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BE A PART OF COMMUNITY-POWERED LOCAL JOURNALISM

The Chautauqua Gazette exists because our community believes in informed neighbors, local perspective, and civic engagement. We are proud to be an independent paper distributed free every week with our readers at the heart of what we do.

THIS JANUARY, AND EVERY NEW YEAR MOVING FORWARD, WE INVITE YOU TO BECOME A "FRIEND OF THE GAZETTE".

THREE MEMBERSHIP LEVELS:

JOIN/RENEW/INCREASE YOUR COMMITMENT TODAY

SUPPORTER LEVEL:

2026 GOLD FRIEND – \$500 & UP
A vital role in sustaining community journalism long-term.

2026 SILVER FRIEND – \$250 & UP
A commitment to keeping the Gazette strong and independent.

2026 BRONZE FRIEND – \$100 & UP
A show of support that says, "Local news is essential."

HOW TO JOIN/RENEW

Online:

Visit our CHQgazette.com to join or renew.

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We make it easy:

Pay all at once or spread your support throughout the year by signing up for a monthly credit card autopay.



Remit your check or signup online by Feb 1st so we can include you on our 2026 "Friends Page", premiering in our Valentine's Day edition!

(See page 3 for further details.)

THANK YOU TO OUR 2025 FRIENDS OF THE GAZETTE!

YOU MAKE OUR FREE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER POSSIBLE!

GOLD:

Timothy Carlson
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THIS WEEK AROUND TOWN

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13

Living Voices: Hear My Voice (Women's Suffrage) | 9 AM-10 AM & 1 PM-2 PM

Robert H. Jackson Center | Jamestown
For Info: roberthjackson.org/events

Cinema Series: "Wicked: For Good" | 7:30 PM

1891 Fredonia Opera House Performing Arts Center | Fredonia
For Info: fredopera.org

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14

Living Voices: Hear My Voice (Women's Suffrage) | 9 AM-10 AM, 11 AM-12 PM, & 1:15 PM-2:15 PM

Robert H. Jackson Center | Jamestown
For Info: roberthjackson.org/events

Movies at The Reg: Sentimental Value | 7 PM

Reg Lenna Center for The Arts | Jamestown
For Info: reglenna.com

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15

The Chautauqua County Department of Mental Hygiene and Social Services | 5:30 PM

Foster Parent Informational Session
South County Office Building | Jamestown
For Info: moellera@chqgov.com

Songwriters Circle | 7:30 PM

Lake Shore Center for the Arts | Westfield
For Info: lakeshorecenterforthearts.com/events

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16

Chautauqua Watershed Conservatory: Wine on the Trail | 4 PM

Bentley Nature Preserve | Jamestown
For Info: chautauquawatershed.org/bentley-preserve

An Evening of Ice Wine 5 PM-9 PM

The White Inn & Coughlan's Pub | Fredonia
For Info: festivalsfredonia.org

Movies at The Reg: Zootopia 2 7 PM

Reg Lenna Center for The Arts | Jamestown
For Info: reglenna.com

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17

CCHD Free Rabies Vaccination Clinic | 10 AM-1 PM

The Salvation Army of Jamestown
For Info: healthychq.com/rabies

3rd Annual Beekeeping Lollapalooza | 11 AM-3 PM

Fluvanna Community Church | Jamestown
For Info: ccba1870@gmail.com

In Concert Series | 2 PM

Lake Shore Center for the Arts | Westfield
For Info: lakeshorecenterforthearts.com/events

New Moon Ecstatic Dance 4 PM-7 PM

The Heron Farm and Event Center | Panama
For Info: theheron.org/event/new-moon-ecstatic-dance

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17 & SUNDAY, JANUARY 18

January Monthly Camp

YMCA Camp Onyahsa | Dewittville
For Info: onyahsa.org

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18

Lauren Turner: "The Dream Revisited" | 10:30 AM

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Jamestown
For Info: uujamestown.com

Why Chautauqua County Needs the Chautauqua Gazette

Contributing Writer
Will Lively

Local newspapers are disappearing at an alarming rate, and when they go, communities lose more than headlines. Communities lose context, memory and a shared space for conversation. In Chautauqua County, the continued presence of an independent paper like the Chautauqua Gazette is welcome and necessary.

