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Lebanon's Women Entrepreneurs

By Jessica Trimble

In this final installment of the Lebanon County Commission for Women's tribute to women in business as part of the National Women's History Project theme, we honor all women who brought enterprise to Lebanon County over the years. Women-owned franchises are all around us and we hope to highlight a few of these visionaries.

Have you ever enjoyed a restaurant, store, or service while traveling and wished we had that particular business closer to home? Entrepreneurs take those wishes and make them a reality. Thanks to some of Lebanon County's most ambitious women, we have an expanded range of commercial options and service provisions from which to choose. Do you remember the Bresler's 33 Flavors franchise in the old Lebanon Plaza Mall that was operated by Judy Allwein? Have you ever indulged in a sweet treat from Edible Arrangements? If so, be sure to thank Pamela Shirk for opening a local franchise in 2011. Maybe your floors are covered by carpets from Allwein's Carpet One. Sue Allwein was integral in bringing a Carpet One franchise to Cleona. Entrepreneurship comes in many forms. These franchises are just a few great examples of women's entrepreneurial spirit at work in Lebanon County.

There was a time, not so long ago, when women simply were not encouraged to pursue enterprise as a career. However, because of trailblazing women in business, the scope of commerce in Lebanon County has changed for the better. We salute all of our many business women who work hard every day to reach goals and make a better life for their families and their community. Whether they are women who rose through the ranks of their company to become executives, women who pursued a dream to found a business, women continuing family business traditions, or women with entrepreneurial spirit bringing new ventures to our economy, these are people who have demonstrated foresight, sacrificed, and made Lebanon County a stronger community.

This article series was provided by the Lebanon County Commission for Women as part of the National Women's History Project "Honoring Trailblazing Women in Labor and Business." It is not the goal of the Commission to endorse any businesses. Rather, we aim to highlight the accomplishments of a sampling of our many outstanding women in business. In recent years, the Commission's article series has adhered to the National Women's History Project themes including Women in Military and Women in Government. The Lebanon County Commission for Women, originally founded in 2003 with the intent to "inform and advise the Commissioners on issues of concern to women in Lebanon County," annually supports numerous events including the Glass Slipper Project and the Hall of Fame Luncheon. Additional information about these events and the commission itself are available at www.lebanoncounty.org/womens_commission.