the Hazleton Area and providing services in Southern Luzerne and Columbia Counties.