The Chautauqua Gazette is community-focused and is not driven by clicks or distant editorial priorities, but by what matters to the people who live here. That distinction matters.

When news is rooted in place, it reflects the lived experiences of its readers rather than flattening them into statistics or soundbites. Independent news organizations do something larger publications rarely do well: they make room for everyday voices. Community members, local advocates, artists and residents with firsthand knowledge of local issues are given space to speak.

The Chautauqua Gazette also plays a critical role in supporting the county's small business community. Locally owned businesses are the backbone of Chautauqua County. By offering accessible advertising and editorial attention, the paper helps keep commerce local and strengthens economic ties between businesses and residents.

Beyond opinion and commerce, the Gazette serves as a clearinghouse for community life. County-wide events, arts programming, nonprofit initiatives and seasonal gatherings all find a place in its pages. The work that goes into weekly themed issues isn't incidental; it is a purposeful attempt to mirror the life and events of Chautauqua County. People cannot participate in community life if they do not know what is happening. By consistently sharing this information, the paper helps sustain civic engagement across the region.

None of this happens by accident. The Chautauqua Gazette is the product of a small, committed team working week after week to produce a community newspaper that remains free to the public.

The paper is owned and published by Lori Cornell, whose leadership has kept the Gazette focused on highlighting the wonder, beauty and ingenuity of

Chautauqua County. Maintaining a free, county-wide newspaper in today's media climate is no small task, and it reflects a deliberate choice to prioritize public access over profit. Her commitment to working with new journalists, community members and local businesses has led to a paper with a distinctly local character.

The Gazette was founded by Stacey Hannon, whose original goal was to create a publication centered on local stories and community connection. That founding vision still shapes the paper's identity and editorial approach.

The publication's visual quality is another reminder that local journalism does not have to mean lower standards. April Colburn, Chautauqua Gazette art director, is responsible for the paper's visual identity, bringing consistency and professionalism to each issue. Strong design matters—it affects readability, engagement and the overall quality of the publication.

Editorial content is shaped by staff members who understand the community they cover, such as Katrina Fuller, editor-in-chief, who brings both journalism experience and deep local ties to her work. Shannon Nixon, Chautauqua Gazette marketing director and writer with a background in communications and nonprofit outreach, is diligent in the development of the paper, and her writing is informed by a deep understanding of the local community, its organizations and local businesses.

Contributing writer Pat Locke delivers thoughtful community insight, drawing on a depth of experience and a genuine love for local stories. Finally, Jordan Nicholson, a contributing writer, adds thoughtful perspective grounded in both local knowledge and broader experience. These are just a few of the talented creatives to whom the Chautauqua Gazette has given a voice.

Together, this team produces a newspaper that punches well above its weight. The value of this kind of journalism cannot be measured solely in circulation numbers. It shows up in informed residents, better-attended events, supported local businesses and a community that sees itself reflected in print. Local media helps hold communities together by giving them a shared narrative and a common source of information. As long as papers like the Gazette continue to operate, communities like ours retain a vital space for dialogue, storytelling and connection.





Six out of 10 Americans rely on a local newspaper for advertising information about local businesses.*

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Lori Cornell

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Editorial with Lori Cornell

Thank you for being a Friend



Owner & Publisher
Lori Cornell

For 14 years, the then-Jamestown Gazette thrived under its founder Stacey Hannon. Small business advertising revenues alone successfully sustained this little engine that could and did so for an impressive number of years.

When I bought the Gazette from Mrs. Hannon in February of 2024, I quickly realized that times were a-changing. The demand for community news and the place for Chautauqua County's local weekly remains strong; clearly indicative of our vested and engaged region. However, exclusive reliance on advertising revenues alone seemed no longer sustainable in a world of rising expenses. I also learned that many loyal readers - not simply generous small business owners - wished to play a role in helping to support this newspaper's continued existence.

In light of such progress, last

year, we created the "Friends of the Gazette" opportunity and the weekly "Friends" listing to feature all of our beloved supporters that help make each Monday's edition possible. When you become a "Friend", you are attesting to the value of this FREE community weekly and your desire to help it remain strong. When you become a "Friend", you help cover the cost of publishing 6,000 copies to be distributed across 35 communities within three counties and at over 350 distribution locations - AND online! - for an estimated 20,000 readers each week! And, when you become a "Friend", we proudly display your name among our other loyal supporters each week.

