



Bedford County Chamber of Commerce

Leading Businesses. Leading Communities.™



Connection

FEBRUARY 2018
Newsletter/Monthly Mailer

Home, Garden & Lifestyle Show Planned for April 7-8

The Bedford County Chamber of Commerce is thinking spring with plans in full swing for our annual Home, Garden & Lifestyle Show: Saturday and Sunday, April 7th & 8th at the Bedford County Fairgrounds.

A team of highly-promoted sponsors along with dozens more exhibitors will show off their products and services with displays inside and outside of Jordan Hall as the Chamber promotes our *buy local* initiative in the county's biggest trade show of the year, just in time for home improvement season.

Chamber member businesses have first chance at premier sponsorships and also receive special pricing on booth space to showcase your company, both during the weekend-long show and in an extensive multi-

media promotional campaign leading up the event.

A partnerships with the Bedford Gazette provides show participants exposure in more than 11,000 copies of the newspaper with a special show insert section on April 6th; WJAC-TV will provide television exposure in addition to promotional spots and live broadcasts on multiple local radio stations.

And watch Facebook for another fun promotion, featuring Handy Manny's cousin, Rusty making special appearances at HGL Show sponsors in the weeks leading up to the show (see sidebar, right.)

Sponsorships and vendor space are still available, but expected to sell out. Call Cara at the Chamber to learn more: 814.623.2233.



Meet Rusty: HGL Show Mascot

Following the significant success of the Chamber's BUY-LOCAL *Elf on the Shelf* holiday social media campaign, we're delighted to introduce Rusty!

A cousin of the Disney star *Handy Manny*, Rusty has come on board to help promote the 2018 Home, Garden and Lifestyle Show on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Beginning Monday, February 19th, Rusty will be featured on Facebook visiting one participating Home Show sponsor or exhibitor each weekday through April 6th. Then he'll be seen throughout the HGL show April 7-8. Look for his daily posts and pictures and guess which business Rusty is visiting. The first 10 correct answers each day will be entered into a drawing to take home a BBQ grill from the HGL Show! #RustyHGL



2018 Chamber Board of Directors Holds Annual Reorganization



The Chamber Board of Directors held its annual reorganizational meeting January 10th at the Bedford Elks Country Club. Voting board members, ex-officio members and the organization's Founder's Circle, Executive & Investor level members were also invited to share updates on their businesses and to participate in the discussion of the organization's 2018 goals and objectives.

Tim Weaverling was honored with a plaque for his two years as Board Chair. He continues to serve on the executive committee and lead the building project. New Chair Allen Harr then presided over the meeting. Tina Molski is the 2018 1st Vice Chair; Mary Grattan 2nd Vice Chair; Marcia O'Rear Secretary and Bob Octavio Treasurer. New board members beginning 3-year terms in 2018 are: Dorothy Krupa, Bill Liedholm, Lori Whetstone and Tom Salmon.

Thank you for your leadership!



Special Thanks to Chamber Founder's Circle Members for Your Premier Partnership



Allegany College of Maryland

Altoona First Savings Bank

Bedford Grange Mutual

CenturyLink

Everett Cash Mutual

Homewood at Spring House

Kennametal

Knisely & Sons

RWR Insurance

WJAC-TV

Still Accepting Speaker Proposals for Women in Business Conference

The Bedford County Chamber of Commerce reminds potential speakers please submit your proposals for the 2018 Women in Business Conference, planned for Friday, May 18th, 2018 at the historic Omni Bedford Springs Resort and Spa.

Break-out sessions enhance the conference experience and provide unique opportunities for speakers to share their expertise and experience with the attendees, while also showcasing their business.

Topics for breakout sessions may include a wide array of interests, including but not limited to: Business Development/Entrepreneurship, Management, Health & Wellness, Human Resources, Personal Improvement, Financial Planning/Investments, Family, Marketing/Social Media/Technology, Fashion, Communications/Networking, Leisure Activities, and Work-Life Balance.

Those interested in submitting a proposal should do so no later than the extended deadline of Tuesday, February 6th. The RFP is available for download from the Chamber website or call Kellie for more information: 814.623.2233.

We are also accepting 2018 sponsorship and vendor registrations.





