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Contact: Ron Fischer  
chairman@bbanj.org  
908.362.7080

**Blairstown Business Association Reorganizes, Holds Kick-Off Meeting at First Hope Bank**

*Blairstown, NJ, March 26, 2010* — The newly reorganized and reenergized Blairstown Business Association (BBA) held a kickoff meeting at the Blairstown office of First Hope Bank on March 11. Twenty-four owners and representatives of local businesses attended, including Blairstown Mayor Richard Mach.

According to Ron Fischer, BBA Chairman and owner, Redemption Processing of Blairstown, “There is a mandate for an organization like the BBA to address the needs of Blairstown-area businesses, including the need for networking and idea generating and sharing.”

Fischer added he is very optimistic about the prospects for BBA growth through quarterly, topical, networking meetings and that he believes the organization will have a very positive impact on the business community within the Blairstown area.

Cheryl Teke, BBA Secretary/Treasurer and Vice-President-Manager of First Hope’s Blairstown Office, said the BBA welcomes the participation and input of local businesses. She added that the BBA looks forward to continuing its tradition of awarding a scholarship to a North Warren Regional High School senior.

Other BBA officers include Herman P. Shoemaker, Blairstown Council Liaison and owner, the BookNest, and Anthony Spameni, Membership Coordinator, and owner, Tri-County Realty Group. Ryan Pagotto and Jim Frick of Blair Academy serve as the BBA’s liaisons with Blair. Visit [BBANJ.org](http://BBANJ.org) to learn more and to join the BBA.

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