At the Gazette, we strive to highlight and showcase the fibers that hold the tapestry of Chautauqua County together. We tell the stories of those who choose to make their mark here, who lay down roots and build up support to make our communities what they are. As a "Friend of the Gazette," your contribution makes telling those stories possible.

We are most grateful to our 2025 debut members and hope you will consider joining them in 2026!

CHAUTAUQUA
GAZETTE

Publisher.....Lori Cornell
Founder.....Stacey Hannon
Art Director.....April Colburn
Editor-in-Chief.....Katrina Fuller
Marketing Director.....Shannon Nixon
Technical Designer.....Marc Scapelitte
Designer Emeritus.....Nick Trussalo
Graphic Design Intern.....Jonah Grace
Contributing Writer.....Pat Locke
Contributing Writer.....Will Lively
Distribution Director.....Matt Emmerling

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SUBMISSION DEADLINES
Thursdays at 5:00 pm

DISTRIBUTION
The Chautauqua Gazette is a locally owned free weekly, community newspaper that highlights the notable events and remarkable people who make our region a unique and vibrant place to live. The Chautauqua Gazette is published every Monday and distributed to dealer locations in Chautauqua and Cattaraugus Counties in New York and in Warren County, Pennsylvania.

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WHY JOIN/RENEW IN
JANUARY?

By making membership an annual tradition, you can help us:

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YEAR AHEAD.

FOCUS MORE TIME ON
REPORTING.

KEEP THE GAZETTE
ACCESSIBLE TO THE ENTIRE
COMMUNITY.

Think of it like renewing your library card or supporting public radio. Local journalism works best when it's done as a community effort.

WE WILL RECOGNIZE YOU

Friends of the Gazette will have their names featured in the paper every week! It's a public thank-you to our generous supporters and a visible reminder that this newspaper is truly powered by its community.

More importantly, your support helps make the Gazette possible by keeping local stories in print, local voices heard, and our community informed.

A COMMUNITY EFFORT

If you supported us as a Friend last year, thank you! Please renew this month. If you're supporting us for the first time this year, we welcome and thank you!

The Gazette isn't owned by a major news corporation. It's supported by everyday Chautauqua locals, readers, and Friends like you. Your membership helps ensure that local stories can be told, local voices can be heard, and our community can stay connected and informed.

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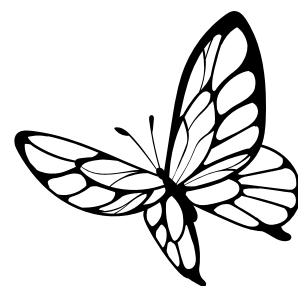
(See front cover for further details.)



CHQgazette.com



We Remember & Honor a Community Legend



Chautauqua County Mourns the Passing of Former County Clerk Larry Barmore

Contributed by
Chautauqua County

Chautauqua County Government is mourning the passing of former Chautauqua County Clerk Larry Barmore, who died peacefully on January 3, 2026, at the age of 74, surrounded by family.

Larry Barmore dedicated much of his life to serving the people of Chautauqua County, first as a County Legislator from 2008 to 2013 and later as County Clerk beginning in 2014, a role he held with distinction and integrity until his passing. Known for his deep commitment to public service, community history, and civic engagement, Barmore leaves behind a lasting legacy that spans decades.

"Larry Barmore was the definition of a public servant," said Chautauqua County Executive Paul M. Wendel Jr. "He cared deeply about Chautauqua County, its people, and its history. Whether serving as a legislator, county clerk, business owner, or community volunteer, Larry always led with humility, kindness, and an unwavering sense of responsibility. His impact will be felt

for generations, and he will be greatly missed."

Before entering public office, Barmore was a successful local business owner and later continued his entrepreneurial work alongside his family while serving the county. As County Clerk, he was widely respected for his accessibility, professionalism, and dedication to improving services for residents. He chose not to seek reelection, paving the way for an orderly transition within the office.