Upcoming ACM Education Partnership Programs & Resources Announced



Health & Wellness Resources: Heart Health February 16th, 11:30am-2:30pm

In recognition of National Heart Health Month, you are invited to get heart healthy with the Bedford County Campus of Allegheny College of Maryland Associate Degree of Nursing students on Friday, February 16th from 11:30 to 2:30.

Led by their instructors, Sherry Obert and Melanie Madey, the nursing students will offer free health and wellness screenings and information to community members. Health and wellness activities including blood pressure screenings, nutrition label reading, hands on CPR demonstrations, and exercises for heart health will be provided at the Bedford County Chamber of Commerce Russell House. Drop in anytime between 11:30 and 2:30 and get Heart Healthy!

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### Ask the ACM Expert: Protecting Customer Data Monday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, 12:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Mike Miller, President of Cyber Protection Group will be available to meet with business owners and employees to discuss the cyber threats that can affect businesses as well as our personal lives. Mike spent years with clients such as the Federal Aviation Administration, major supermarket chains, and other major retailers helping them secure their networks. Mike is a professional hacker that is hired by companies to find vulnerabilities before the bad guys do. Learn what you need to do to protect your networks and real life examples of how hackers steal credit card information, PII (Personal Identifiable Information), intellectual property, and use systems for illegal purposes."

Chamber members are invited to take advantage of this FREE help for your business. Schedule a 30-minute session with Mike Miller to review your cyber security and protect customer information.

Call Cara to make your appointment: 623-2233.



### ACM Student Earns Nomination to International Scholar Laureate Program, Seeks Funding Assistance

The Chamber is pleased to share this letter from Talita Mirfin seeking community support:

With a very humble heart full of gratitude I would like to share with you that I was nominated to become part of a Business Delegation at the International Scholar Laureate Program! Here is a little story about me...

I was raised in a poor family in Brazil but they were very hard workers, and I learned to be the same way. It took me 9 years after HS graduation to be able to come to the US to obtain a higher and better education. I had to work hard, save money and leave my entire family behind so I could get a Business degree in the US. I came here knowing very little English and not knowing anybody. I made it through all the cultural challenges and home sick feelings because I was determined that one day I would become somebody in life. I didn't want my kids to go through what I had to go through when I was little, and that is why obtaining a degree, getting a good job and having a financially stable life is so important to me.

I never dreamed that I could become the Allegheny College of Maryland Business Program Ambassador, and now being able to represent ACM and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society in China is just so surreal! I still can't believe this and I feel very humbled and honored honestly. I'm beyond thrilled and God is so good to me!!

In my perspective, this trip is a great opportunity to experience and learn about international businesses, their finances, and how their marketing is conducted. I'm sure I will come home full of great learning experiences to share with my professors and classmates.

My professors are excellent and I'm proud to be a Business Ambassador already, and even more at an International level!

To make this dream come true, though, I humbly ask for your help for travel (\$715) and tuition (\$3,495).

In order to achieve this goal, I set up a fundraiser called "GoFundMe", and I kindly ask you to make a contribution on this link:

<https://www.gofundme.com/ar3m7-intl-scholar-laureate-program>

# BYRNE *and* KELLY

## Outdoor Concert Event

To benefit the Bedford County Chamber Foundation

**SAVE THE DATE:**

**Friday, June 29th - 7:00 p.m.**

On the Mill Lawn

OMNI RESORTS®  
bedford springs | pennsylvania

The Bedford County Chamber Foundation is pleased to announce an Outdoor Concert Event featuring world-renowned artists Ryan Kelly and Neil Byrne of Celtic Thunder fame: Friday, June 29th at 7pm on the Mill Lawn at the historic Omni Bedford Springs Resort.

*Byrne & Kelly* has graciously added a stop in Bedford to their 2018 World Tour, which includes the US, Canada and Australia.

Sponsorships are now available and include a private reception with the band. Tickets (\$50) will be available for sale February 19th. For more information, call the Chamber: 814.623.2233.



