



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEW BUSINESSES REVITALIZE BROWNSVILLE COMMUNITIES

Uniontown, PA – Fayette County celebrated its Brownsville area communities today, welcoming new businesses with 10 ribbon cuttings.

Hosted by the Fayette Chamber of Commerce, the unprecedented event acknowledged the ongoing growth and revitalization in downtown Brownsville and its surrounding neighborhoods.

Beginning on state Route 40 in Grindstone, a large group of supporters, including local, county and state officials, proceeded to each of the 11 businesses to host the back-to-back ceremonies. The locations included:

- Riverside Family Market
- Market Street Barber Shop
- Vaganova Academy of Brownsville
- The Sandwich Shop and Deli, LLC
- Leaning House Fine Cigars
- Antiques on Broad
- Exquisite Design Studio
- Aperturepro22
- Mary's Corner Café
- Pickers Pub & Grub
- The Perennial Project

Many of the businesses offered special deals, held giveaways and offered refreshments all day long to mark the occasion. As Fayette Chamber of Commerce members, the businesses will be able to share in the chamber's resources and work together as they strive to revamp the Brownsville community.

Chamber Executive Director Muriel Nuttall said the event was "truly exciting," as it set a record for the most ribbon cuttings done by the chamber in one day. The previous ribbon-cutting record was also set in Brownsville several years ago.

The chamber worked closely with Joe Barantovich, who co-founded Brownsville's Perennial Project with Laura Patterson last year, in the hopes of revitalizing the community. Nuttall said Brownsville Borough Councilwoman Beth Bock requested a ribbon cutting and the event "took off" from there.

"This was an exciting way to look at the reenergizing of a whole business community. This is especially exciting as it has all come about in the midst of a pandemic," Nuttall said. "As the Fayette Chamber is proud to be a partner organization, we will gladly stand beside the Greater Brownsville Area Chamber to welcome these businesses."

Fayette County Commissioner Dave Lohr said having 10 consecutive ribbon cuttings says “so much about the ‘can-do’ spirit we see every day in Fayette County.”

“It’s so exciting to see people out there, ready to do business. It’s also a testimony to what Fayette County has to offer and how our county aligns with the quality of life people want, that people choose to open and operate businesses here,” Lohr said. “I say ‘thank you’ to each and every one of those business owners who have chosen to place a business here; who have committed their lives and families to this community.”

Lohr said he always thinks about what brings people to Fayette County in the first place, and what it needs to offer so they’ll stay.

“The answer isn’t one thing. It’s many things, from economic development and jobs, to services in the community, to recreation and tourism. It’s all interconnected, because it’s all really about what people see as essential to quality of life,” he said. “Brownsville has something to offer on every front, and it’s a draw for those looking for a place to live, work and play. I wish these new businesses, and all the businesses in the community, every success. I hope to see them thrive and grow; I hope to see the owners, their employees and their families become valued and vital members of the community; and I hope that others are inspired by the courage of these business owners, opening at this time and in this place.”

Fayette County Commissioner Vince Vicites said the event is an outstanding achievement for Brownsville area communities.

“I believe Brownsville is on the move. Their citizens have really organized their priorities, and they are poised for progress,” Vicites said. “The county has done everything it can to support Brownsville and their efforts with grants through the Fayette County Redevelopment Authority.”

The redevelopment authority was also able to acquire dozens of blighted properties from a single landlord “uninterested in making progress,” Vicites added.

“Acquiring those properties opened up the development process for the future. They’ve added a town square park, senior living community and more. Now, with 10 ribbon cuttings for new businesses - all of it is quite impressive,” he said. “Brownsville has all of the necessary infrastructure, and it’s ready for further development and growth. The future is bright for Brownsville, Pennsylvania, and I want to continue to help in any way I can.”

Fayette County Commissioner Scott Dunn said he was honored to be invited to celebrate Brownsville’s success and experience so many back-to-back ceremonies for local businesses.

“This is just tremendous, and to have this occurring in the midst of the Coronavirus adds to the impressiveness of this accomplishment,” Dunn said. “What is remarkable is the amount of private investment made by each of these companies. This shows the level of confidence in and commitment to the community. This can only be positive for the future of Brownsville. It’s a thrill to see people excited about their hometown.”

In addition to the new local businesses, Brownsville has recently garnered attention as the filming location for various movies and shows, including “Maria’s Lovers” and Netflix’s “I Am Not Okay With This.”

“Brownsville has had its difficulties economically. The community has learned that capitalizing in a positive manner on these opportunities can bring a whole new audience to town to enjoy the restaurants and local stores,” Nuttall said. “It is so gratifying to see the positive changes that are happening now as the business community grows, and the people of Brownsville see that they can be - and should be - proud of their hometown. Borough council is working in partnership with many of the Brownsville organizations and, together, they are seeing great change happen.”

Nuttall said the chamber is proud to welcome the 11 new businesses to its membership. A large and robust organization, the chamber was created to support and provide advocacy for Fayette County’s business community.

“It is always wonderful to celebrate a new business in Fayette, but today is more than a celebration - it's a revitalization of one of our county's most historic neighborhoods. The Fayette Chamber is honored to be a part of this day,” said Devan White, Fayette Chamber Board President and Vice President of Wealth Enhancement Group.

Brownsville Chamber President and owner of a multi-state chain of NAPA Auto Parts stores, Carl DellaPenna added, “I’d like to officially welcome all of our new businesses to the Brownsville community. I wish every one of you great success in the years ahead.”

“The work that we do, whether in marketing, workforce development or fundraising on behalf of our social service nonprofits, like the Fayette County Food Bank, is vital to a thriving community. Fayette County is an amazing place with good people. It’s a great place to live, work and do business. We need to keep telling our story, stories just like this, the people of a small town banding together to make great things happen,” Nuttall said. “Businesses who choose to invest in organizations like the Fayette Chamber understand the true value of community support. We are thankful for those businesses in Brownsville who are there to make a difference.”

For more information, visit www.fayettechamber.com.

To learn more about Fayette County, visit www.FayetteCountyPA.org.

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