"The Chautauqua County Clerk staff and I were very saddened to hear about the passing of Larry Barmore," said newly elected Chautauqua County Clerk Greg Carlson. "Larry was one of the first people I met when I was hired by the county almost ten years ago, and he was a great mentor to me as a newly hired department head. The New York State Association of County Clerk's shared condolences and fond memories with my office when they learned of the news."

Beyond county government, Barmore was a passionate advocate for local history and preservation. He authored

FORMER COUNTY CLERK
Larry
BARMORE
AUGUST 27, 1951 - JANUARY 3, 2026



multiple books on the history of Sinclairville, led the Sinclairville History Fair for more than two decades, and provided long-standing leadership as president of the Valley Historical Society. He was also an active member of the local chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. His dedication to preserving community heritage and strengthening local institutions earned him widespread respect, including the designation of "Larry Barmore Day" in Sinclairville in September 2024.

"Larry Barmore understood that preserving our local history is essential to understanding who we are as a communi-

ty," said Chautauqua County Historian Norman Carlson. "His dedication to documenting and celebrating the history of Sinclairville and surrounding communities ensured that stories which might otherwise have been lost will continue to educate and inspire future generations. Larry's contributions to historical preservation in Chautauqua County are lasting and deeply meaningful."

In honor of Larry Barmore's lifetime of public service and dedication to Chautauqua County, flags at all Chautauqua County Government facilities will be flown at half-staff.

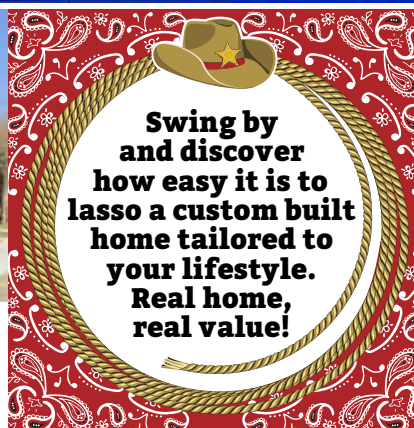


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Presented by Festivals Fredonia, Inc.



Submitted Photo

Visit Audubon Outdoors, Register for Camps, Order Birdseed

Sunday, January 18 is the deadline for orders from Audubon Community Nature Center's Winter Birdseed Sale, your opportunity to save while you support nature education! Call (716) 569-2345 or go online to AudubonCNC.org/Winter-Birdseed.

Audubon's January Camp is a great way for kids ages 4 to 12 to enjoy the winter holiday on Monday, January 19. Enrollment is limited, and paid reservations are required by Thursday, January 15. For more information and to register, call (716) 569-2345 or go to AudubonCNC.org/January-Camp. Nature Center members can now register for summer day camps. Others may register starting February 1. Family Memberships (\$60) and higher get 25% off each session and can be purchased, renewed, or upgraded at registration. For the brochure with all the details and scholarship information, go to AudubonCNC.org/summer-camp.

After being closed for staff planning, the three-story Nature Center building, with its interactive displays, collection of live animals and the Blue Heron Gift Shop, reopens Saturday, January 17. Till then, outdoors you can visit the live birds of prey, have fun in the Nature Play Area, and hike, snowshoe or cross country ski the six miles of trails daily for free at 1600 Riverside Road, one-quarter mile east of Route 62 between Jamestown and Warren.

Festivals Fredonia Announces "An Evening of Ice Wine 2026"

Contributed by Festivals Fredonia

Festivals Fredonia, Inc. is proud to announce **An Evening of Ice Wine 2026**, a unique winter tasting experience celebrating the exceptional ice wines of the Lake Erie region. The event will take place on **Friday, January 16, 2026**, at **The White Inn and Coughlan's Pub** in downtown Fredonia. The White Inn is offering wine pairings with a three-course dinner and ice wines with specialty desserts and Coughlin's Pub will have wine pairings with small bites and ice wines, also with specialty desserts.

Presented and sponsored by Festivals Fredonia, Chautauqua County IDA and Southern Chautauqua FCU, this elegant evening will introduce guests to the artistry and science behind ice wine, a rare and highly regarded style produced from grapes harvested and pressed while frozen. Guests will have the opportunity to sample and learn from three of the region's premier wineries: **21 Brix Winery, Mazza Vineyards, and Johnson Estate Winery.**

The evening will also showcase thoughtfully crafted culinary pairings from an outstanding lineup of local chefs, including **Devin Jones, Matt Pantano, Phil McMullen, and Andrew Smith**, each creating dishes

designed to complement the distinctive flavors of ice wine.

