

# CHAMBERGRAM

FEBRUARY 2022



## FEATURING:

Chamber & Member News

Annual Dinner Meeting Recap and Photos

Save the Dates

1972 Charter Member Profile: Snider Stroh Jarrett Financial

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

TUESDAY

**FEBRUARY 8**

Promotions and  
Special Events  
8:00 AM (Virtual)

TUESDAY

**FEBRUARY 15**

Ambassadors Club  
11:30 AM (Virtual)

WEDNESDAY

**FEBRUARY 16**

Business Before  
Hours

United Seniors/Athens Cares  
Athens Community Center  
8:00-9:30 PM

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

WEDNESDAY

**MARCH 16, 2022**

Business Before  
Hours

Habitat for Humanity  
of SEO  
8:00-9:30 AM

FRIDAY

**MAY 20, 2022**

Annual Golf Benefit  
Athens Country Club

As we celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the incorporation of the Athens Area Chamber, we must admit that our business landscape has changed a lot since 1972. While some of the places we knew no longer have a storefront in our town, many continue to achieve success and growth. These are the companies that have refined and strengthened their business through changes in ownership, address, and evolving brands and names. They are businesses who are committed to the civic well-being of Athens, who are part of the boards and committees that sustain our non-profit community, who support our youth and most-vulnerable, and act as mentors to rising professionals. They are the businesses that make up our Chamber, and as we move forward, we are excited to continue to serve and support those businesses and our thriving business community.

2021 was a very busy year at the Chamber as we look toward the future. We continued hosting some of our historical events, including the Golf Benefit, monthly Business Before and After Hours networking events, and Lunch and Learns, which we do in partnership with the Entrepreneurial Development Group (EDG). Thankfully, we were able to be in person for our large events, including the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Athens Area Women's Summit, which was held as our first hybrid event. We welcomed 75 folks in person and entertained another 20 virtually, and our Planning Committee is already working to plan the next Women's Summit, which will be held on October 21, 2022.

The Chamber also assisted with the planning and promotion of Uptown for the Holidays – a nearly month-long event celebrating the uniqueness of our uptown retailers. And our uptown area is now home to a DORA (Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area) thanks to the initiative and time spent by Chamber staff and AUBA members.

In 2021 we celebrated new businesses with 4 Ribbon Cuttings and welcomed 21 new member businesses and organizations to the Chamber. Our Board of Directors welcomed some community and business partners to the planning table in May last year for a strategic planning retreat and we walked away recharged and ready to up the needs for the business community over the next 3 years.

Over the course of the year there will be many ways we will celebrate our 50th anniversary, our charter members, and all our member businesses. Keep an eye on the ChamberGram for the 1972 Profiles on our charter members that we feature in each edition as well as our Business Before/After Hours calendar for events at some of these locations.

To commemorate our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Chamber will be sealing a time capsule at our Annual Auction & Dinner on September 15<sup>th</sup>. The theme is "Celebrate Athens" and we will be inviting member businesses to contribute to the time capsule over the coming months – stay tuned.



Dani Underhill, President



# 2021 YEAR IN REVIEW





# 2021 ANNUAL AWARD WINNERS



L: 2021 Annual Award Winners: The Athens Farmers Market (Holzaepfel Economic Impact); Susan Barga (Community Support); Bagel Street Deli (Small Business of the Year); Jessica Thomas (Distinguished Service); and Emily Latta (Young Professional of the Year) R: Ambassador of the Year Angela Carter.

Chamber members, pillars of the community, and special guests gathered on Thursday, January 27th at the **Ohio University Inn and Conference Center** for the Annual Dinner Meeting and 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala. Dawn Worley-Sims, Director of Membership, kicked off the night by highlighting the accomplishments that the Chamber experienced in 2021 – including the return to in-person events, the success of the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Athens Area Women's Summit, the addition of over 20 new member businesses, and the creation of a DORA (Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area) in the Uptown business area – and concluded, "I'm honored to live in such a thriving and unique community of people who want to make each day a better place for Athens."

