

# CHAMBERGRAM

JANUARY 2022



## FEATURING:

Chamber & Member News

Ribbon Cutting Photos

2022 Save the Dates

1972 Profile: *The Athens Messenger*

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**JANUARY 3**

Chamber Closed

**JANUARY 11**

Promotions and  
Special Events  
8:00 AM

**JANUARY 18**

Ambassadors Club  
11:30 AM

**JANUARY 19**

Business Before  
Hours

Habitat for Humanity SEO  
8:00-9:30 PM

**JANUARY 20**

EDG Lunch & Learn  
12:00 AM - 1:00 PM

**JANUARY 27**

Annual Dinner &  
50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Gala  
5:00 PM

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**SEE PAGE 7**

for a complete  
list of 2022  
events!



Wave good-bye to 2021 and embrace the new year with hope, joy, and resolution. I would like to wish you all a very happy, healthy, and successful New Year! Looking back over the last year, I am reminded of the thoughtful collaborations and intentional work that we all did – our board, staff, committees, and community partners. I look around and see expansions, new businesses, strong relationships and a future that is bright and bold. I also look ahead to see the 50th anniversary of the incorporation of the Athens Area Chamber of Commerce and the celebrations and stories we have to share.

We will start our year of celebrations with our Annual Dinner Meeting and 50th Anniversary Gala, featuring a champagne toast and honored guests from our business community, past and present. Through our monthly profiles, we will feature founding members who chartered this organization, highlighting their steadfast growth and commitment to the Chamber. Additionally, we will be releasing publications throughout the year, showcasing what business and life looked like in 1972.

As the area's leading business association, we hold many memories, artifacts, documents, and photos of by-gone years, but know there is an ocean more out there. We are asking folks to review and submit pieces from their own libraries, keepsake boxes, archives, and photo albums as contributions to our shared history.

Entering our 50th year creates another lens to view the work that we are doing – reminding us that we are building our business community of 2072 and we have the power to make it anything we want. I am committed to bringing that long-term view into the work I lead every day and to support the Board of Directors in their mission to strengthen our business community through collaboration, engagement, and strategic partnerships.

Cheers!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dani Underhill".

Dani Underhill, President



# Uptown for the Holidays

Thank you to the sponsors of our  
Holiday Film Series:

**ATHENA**  
CINEMA

**Arts**  
FOR OHIO



Thank you to the sponsors of our  
horse-drawn wagon rides:



A huge "Thank You" goes out to the  
Athens Uptown Business Association  
(AUBA), City of Athens, and Les Cornwell/  
Cornwell Properties for putting on another  
successful year of Uptown for the Holidays!

On December 2<sup>nd</sup> the annual tree lighting and  
opening event was overflowing with holiday  
spirit from children and adults. Attendees  
enjoyed visits with Santa, horse drawn  
wagon rides, cookie decorating, ornament  
making, face painting, holiday craft work-  
shops, story time and more. A music perfor-  
mance by New Chords on the Block provided  
the perfect backdrop for the festive events.

Throughout the night and the month of  
December, holiday films were available at  
Athens Cinema.

Thank you John Hutchinson/Hutchinson  
Horsedrawn Wagon and Carriage Service.  
Thank you to all the sponsors and businesses  
who donated funds or put in the extra effort  
and time to make this month-long event  
special for the whole community.

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

In this new year, the Chamber  
celebrates and appreciates the  
following businesses on  
20 and 10 years  
of membership:

### 20 YEARS:

Allpower Equipment

Go Bus

Habitat for Humanity of SEO

Holzer Clinic

Jill Thompson, Athens  
County Auditor

Merchants National Bank

Quidel Corporation

Secure Title Services

Stephen's on Court

The Ohio University  
Foundation

Thomas W. Parfitt CPA

Wakefield Power Equipment

Wal-Mart Stores Inc.

### 10 YEARS

Bickle Insurance Services

Edward Jones

FairHoPe Hospice &  
Palliative Care

ICF Building Products

K. Robert Toy,  
Attorney at Law

NAMI Athens

Wharton Properties



# Uptown for the Holidays

Moments from the Uptown for the Holidays festivities, including the Tree Lighting Event on Thursday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>.







# THE ANNUAL DINNER MEETING and **50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY GALA**

*You are cordially invited to the  
2021 Annual Dinner & 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala*

Take a walk down the red carpet and memory lane as the Athens Area Chamber celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and recognizes Chamber member businesses and individuals who have made an impact in 2021.

Enjoy a night of networking with fellow Chamber members, a formal dinner, the annual meeting and awards, and a champagne toast to celebrate the Chamber's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Guests are welcome to join in the celebration! Details at [www.athenschamber.com/50th](http://www.athenschamber.com/50th).

Awards presented to a Chamber member or business include Distinguished Service Award, Holzaepfel Economic Growth Award, Jon Sparhawk Small Business Award, Young Professional of the Year, Ambassador of the Year and Community Support Award. For more information visit [www.athenschamber.com/awards](http://www.athenschamber.com/awards).