To complete the experience, desserts will be featured from some of the area's most celebrated bakeries and chocolatiers: **Chai's Chocolates, Butterlow Cafe & Patisserie, and Om Nohm Gluten Free Bakery**, offering a diverse and indulgent finale to the tasting.

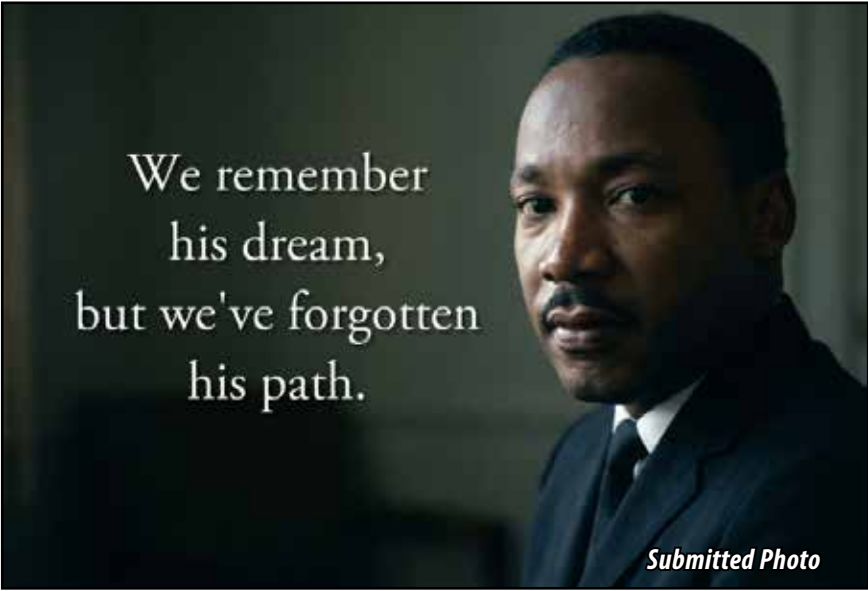
"An Evening of Ice Wine is a celebration of regional excellence," said Larry Fiorella, president of Festivals Fredonia. "From our wineries and chefs to our dessert artisans, this event highlights the incredible talent and flavors found right here in Western New York."

Additional details, including ticket information and event schedule, visit Festivals Fredonia's official event page at <https://festivalsfredoniany.org/ice-wine-festival/>.

About Festivals Fredonia, Inc.
Festivals Fredonia, Inc. is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting community, culture, and tourism in the Fredonia area through high-quality festivals and special events throughout the year. More information can be found at www.festivalsfredoniany.org or our official Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/FestivalsFredoniaOfficial>



"MLK's Dream Revisited" This Sunday



Submitted Photo

This Sunday and next at the 10:30 a.m. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Jamestown services, Lauren Turner takes a two-part look at racism. His January 18 message, "The Dream Revisited," will focus on Martin Luther King Jr.: Did he make a difference? Have we moved forward or backward or are we moving three steps forward and two back? On January 25, in "Dancing in the Mine Field," the retired Methodist minister will look at the long history of racism: even if we can't eliminate it, we need to minimize the damage it causes. Everyone is welcome to the services at 1255 Prendergast Avenue. To participate virtually, use the link at UUJamestown.org/calendar.

Applications Available for Chautauqua County's Occupancy Tax for Lakes & Waterways Grant Programs



A upgrade at Barcelona Harbor: the new boat launch expands public access and supports boating, tourism, and outdoor recreation along Lake Erie



Investment in shoreline stabilization at Bart's Cove Marina supports sustainable waterfront access and protects this important recreational resource.

Contributed by Chautauqua County

The application period for Chautauqua County Lakes and Waterways Occupancy Tax Grant programs opened on January 1, 2026.

"The Lakes and Waterways Occupancy Tax Grant programs are a strong example of how strategic partnerships can create lasting benefits for Chautauqua County," said County Executive Paul M. Wendel Jr. "From environmental protection to expanded recreational access, these projects help preserve our natural resources while supporting vibrant, tourism-driven communities."