The love of the Athens community and the importance of teamwork and collaboration continued to be a theme in the rest of the speeches that night.

- Angela Carter, Director of **PersonnelPlus**, was recognized as the Ambassador of the Year, an award given to honor a Chamber Ambassador who goes above and beyond to demonstrate extraordinary dedication to the Chamber and its mission.
- Emily Latta, the only Certified Midwife in Athens and its surrounding counties, was recognized as the Young Professional of the Year for how she serves the Athens community through her work with local non-profits, including the March of Dimes and Bella Run Equine, and her commitment to providing exceptional care to women of all ages in Southeast Ohio.
- The Jon Sparhawk Business of the Year – an award given to a small business with ingenious marketing promotions, a thoughtful and conscientious work ethic, and one invested in their community – was awarded to **Bagel Street Deli** co-owners Megan and Lenny Meyers to recognize their almost 20-year commitment to the Athens community and honor the work they put into expanding the business in 2021.

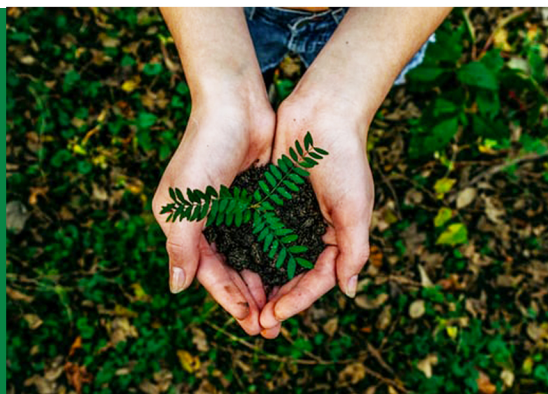


# 2021 ANNUAL AWARD WINNERS

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- The Athens Farmers Market was given The Holzaepfel Economic Impact Award, which has been recognizing businesses for their exceptional economic impact on the Athens Area community since 1993. The Athens Farmers Market, also celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2022, was recognized for helping over 300 vendors sell their products directly to customers and for being a driving force in building up Athens County as a true Foodie Destination to those outside of our area, increasing local leisure tourism.
- Jessica Thomas, co-owner of **Brenen's Coffee Café**, was honored with the Distinguished Service Award for serving the Athens community by sitting on the boards of the Dairy Barn and The Athens Foundation, and through her work serving as chair of the Athens Uptown Business Association (AUBA) where she led the charge to create Parklets, supported the Uptown for the Holidays events, and was instrumental in establishing the DORA areas in 2021.
- Susan Barga, of the Athens Real Estate Company, was presented with the Community Spirit Award for innumerable contributions she has given to the Athens community over the past 25 years and for being a "role model of compassion, and service who strives to make her corner of the world a better place. To her, helping those who need it, in any way she can is central to who she is."

Outgoing board members Natalie Tevis (**Airclaws**) and Tara Gilts (**OhioHealth**) were also honored for their service to the board and the Chamber, and incoming board members Tim Martin, owner of **Ohio is Home** and Red Tail Design, and Cody VanMeter, Business Operations Manager at **OhioHealth**, were recognized. The evening concluded with thanks to our Platinum sponsors, **Anthem**, **Peoples Bank**, and **Spectrum**, and an exciting announcement that the Chamber will be sealing a time capsule at the Annual Dinner & Auction on September 15, 2022, which member businesses will be invited to contribute to over the coming months.



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 4, 2022**.