**REGISTER NOW!**

## Sponsorship Opportunities

Contact Dawn at [Dawn@athenschamber.com](mailto:Dawn@athenschamber.com) to secure a sponsorship or for more details.

**Platinum, \$2,000 (2 available):**

**Spectrum**

All benefits of Gold level, plus:

- Mention on weekly Chamber Update on WXTQ, WATH, WSEO and WEAK
- Lead placement in presentation during event
- 2 complimentary meal reservations (6 total/\$270 value)
- Extra mentions/logo in email & website media

**Silver, \$500 (6 available)**



All benefits of Bronze level, plus:

- Sponsor's name or logo in event print and radio promos
- 2 complimentary meal reservations (\$90 value)
- Very own "Thank You" displayed at the event and yours to keep afterwards

**Gold, \$1,000 (3 available)**



All benefits of Silver level, plus:

- Logo placement on Chamber website with linkage
- Verbal recognition during event
- 2 complimentary meal reservations (4 total/\$180 value)

**Bronze, \$100 (unlimited)**

**Goodwill**

**OhioMeansJobs - Athens County**

- Placement in presentation during event
- Mentions in ChamberGram, email, & website media
- Printed name recognition at the event

**Table Centerpiece**

Showcase your business by creating and displaying a centerpiece at the event.



# CHAMBER NEWS



Chamber Ambassadors and Serenity Grove staff.

## Chamber Ambassadors Give Back

In coordination with OhioMeansJobs Athens, the **Athens Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors** decided to make their holiday donation of \$375 to the women of Serenity Grove. Serenity Grove provides a safe, transitional environment in which women struggling with addiction can hone skills for independent sober living. The Ambassadors hope that this donation will help the residents during the holiday season.

## Chamber Staff Retreat

On Tuesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, Chamber staff convened at Burr Oak Lodge and Conference Center to for a staff retreat. The day was spent scheduling out events and setting goals for 2022, enjoying the scenic view from the conference center, and working together on creative team building exercises. Later in the day the staff was also joined by Board members Andrea Lewis, **The Post**, and Lindsay Barnett, **Hampton by Hilton**, to plan for the Chamber's 50th anniversary year and gala celebrations.



Playing with blocks isn't just for kids! Chamber staff got in touch with their inner child and used colorful blocks during a team building exercise focused on communication and delegation.

## NOMINATION NOTICE TO MEMBERS

In accordance with Article 4.10 (D) of the Athens area Chamber of Commerce Amended and Restated Regulations effective February 2017: "At least thirty (30) days prior to the annual meeting of the members, notice of the Nominating Committee's nominations and the members' right of nomination by petition shall be given to all the members by or at the direction of the Chair of the Board or the President. Such notice may be provided by any lawful means, including as part of a newsletter or other publication. Within twenty (20) days after such notice was sent, any member, upon obtaining the signatures of at least twenty (20) members, may file with the Chair of the Board or the President one additional nomination."

Members are hereby notified that the Nominating Committee of the Chamber Board of Directors has recommended 2022 Board Appointments, Tim Martin and Cody VanMeter fulfill an initial three year term ending in 2025; Lindsay Barnett, Andrea Lewis, and Dan Stroh to serve a second three year term ending in 2025. All terms begin and end at the Chamber's Annual Meeting, January 27, 2022.

Members who choose to petition for election to the Board of Directors should deliver their petition bearing the signatures of twenty (20) current and active Chamber members to Board Chair David Mott or Chamber President Dani Underhill at 340 West State Street, Unit 48, Suite 242, Athens, OH 45701.

These petitions must be delivered by noon on Monday, January 17, 2022.

For more information, contact the Chamber at 740-593-9353.



# 2022 Save the Dates

## Major Events

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### Annual Dinner Meeting and 50th Anniversary Gala

Thursday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, 5:00pm  
Ohio University Inn & Conference Center

### Chamber Golf Benefit

Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup>  
Athens Country Club

### Annual Dinner & Auction

Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup>  
Dairy Barn

### 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Athens Area Women's Summit

Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup>  
Stuart's Opera House

## Monthly Networking

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### Business Before/After Hours:

Before: 8:00-9:30 AM / After: 4:00-5:30 PM  
Typically the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month

January 19<sup>th</sup> - Business BEFORE Hours  
Habitat for Humanity of SEO

July 20 - Business AFTER Hours  
Mathews Insurance

February 16 - Business BEFORE Hours  
United Seniors of Athens County

August (day TBD) - Business AFTER Hours  
Ohio University Inn & Conference Center

**March 16**  
**OPEN - Reserve this date today!**

September  
NO Business Before/After Hours

April 20 - Business AFTER Hours  
OhioMeansJobs - Athens County

October 19 - Business AFTER Hours,  
Fairfield by Mariot

May 18 - Business BEFORE Hours  
OUCU Financial

**November 16**  
**OPEN - Reserve this date today!**

June 15 - Business AFTER Hours  
Hampton by Hilton

December  
NO Business Before/After Hours

### Young Athens Professionals (YAP)

Typically the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month from 5:00-7:00PM. Locations TBD.