The Occupancy Tax Programs provide funding for projects involving lakes and waterways with and are funded through revenue collected through the 2% share of the County's 5% Occupancy Tax. Applications are due on April 1, 2026 at 4:00 PM.

"We are pleased to once again offer Occupancy Tax grants for our Lakes and Waterways, said Chautauqua County Watershed Coordinator Dave McCoy.

This offering will fund projects during the 2027 Budget Year. There are two distinctly different grant programs, both of which are intended to increase Tourism and Recreation opportunities

in Chautauqua County.

Only projects with in the watersheds of Bear, Cassadaga, Findley, Chautauqua Lakes and Lake Erie are eligible.

"The In-Lake Grant Program funds lake maintenance and other projects that are undertaken in the water, while the Watershed Grant Program funds lakeshore and streambank stabilizations, agricultural runoff mitigation, establishment of riparian buffers and projects that are constructed on land," said McCoy. "Both programs are competitive because we get many more applications than we can fund".

Local government, not-for-profit organizations, businesses and all landowners of Chautauqua County are eligible to apply. The minimum request for funding is \$5,000 and the maximum request is \$50,000.

Applications are available on-line on the Chautauqua County Legislature's website at chqgov.com and on the Chautauqua County Department of Planning and Development's website at PlanningChautauqua.com.

Hardcopies of the applications are also available at the Chautauqua County Department of Planning and Development office, 201 West Third Street, Suite 115 in Jamestown, NY.

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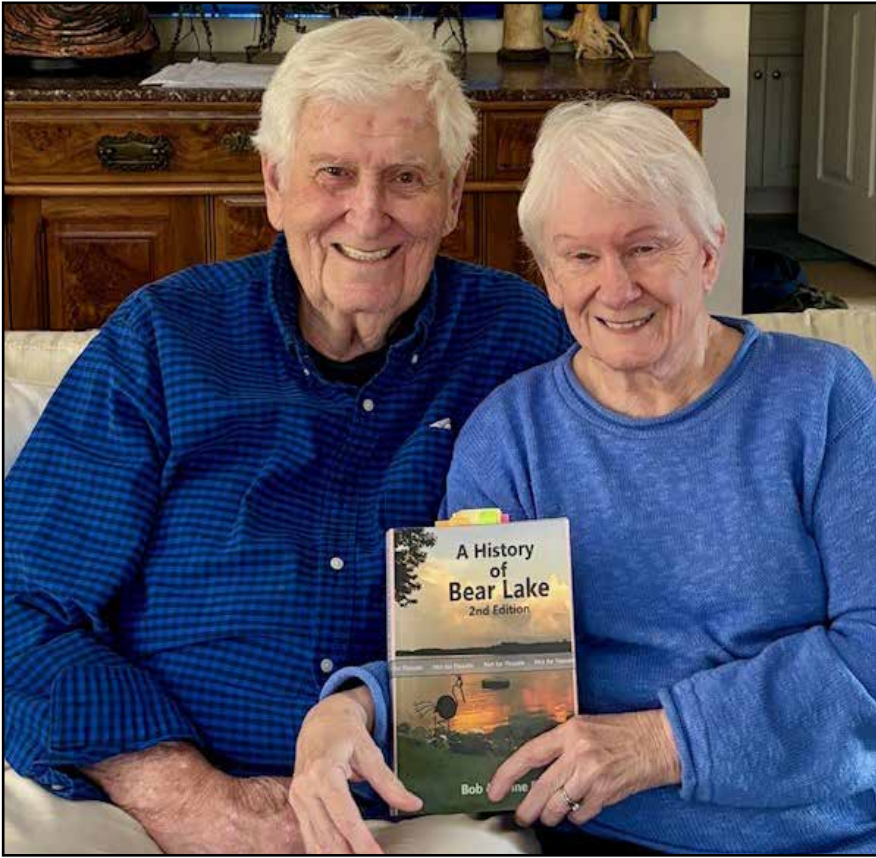


ChautauquaLakeAssociation.org

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photo: Victor Matthews

A History of Bear Lake 2nd. Edition



Authors, Bob and Anne Deming's *A History of Bear Lake* (Mill City Press, 2018) became a finalist in the General History Category of the American Book Fest's Best Books of 2022, and quickly went out of print. It was written initially so that their children, Mike, Maura and Sean would have the history of the place they have loved since they were 14, 13 and 10 years old and their five grandkids since their births. Surprised but pleased with its quick success and still getting requests for that 2018 book years later, the Demings were finally persuaded to publish another edition.

