

CHAMBERGRAM

OCTOBER 2021



FEATURING:

2022-2024 Strategic Plan

Chamber & Member News

YAP Photos

1972 Charter Member Profile: Diles Hearing Center

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER 6

Government Affairs
8:00 AM

OCTOBER 12

Promotions and
Special Events
8:00 AM

OCTOBER 13

Athens Uptown
Business Assoc.
9:30 AM

OCTOBER 14

Young Athens
Professionals (YAP)
5:00-7:00 PM

OCTOBER 20

Business Before
Hours - CANCELLED

OCTOBER 21

EDG Lunch & Learn
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

OCTOBER 22

5th Annual Athens
Area Women's
Summit
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

OCTOBER 4-9

OU Homecoming



We are pleased to present the next 3-year strategic plan for our chamber of commerce. This new plan is the culmination of work done by a strong, active committee of 20 volunteers and staff, facilitated by industry expert, Josh Torres. We began our work in the Spring of 2021 by surveying our members and community stakeholders. After compiling data, and participating in a deep dive retreat, the planning committee identified three key areas of focus that are important to the region and align with our Chamber's resources and sphere of influence.

Our three areas of focus for 2022-2024 are Business Impact, Diversity & Inclusion, Advocacy. Underpinning these strategic priorities are the core competencies of Connectivity and Organizational Excellence. These priorities are the roadmap for the next three years and we encourage you to read more about them in the [plan](#).

The Athens Area Chamber of Commerce is excited to host the fifth annual [Athens Area Women's Summit](#) on Friday, October 22, 2021 at Stuart's Opera House! This all-day hybrid conference has been designed to inspire and empower attendees from all career fields and levels, whether you attend in-person or stream the conference live from the comfort of your couch. Inspirational speakers and community exemplars will take attendees through a journey of personal and professional development through both academic approaches and real-life experiences.

The keynote address by local entrepreneur Michelle Greenfield, "Centered and Grounded Leadership" will offer ways for participants to identify, learn, and practice leading themselves from stress to stability. Leading from a place of burnout, exhaustion, and feeling overwhelmed doesn't feel good and doesn't produce great results. Michelle addresses the question, "How can we shift to a more grounded and centered place amid the myriad of responsibilities and work that we do?" In addition to that keynote, this event will feature 8 other speakers, a healthcare panel, networking, and the opportunity to be immersed in this year's theme: *Step In. Reach Out. Lift Up.*

As we move forward, remember to support the businesses that support you.

Love Athens – Keep it Local!

Dani Underhill, President



Learn more about the Athens Area Chamber's strategic priorities, desired outcomes, and more at

[athenschamber.com/
strategic-plan](https://athenschamber.com/strategic-plan)



It's time to
take your
seat at
the table

Want to help make a difference in our Athens business community?

The Call for Nominations for the 2021 Board of Directors is open!
Nominations are due by 5pm on October 31, 2021.

Learn more at: athenschamber.com/board



Athens Area **WOMEN'S SUMMIT**



Join us for the
**5th Annual Athens Area
Women's Summit**
on Friday, October 22, 2021

In-person and virtual tickets for this
hybrid, all-day conference
are on sale now!

Register Today!

For more info, visit:
athenschamber.com/summit





Athens Area WOMEN'S SUMMIT



Thank you to our generous sponsors!

●●●●● PREMIER ●●●●●



●●●●● UPLIFT ●●●●●



●●●●● LUNCH ●●●●●



●●●●● BREAKFAST ●●●●●



●●●●● SESSION ●●●●●



●●●●● EMPOWER ●●●●●



●●●●● SUPPORTING, \$250 ●●●●●

- Business logo included in an ad for all Supporters in the program
- Includes 1 event ticket

Holzer

GoodRentals

ParkNationalBank

Snider, Fuller, & Stroh

Spectrum

To secure your sponsorship today, please contact the Chamber office.

CHAMBER NEWS



Lt. Gov. Jon Husted (center), Chamber President Dani Underhill (left of center) and roundtable participants, both in-person and virtual, discuss the local economy. Photo: Ohio Department of Development.

Advocating for Business Incubators

At the **Ohio University Innovation Center** on Wednesday, September 8th, Chamber President Dani Underhill took part in a roundtable discussion with Ohio Lieutenant Governor Jon Husted, Ohio Department of Development Director Lydia Mihalik, Governor's Office of Appalachia Director John Carey, strategic partners in the local economic ecosystem, and local technology companies. The group discussed the state's efforts to support the economy and the challenges that business incubators face, as well as strategies for raising capital. Local incubators also explained the myriad reasons that they chose to base their companies in Athens, including the affordable and attractive culture and community and the supportive network that Athens has built to connect businesses to services and capital.

Promoting the Chamber on Air

On Wednesday, September 15th, Chamber President Dani Underhill was a guest on **WATH's Party Line** talk show – Ohio's longest continuously airing talk show. During the hour-long radio program, Underhill promoted the Chamber while talking with host Dave Palmer, and covered topics including Chamber member benefits, details of the Ambassador's club, and the history of the Athens Area Chamber of Commerce. The pair also had an interesting discussion about Fred Palmer, founder of WATH and Dave Palmer's father, who helped to gather business leaders together and incorporate the Athens Area Chamber of Commerce in 1972.

NEW MEMBER



Work Hard Work Safe WORK PROUD

TAM CONSTRUCTION, INC.

6648 Hudnell Road
Athens, OH 45701

740-592-5700

Contact: Kurt and Teresa Montle
tam@tamconstructioninc.com

www.tamconstructioninc.com

MEMBER NEWS

Third Sun Solar Donates and Celebrates

Athen's **Third Sun Solar** is proud to announce the donation of a roof-mounted solar array to the Baileys Trail System project this winter.