March 10<sup>th</sup>  
April 14<sup>th</sup>

May 12<sup>th</sup>  
June 9<sup>th</sup>

July 14<sup>th</sup>  
August 11<sup>th</sup>

September 8<sup>th</sup>  
October 13<sup>th</sup>

November 10<sup>th</sup>  
December 8<sup>th</sup>

## Athens Uptown Business Association Spotlight



From single family homes to buildings with multiple units, Bobcat Rentals can accommodate any number of people looking to live together.

86 N. Court Street  
Athens, OH 45701

740-609-1115

Monday-Friday: 9:00AM - 5:00PM

[www.bobcatrentals.net](http://www.bobcatrentals.net)



## MEMBER NEWS

Say Hello  
to  
OUCU Financial



In an exciting update, the Ohio University Credit Union is now **OUCU Financial**. In 2020, OUCU expanded their charter, allowing them to serve eight new counties in Southeast Ohio. To support this growth and expansion, they changed their name and logo to OUCU Financial and executed a credit union comprehensive brand transformation initiative. And while their name may have changed, their web address, phone numbers, and emails will not. For additional information, please visit [www.oucu.org/NameChange](http://www.oucu.org/NameChange).

Are you  
ready  
to make a  
difference?

Become a **Chamber Ambassador** and make a difference for yourself, your business, and your community.

Applications for the 2022 Chamber Ambassador's Team are due on Friday, February 5, 2022.

Learn more at: [athenschamber.com/ambassador](http://athenschamber.com/ambassador)



# MEMBER NEWS



## BUSINESS BEFORE HOURS

**JANUARY 19**  
8:00AM - 9:30AM



Habitat for Humanity  
of Southeast Ohio

14440 Ohio 13,  
Millfield, OH 45761

## Atomic Credit Union Recognized



For the eighth consecutive year, **Atomic Credit Union** has been named by *American Banker* as one of the "2021 Best Credit Unions to Work For" in the \$200M-\$500M asset category. Winners were determined by a two-step process of employee surveys and evaluations of workplace policies, practices, and demographics. Atomic Credit Union was recognized for their flexibility with personal/family matters, opportunity for advancement, benefits package, and more. For more information, please visit [www.atomiccu.com](http://www.atomiccu.com).

## RIBBON CUTTING



Snider, Fuller, Stroh has gone through an exciting evolution. After serving Southeast Ohio for 50 years as a widely focused benefits, insurance, and investments practice, the firm has grown into **Snider Stroh and Jarrett Financial** – a narrowly focused investment, insurance, and planning firm – and **Snider Stroh Insurance Partners**. On Tuesday, December 14th, Chamber staff and ambassadors gathered to celebrate this expansion with a Ribbon Cutting. For additional information, please visit [www.ss.j.finance](http://www.ss.j.finance).



# 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 Marc Cohen, Publisher of The Athens Messenger and President of APG Media of Ohio.*



## The Athens Messenger

9300 Johnson Road  
Athens

[athensmessenger.com](http://athensmessenger.com)  
(740) 592-6612

### BUSINESS OVERVIEW

We are part watchdog and part cheerleader and advocate for those who need help with a reoccurring issue. We cover sports, entertainment, regional and national news to ensure the community is informed both in print and online.

### A LONG HISTORY

We are in our 173<sup>rd</sup> year and I am sure we didn't have many employees back in 1848 but we have 33 employees now. We have changed hands over those years and *The Athens Messenger* is now owned by Adams Publishing Group (APG), a privately held and well-respected newspaper group in the industry.

### SECRETS TO SUCCESS

It's people! Dedicated journalists, sales reps, pressman and circulation personnel are all integral to what we do. Pride of getting the news to you fairly, without bias, and reps who help local merchants improve their store traffic are why we come in every day.

### FAVORITE THING ABOUT ATHENS?

Just one thing? Just like our company, it is the people. Friendly, fun and they are wildly prideful about their community.

### WHAT TO KNOW

We are a multimedia company. We are no longer just in print – now we produce video and help businesses with marketing solutions that encompass many social media opportunities. We have evolved and will continue to be a multimedia organization. We also produce events for our community and that is a growing part of what we do. Being nimble ensures our growth.

### CHAMBER MEMBERSHIP

Community and businesses are the core reason we exist and we want to be center in that action. We have nothing without our local businesses and feel strongly that we must be good citizens and do our part for the Athens community. The Chamber is the perfect organization for this. I like the direction that Dani and her team are taking. Also, they are just a lot of fun! They have a solid grasp on what this region wants and needs and the mission says it all: To strengthen our business community through collaboration, engagement, and strategic partnerships. That is what we are about as well.



Unless otherwise noted, all images © 2021 Kristin Slemmer, Athens Area Chamber of Commerce.

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