The 2025 *A History of Bear Lake 2nd Edition* extends the 2018 history of this small but wonderful lake and its community along the shores of Bear Lake in the towns of Pomfret and Stockton in Western New York. It updates the chapters in the original book, and includes four new chapters. Told primarily through the recollections of the earliest families who lived on Bear Lake at the turn of the 20th century

and soon after, and whose relatives may still live there, this edition adds a chapter on the Berndts, another early family. It also extends the history of the Demings' Shady Rest cottage on its 100th birthday with lots of family photos.

Two new chapters detail the many property changes that have occurred along the lake, and on other changes in the houses (many over 100 years old), that were made over the years. With photographs added, they also provide additional views of the lake and its surroundings to offer an overview of Bear Lake and its community as it now exists in 2025. The final chapter describes the many outdoor metal and wooden sculptures that the authors have collected on their property by artists from Chautauqua County and the other states in which they have lived. They encourage family, Bear Lake residents and visitors to come down to see them.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

Doors Open Jamestown is January 24

Contributed by
Chautauqua County
Chamber of Commerce

Now in its 22nd year, Doors Open Jamestown is coming up Saturday, January 24, with numerous local attractions and businesses participating. Doors Open is a fun day designed as an opportunity for people who live in the region to experience what tourists see in the Jamestown area, featuring a wide variety of outstanding local museums and cultural institutions. The attractions open their doors for free during what would otherwise be a slow time of year.

Not only is this a terrific in-person event, but it also includes an online scavenger hunt! Participating attractions are donating merchandise which will be assembled into three prize baskets. All individuals attending Doors Open are encouraged to play.

From your first stop of the day, just find the answer to that venue’s question and use the QR code (or visit go.chqchamber.org/experiences) to launch the game pass on your mobile device. You will input basic contact information and then will get a text featuring a direct link to the pass. Then, at each subsequent location, you just need to open your text thread to the pass and answer the next quiz question. No matter how many attractions and businesses you visit, please be sure to complete your pass by clicking the “rewards” icon and then click Claim Now to complete your drawing entry. The drawing will remain open for several hours after Doors Open is finished to allow for pass completion. Prize winners will be randomly drawn from these entries and winners will be notified Monday, January 26. If you have questions about the pass or how it works, visit the CHQ Chamber on Doors Open day.

The hours for Doors Open are 10am-4pm. The attractions with an asterisk (*) will require timed tickets through advanced registration and may have some additional restrictions. Please see their websites for details. Some additional businesses may also participate.

CHQ Chamber President and CEO Daniel Heitzenrater said, “Chautauqua County is a treasure trove of places to explore and things to do. These attractions are just a start, with numerous other art galleries, historic sites, nature

- Participating attractions in Doors Open for 2026 are:
- Audubon Community Nature Center, 1600 Riverside Road
 - Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame, 15 West 3rd Street
 - Chautauqua Youth Symphony, 106 East 2nd Street
 - CHQ Chamber and Visitor Information Center, 300 North Main Street
 - *Fenton History Center, 67 Washington Street
 - Infinity Visual and Performing Arts, 301 East 2nd Street, Suite 101
 - James Prendergast Library, 509 Cherry Street
 - Lucile M. Wright Air Museum, 110 West 3rd Street, Suite 101
 - *Lucille Ball Desi Arnaz Museum, 2 West 3rd Street
 - Martz-Kohl Observatory, 176 Robbin Hill Road
 - Marvin Community House, 2 West 5th Street
 - *National Comedy Center, 203 West 2nd Street
 - Northwest Arena, 319 West 3rd Street
 - Partridge-Sheldon House by Jamestown DAR, 70 Prospect Street
 - Pearl City Clay House, 220 East 2nd Street
 - Reg Lenna Center for The Arts, 116 East 3rd Street
 - Robert H. Jackson Center, 305 East 4th Street
 - Roger Tory Peterson Institute, 311 Curtis Street
 - Sukanya Burman Dance, 106 East 2nd Street, Studio 3A

- Businesses Participating are:
- Art Cloth & Craft, 108 East 3rd Street
 - Chautauqua Art Gallery, 318 North Main Street
 - DoubleTree by Hilton, 150 West Fourth Street
 - Wicked Warren’s, 119 West 3rd Street

centers, and entertainment and sports venues. We hope you will take the time to visit these and the many other exceptional places in our county. Once you’ve visited for Doors Open Jamestown, please return, and bring more family, friends, or out of town guests in the years ahead.”