Third Sun Solar's partnership with the Village of Chauncey and the Baileys Trail System will provide clean energy at the Chauncey-Dover Community Park trailhead. Third Sun Solar will install the solar system on the rooftop of the restroom facility. The solar energy installation will begin in January of 2022. The addition of a solar array to the restroom facility will reduce the Village's utility costs for the next two decades or more.

Additionally, this June Third Sun Solar celebrated 21 years since its founding date in 2000, and on September 10th, 2021, the company hosted its postponed 20th Anniversary Celebration and Open House for customers, partners, and supporters.



Third Sun Solar 20th Anniversary Celebration.
Photo: Third Sun Solar.

Quick Updates

Don't forget to continue supporting our Stimson Ave. area businesses during the Stimson Avenue Improvements Project! It is projected to be completed in November 2021.

The **Athens County Visitor's Bureau** reports that 2021 was the 2nd busiest summer in Athens since the ACVB has recorded that data.

The **AUBA Uptown Trick or Treat** event is cancelled for 2021.

To have your business listed in The State of Ohio's new **Made in Ohio** website, contact:

Juliana.Khusid@development.ohio.gov

MEMBER NEWS REQUEST!

We want to help you spread the word about business milestones that are a big deal to you but might not be quite worthy of a press release, such as:

- Website overhaul
- Change of location or adding a location
- New hire announcements
- The retirement of a key staff member
- An award you/your company just won
- A fundraiser you are holding for a local community organization/charity
- And more!

Send your announcements to Kristin Slemmer at Kristin@athenschamber.com.

To be featured in the following month's **ChamberGram**, information must be submitted to Kristin no later than the 25th of each month.

*The Chamber reserves the right to make the final decision on what we publish in our GreenBlast and ChamberGram.

YOUNG ATHENS PROFESSIONALS



Pictured: Attendees engaged in conversation and enjoying the beautiful weather and complimentary appetizers.

On Thursday, September 9th, the Young Athens Professionals crowd gathered for the September YAP Happy Hour at Little Fish Brewing Co. The sunny day and cool, fall-like temps brought out a considerable crowd and many first time attendees to enjoy the beautiful outside beer garden. The event was sponsored by The Matriots PAC, a nonpartisan political action committee dedicated to supporting, endorsing, and encouraging Ohio women candidates.

Due to the current health climate, during the winter YAP will be taking a hiatus from holding in-person events. Our final happy hour of 2021 will be held in October (details below) and YAP hopes to return by April of 2022. Stay tuned for updates!



Thursday
October 14

Young Athens Professionals

Happy Hour at
The Union

18 W. Union Street, Athens
Event will be held on the upstairs patio.

5pm - 7pm

Free admission

Complimentary apps provided by
event sponsors TechGROWTH Ohio and
Ohio University Center for Entrepreneurship

Athens Uptown Business Association Spotlight



85 N. Court Street
Athens, OH 45701

Hours

Monday - Thursday
4:00pm - 2:30am

Friday - Sunday
11:30am - 2:30am

Check out the menu:
courtsidepizza.com



1972 CHARTER MEMBER PROFILE

As part of a series recognizing charter members of the Athens Area Chamber of Commerce, this month features excerpts from an interview with Dr. Bethany Gonczy, Owner of Diles Hearing Center.



Photo: Diles Hearing Center

Diles Hearing Center

275 W. Union Street, Athens

dileshearing.com

740-594-3571

BUSINESS OVERVIEW

We help as many people hear as well as possible. We carry all of the main hearing aid products and we do everything from infant hearing screenings to detailed hearing evaluations and hearing aid programming. We pride ourselves in staying up-to-date in all of the latest technology and research, giving our patients the best experience possible, and upholding the values and quality of care that Diles Hearing Center has been widely known for since 1949.

A LONG HISTORY

Diles Hearing Center was founded in 1949 by William "Bill" Diles, alongside his wife, Mary. When they came to Athens in 1960, they brought their business along with them and we have been serving the Athens community ever since. Over the years, we have expanded and now have offices in Jackson, Ohio (21 years old), and Chillicothe, Ohio (6 years old). Diles Hearing Center currently employs 3 doctors of audiology as well as 5 support staff.

SECRETS TO SUCCESS

To constantly look for areas with potential for improvement. We ask patients about their experiences, watch changes in the market, and listen to what patients need and want from their hearing healthcare. We are always striving to be the Disney World of patient experience and the Mayo Clinic of clinical competence!

WHAT TO KNOW

We will give you 100% of our care, attention, and effort. We care about our patients just as we do our neighbors and friends. We take great joy in being part of this Athens community and providing it with some of the best hearing healthcare in the region!

CHAMBER MEMBERSHIP

I had wonderful examples set for me by the previous two owners. Bill Diles and Diane McVey both were very invested in their community, their small business, and in helping other small businesses remain successful. I am proud to continue to be a member of the Chamber as well as the Athens community as a whole. Being a Chamber member not only means that I have support from the Chamber, but it also gives me unique opportunities to network and get to know fellow businesses in the area.

FAVORITE THING ABOUT ATHENS?

I love the feeling of community in Athens! The way that everyone joins together to take care of each other when going through hard times, and how this community supports and encourages each other, is unmatched! Every time that Diles Hearing Center has hosted a toy drive, food drive, or collected items for struggling families, the community here has shown up every single time in a big way.

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Athens Area Chamber of Commerce

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