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



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

## THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS!

### PLATINUM



### GOLD



### SILVER



### BRONZE

Goodwill  
OhioMeansJobs - Athens County

### TABLE CENTERPIECES

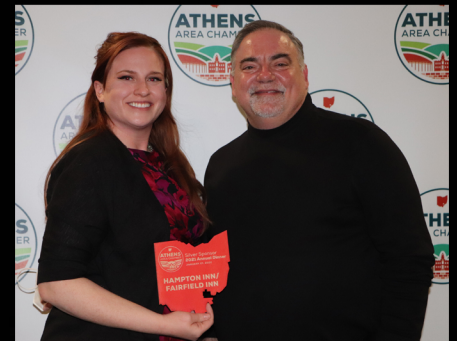
Kindred Market  
Fairfield Inn  
L'Heureux Properties  
OhioHealth

Ohio University Inn  
United Seniors  
We Welcome



# ANNUAL DINNER MEETING & GALA

Check out the full slide show of pictures from the big night at [www.athenschamber.com/50th](http://www.athenschamber.com/50th)





# MEMBER NEWS

## Breaking Ground in Nelsonville

Milo's Whole World Gourmet, LLC, is proud to announce a major \$1 million facility expansion that will allow the company to dramatically increase its sales while significantly upgrading equipment. The company produces a portfolio of more than 40 specialty food products that range from pasta sauce to mustard to BBQ sauce to salad dressings, and the brand-new 2100-sq ft production facility, to be located inside the former Rocky Boots warehouse in Nelsonville, will include upgraded machinery and a connected Product Development/QC lab where the growing team of food technologists on staff get recipes ready for commercial production. The design and construction of the new facility used several Chamber member businesses, including the design by Jim Thomas of Chamber of **BDT Architects**, electrical work by **Sun Electric**, and the HVAC by **Airclaws**.



Milo's Whole World Gourmet staff, project leaders, and Chamber staff at the groundbreaking event on December 16, 2021. Photo courtesy of MWWG.

## *Save the Date*

### CHAMBER GOLF BENEFIT

Athens Country Club

**Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup>**



## BUSINESS BEFORE HOURS



**FEBRUARY 16** 8:00AM - 9:30AM



**United Seniors of Athens County  
(Athens Cares)**

Athens Community Center  
701 East State Street, Athens



# NEW MEMBERS

## ELK TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES

132 West Main St.  
McArthur, OH 45651

740-253-4174

Contact: Keith Hagerty  
Elktwp.oh@yahoo.com



## SOUTHERN OHIO COPPERHEADS

Contact: Annie Valeant  
annie@copperheadbaseball.com

[copperheadbaseball.com](http://copperheadbaseball.com)



## SHRIVERS HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE CARE

601 Underwood Street  
Zanesville, OH 43701

740-487-1241

Contact: John Coler and Trudy Fischer  
apape@shrivershospice.com

[shrivershospice.com](http://shrivershospice.com)



## WE WELCOME, LLC

740-541-5801

Contact: Chelsea Clark-Fischer  
wewelcomebox@gmail.com

[www.wewelcomebox.com](http://www.wewelcomebox.com)

## Athens Uptown Business Association Spotlight



We know that LOCATION is the single most important factor in choosing your apartment. All of our properties are on Court Street or within a block or so.

23 N. Court Street  
Athens, OH 45701

(740) 592-1279

Monday-Friday: 8:00AM - 4:30PM

[cornwellpropertiesathens.com](http://cornwellpropertiesathens.com)



## BUSINESS BEFORE HOURS



**MARCH 16** 8:00AM - 9:30AM



## Habitat for Humanity of Southeast Ohio

14440 State Route 13  
Millfield, OH 45761

# MEMBER NEWS

## 2021 Trailblazer Award Winners

PersonnelPlus is proud to announce the winners of the 2021 Trailblazer Awards, which honor businesses and individuals for their hard work and continued support of the mission of PersonnelPlus to enhance and change the lives of people with different abilities:

- **Brenen's Coffee Café** is the Trailblazer Award winner in the Business/Business Leader category. Brenen's employs and promotes the benefits of hiring individuals with different abilities, and they are a great supporter of the PersonnelPlus mission and programs.

- The Ambassador Award recognizes longevity of commitment to employing workers with disabilities. **Kroger of Athens** was named as the 2021 Ambassador Award winner to recognize the almost 15 years that they have partnered with PersonnelPlus and employed multiple people with different abilities.