### ABOUT BYRNE & KELLY

What began as Celtic Thunder's Neil Byrne and Ryan Kelly performing a series of shows together called 'Acoustic By Candlelight' back in 2012 has turned into what is now known as Byrne and Kelly. Driven by dynamic vocal harmonies, the duo seamlessly dives into combining genres like traditional Irish and Americana to create a fresh, Celtic folk sound.

Over the last five years, Byrne and Kelly have received multiple awards, including 'Best Duo in a Concert, Pub or Festival' and 'Best New Album' for *Acoustically Irish* by the Irish Music Association.

Their albums, *Acoustically Irish* and *Live in Australia* both topped the World-Global Album charts for Billboard, Amazon and cdbaby as well as iTunes in the US, Australia and Canada.

Byrne and Kelly's latest release, *Echoes*, is a collection of nine original tracks and the well known Irish classic 'Step It Out Mary'. During a remote weekend writing retreat in County Cavan, Ireland with fellow musicians Nicole Hudson and Peter Sheridan, the seed for the *Echoes* album was planted. Just over a year later, the result is a 10-track album featuring songs that highlight their rich, Irish culture and experiences traveling the world playing music.

*Echoes* received immediate chart success following its release in February of 2016, as the band hit the road, sharing their new music, as well as Celtic Thunder favorites and fun covers known around the world with audiences on three continents.

In addition to their Byrne and Kelly tour, Ryan and Neil recently recorded the 10th anniversary concert for *Celtic Thunder*, which will air on PBS in March.



Supporting Sponsors to Date:



## Helping Students Take Their First Steps to Success: Wednesday, February 28th Omni Bedford Springs



The Bedford County Chamber Foundation, in cooperation with the Chamber and all of the county's school districts, is pleased to present the 2018 Steps to Success Program: Wednesday, February 28th at the Omni Bedford Springs Resort.

More than 100 high school students from all areas of the county will take part in the day-long event designed to help them seek out, secure and be successful in their first employment opportunities. Local businesses, career services, military, schools and support organizations are welcome to participate as sponsors/exhibitors, which is offered to the students at no charge.

Sponsorships range from \$100 to \$300 and include table displays and attendee(s) lunches. Door prizes for students are also appreciated.

The Steps to Success program has been offered for more than a decade; participating businesses have reported hiring students for summer or part-time jobs as a result of their attending this event.

For more information, to sponsor or to be part of the planning committee, please contact Kellie at the Chamber office: (814) 623-2233 or [kellie@bedfordcountychamber.org](mailto:kellie@bedfordcountychamber.org).

## Youth Leadership Bedford County Class of 2018 Explores County

The exciting year of Leadership development continues for the YLBC Class of 2018, comprised of tenth graders from throughout the county's school districts. The journey began with a summertime retreat at White Sulphur Springs; since September, the class has met monthly for day-long sessions exploring the county's history, heritage, judicial system, educational offerings, and more.

The students also learn valuable skills including communications and cooperation while exploring Sean Covey's *Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens*.

This program is only possible through support from local businesses, committed to engaging the future leaders of our county. To learn more about sponsoring a student, call Cara: (814) 623-2233.





# 2018 John Anderson Distinguished Speaker Series



## 2018 Local Leaders Series



Bedford County Court of Common Pleas President Judge Thomas S. Ling presented an outstanding look at the region's judicial history during the first of three events in the John Anderson Distinguished Speaker *Local Leaders Series* in January. Judge Ling discussed the county's courthouse buildings, judges and some significant cases.

The Speaker Series, which began in 2016 and benefits the Bedford County Chamber Foundation is designed to enlighten and inspire attendees.



President Judge Thomas S. Ling

### Lynn Ashe, Wayne Hyde to be Featured as Distinguished Speakers



Lynn Ashe  
Retired from the CIA

The John Anderson Distinguished Speaker *Local Leaders Series* Continues with a dinner on Thursday, February 8th: a conversation with Lynn Ashe, one of the first women foreign officers in the CIA, who served in France, Laos and the Congo. Dinner at Homewood at Spring House Estates will begin at 5:30pm with the program to follow, including time for questions and answers.

Ashe retired to Bedford County nearly two decades ago, and has been an active supporter of the arts, education, Community Foundation for the Alleghenies, Red Cross and Your Safe Haven, among other passions and interests. Cost for this event is \$30 per person.

