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Be Local by attending Fay-Penn's GrowBIZ expo for local businesses

By Frances Borsodi Zajac fzajac@heraldstandard.com 8 hrs ago

Fay-Penn Economic Development Council is once again offering GrowBIZ Financing & Assistance Expo for local businesses.

GrowBIZ takes place from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Oct. 4 at the Fayette Launch Box in the Eberly Business Center, located at 1040 Eberly Way, Suite 100, University Business Park in Lemont Furnace. Lunch will be provided immediately following the program. All of this is free.

Be Local means taking advantage of this opportunity to learn about starting a business, planning an expansion or learning about resources available to help businesses succeed.

"It's bringing in resources for businesses of any size in Fayette County and is also open to businesses in neighboring counties," said Lori Scott, Business Development coordinator for Fay-Penn, "whether a business needs financing or a start-up plan, looking to get into government contracting, exporting or has workforce issues."

Scott said the expo will include about 25 organizations from Fayette, Greene, Somerset and Washington counties.

A flyer for GrowBIZ noted a wide array of experts and agencies can provide free advice and information on topics, such as business plan development, federal and state financing programs, economic development financing, grant funding, workforce assistance, energy efficiency, tax credits, government contracting and more.

This is the second year for GrowBIZ.

"Last year went very well for the first time," said Scott. "We already have more attendees coming."

Scott said Fay-Penn would like businesses to RSVP but they welcome anyone who comes that day. Register by calling 724-437-7913 or emailing Sandym@faypenn.org.

GrowBIZ is set up like a trade show with attendees given a list of resources and are welcome to walk around and talk to whomever they want.

Paul Brahim, chair and CEO of BPU Investment Management Inc., is serving as keynote speaker at the luncheon, giving an address on "Eight Key Drivers of Business Value." BPU is acting as sponsor for GrowBIZ this year.

Fay-Penn, according to its website, is a 501(c)3 nonprofit that began in 1991 and is recognized as an industrial development organization by federal, state, and local governments. Its purpose is to sustain a supportive environment for business retention, start-up, expansion and attraction.

Those interested in joining the Be Local Network can call 724-425-7515 or email swallach@heraldstandard.com. Discount cards are available at the *Herald-Standard*, 8 E. Church St., Uniontown, and at the Greene County Messenger, 32 Church St., Waynesburg.