To learn more about the rest of the award winners, visit <http://personnelplus.org/?p=1514>.



Award presented by PersonnelPlus Business Advisory Counsel members Shawna Stump and Laurie Gribble-McKnight to owner Josh Thomas. Photo courtesy of PersonnelPlus.

## Chamber Invoices

By now you should have received your 2022 membership invoice. The Chamber is updating our records and request that you provide your current logo, a 2-3 sentence description of your business/ organization, and confirm the best contact person for your business so that we can be sure that your file is up-to-date. Please send this info to [admin@athenschamber.com](mailto:admin@athenschamber.com).

We are looking forward to representing, advocating, and marketing for you and your business throughout 2022!

Please note: If you take advantage of one of the Chamber's Group Savings Program benefits, dues must be paid in full in order to continue your savings in 2022 without a lapse in your policy or service.

*Thank you for  
your years of service!*



Natalie Tevis  
Airclaws



Tara Gilts  
OhioHealth

Thank you to **Natalie Tevis** for serving on the Board of Directors Executive Committee for the past 4 years, and to **Tara Gilts** for serving as a representative on the Board of Directors. We appreciate all that they have done over the years to further the mission of the Athens Area Chamber of Commerce.



# 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 Mark Snider and Shane Jarrett of Snider Stroh Jarrett Financial.*



## Snider Stroh Jarrett Financial

5 Depot Street, Athens

[www.ssj.finance](http://www.ssj.finance)

740-594-8385

### BUSINESS OVERVIEW

We service Southeast Ohio in a multitude of ways. Our clients know that we don't offer a cookie-cutter, one-size-fits-all solution. The products and advice we bring to the table ensure that each client receives a solution tailored to their individual needs. As a result, our clients have a more secure and at-ease retirement because of our "planning-first" focus. This focus can also help families feel more secure because they are protected in the unfortunate event of the death or disability of a loved one while simultaneously offering protection against the devastating impact of high medical costs. An additional way we serve our community is through our philanthropic endeavors. For decades, our staff and partners have served on numerous boards and volunteered for leadership roles in dozens of non-profit organizations in Athens County. This includes our own Dan Stroh, who currently serves as the Chamber Board Treasurer, and Mark Snider, who previously served a two-term stint as the Chamber Board President!

### SECRETS TO SUCCESS

We show up when we say we will, we do what we say we will, we listen more than we speak, and we treat all of our clients with the same level of respect. That's about 98% of it. The other 2% we'll keep to ourselves.

### FAVORITE THING ABOUT ATHENS?

Athens has something for everyone. It's a place where everyone can find a home and a community to welcome them.

### A LONG HISTORY

Our business started in 1971 when Mark Snider graduated from Otterbein University, got married, moved to Athens and began his career as an insurance agent with a major company... all within three months. At the time, there was only a small office on Court Street (above the College Bookstore) and no employees. Mark was soon promoted to Regional Manager for the company and expanded the business from just insurance to also providing individual financial advice as well as working with local business owners to provide benefits for their employees. As the business grew, support staff and additional producers were added, and there are now ten employees in two divisions (Group Benefits and Personal Financial Services), including Dan Stroh and Shane Jarrett as partners in Snider Stroh and Jarrett Financial.

### WHAT TO KNOW

Whether you're an individual looking for life insurance and retirement planning, or a corporate CEO looking for complex group benefits and executive bonus plans, we have a stable of diverse products and the professionals with extensive experience to find the solution that fits your need.

Clients come first. They always have, and they always will.

### CHAMBER MEMBERSHIP

Simple... because it was, and still is, "the right thing to do", to support and advocate for a strong and vital business community. The Chamber advocates for local businesses and helps create more opportunities and a nicer place for all of us to live and work. The same answer exists now in 2021 as it did when our business joined the Chamber fifty years ago.



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

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