The March 13th program will feature a conversation with internationally renowned sculptor Wayne Hyde, whose bronze work can be found in the Squares in Bedford (the Bedford County WWII monument), but also in cities throughout the United States, and even in Buckingham Palace. Dinner at the Bedford Elks Country Club will begin at 5:30pm with the program to follow at 6:30pm. A combined ticket for the remaining two events will be available for \$45. Founder's Circle Members will receive two free tickets for each event.

This special local edition of the John Anderson Distinguished Speaker Series is presented in partnership with Alleghany College of Maryland & the Bedford County Historical Society; sponsorships are available.

Proceeds benefit the 501(c)(3) Bedford County Chamber (Education) Foundation, which provides career exploration, leadership and workforce development, literacy and other programs for adults and students of the Bedford County region. For more information or to register, please call 623-2233 or visit our website: [BedfordCountyChamber.com](http://BedfordCountyChamber.com).



Wayne Hyde  
Sculptor

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Feb 2           **Ribbon Cutting: Life is a Garden**  
1pm             18 East Main Street—Everett
- Feb 8           **John Anderson Distinguished Speaker Series**  
5pm             Featuring Dinner with Lynn Ashe  
Homewood at Spring House Estates
- Feb 16          **ACM Heart Health Education Drop-In Hours**  
11:30-2:30     Russell House
- Feb 26          **Ask the ACM Expert: Cyber Security**  
12:30-4:30     Protecting Your Customers' Data  
By Appt.       Russell House (Call to schedule: 623-2233)
- Feb 28          **Steps to Success**  
Omni Bedford Springs Resort

## SAVE THE DATES: 2018 Signature Events

- April 7-8       Home, Garden & Lifestyle Show  
May 18         Women in Business Conference  
August 19      Bedford County Outdoor Challenge  
Sept 12        Business Community Showcase  
Nov 3          Olde Bedford Beer Festival  
Nov 15         Annual Dinner & Awards Celebration

*For more information or to RSVP to Chamber events,  
Call: 814-623-2233 or email: [info@bedfordcountychamber.org](mailto:info@bedfordcountychamber.org)*

## MEETING DATES TO NOTE

**Executive Committee**  
Tues. Feb. 6—8am—Russell House

**Government Affairs**  
Tues. Feb. 6—10am—Russell House

**Chamber Ambassadors**  
Fri. Feb. 9 — 12pm — Homewood

**Special Events**  
Tues. Feb. 13—8:30am—Homewood

**Chamber Board**  
Wed. Feb. 14- 7:45am - Russell House

**Chamber Foundation Board**  
Thurs. Feb. 15 - 7:30am - Russell House

**BASICS**  
Thurs. Feb. 15 - 8:15am - Russell House

**HGL Show Steering Committee**  
Mon. Feb. 19 - 3pm - Russell House

**LBC Advisory Committee**  
Fri. Feb. 23 - 8am - Chamber Office

**Youth Leadership Advisory**  
Mon. Feb. 26 - 8am - BCTC

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Please note: Chamber meetings may change due to winter weather conditions. You are always welcome to all our office to confirm meeting dates/times/venues.



Leadership Bedford County Class of 2018

Jennifer Bailey, Knisely & Sons
Amy Barfield, Farmers Ins./Sunrise Rotary
Ethan Cessna, Everett Cash Mutual
Gregg Feaster, Reed, Wertz & Roadman
Katie Fink, United Way of Bedford County
Paul Gates, New Enterprise Stone & Lime
Beverly Geller, Bedford Borough
Mary Grattan, Homewood at Spring House
Tina Imes, Allegany College of Maryland
Tammy Lemin, UPMC - Bedford Memorial
Courtney Leydig, First National Bank
Justin Miller, Somerset Trust Company
Adam Osman, Bedford County Visitors Bureau
Brandee Pittman, Kennametal, Inc.
Kyle Trinka, Thomas Chevrolet Subaru
Deanna Weaverling, Cessna Communications
Koren Woy-Smith, First Commonwealth

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Mission Statement:

The Bedford County Chamber of Commerce involves & unifies our members to promote continuous improvement of the business climate in our region.