Agriculture District Inclusion Period: Landowners’ Requests Must Be Submitted by Jan. 31



Contributed by
Assemblyman
Andrew Molitor

Per New York State Agriculture and Markets Law 303-b, the Chautauqua County Legislature has designated January 2 through January 31, 2026, as the annual 30-day period during which landowners may submit requests to include predominantly viable agricultural land into an existing certified agricultural district.

During this period, landowners may submit written requests for inclusion into the Agricultural Districts. Parcels requesting inclusion must meet the definition of “viable agricultural land” as defined in Agriculture and Markets Law § 301, subdivision 7. Land already included in the district need not submit a request.

Landowners must complete the Agricultural District Inclusion Worksheet, which includes a written description of the land, the tax map identification number, and be accompanied by a copy of the relevant portion of a tax map showing the location of the property requesting to be included into the Agricultural Districts. This Paul M. Wendel, Jr., County Executive Mark Geise, Director of Planning & Development WendelP@chqgov.com GeiseM@chqgov.com worksheet, current Agricultural Districts Map, and additional information can be found on the Chautauqua County Department of Planning and Development website at: bit.ly/CHQaginclusion. Landowners can print out the appropriate map via the County’s GIS website available at: bit.ly/CHQgis. Please submit all inclusion requests to the Department of Planning and Development, Attn: Lauren Sharp, BWB Center, 201 West Third St., Suite 115, Jamestown, N.Y. 14701 or email to sharppl@chqgov.com on or before 4:30 p.m. on January 31, 2026. Inclusion requests can only be accepted during the

inclusion period from January 2 to January 31.

At the end of the 30-day period, the proposed parcels for inclusion will be reviewed by the Chautauqua County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board (AFPB). Based on the AFPB’s recommendations, a report will be prepared for the Planning & Economic Development (PED) Legislative Committee’s review. After review by the PED Legislative Committee, these recommendations will be forwarded to the County Legislature for a public hearing. Following the public hearing, the Legislature will vote via resolution to accept the recommendations made by AFPB. The County Legislature will then send the resolution and supporting materials to the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets to certify the inclusion of lands or not. If the Commissioner certifies the inclusion of the parcels, the land becomes part of the Agricultural Districts.

An agricultural district is a geographic area which consists predominantly of viable agricultural land. Agricultural operations within the district are the priority land use and afforded benefits. These agricultural operations receive protections to promote the continuation of farms and the preservation of agricultural land. This should not be confused with the agricultural assessment program which allows eligible farmland located both within and outside the agricultural districts to be taxed at its agricultural assessment. Landowners should see their local assessor to find out more information on agricultural assessment for their parcel(s).

For more information about the Agricultural District Inclusion Period or to see if you have land within an Agricultural District, visit the Chautauqua County Department of Planning and Development website at: bit.ly/CHQaginclusion or contact Lauren Sharp at (716) 661-8245 or sharppl@chqgov.com.

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ArtScape Jamestown Opens Its 2026 Call for Artists and Sponsors



Contributed by
ArtScape Jamestown

ArtScape Jamestown invites local artists to submit their work for the 2026 ArtScape public art program through February 24, 2026.

Pearl City Clay House is partnering with Chautauqua Art Gallery and the City of Jamestown Parks Department to create an outdoor public art gallery in downtown Jamestown, N.Y. Artists of all ages who live in Chautauqua County or within 35 miles of Jamestown are invited to participate in this juried art competition. Up to six banners will be earmarked for our youth, (under 18), category. Interested artists may submit up to three works for consideration at <https://ArtScapeJamestownNY.com>.

Selected works are reproduced on banners that hang on light posts throughout the downtown area. Pearl City Clay House, on Second Street, and Chautauqua Art Gallery, on Main Street in downtown Jamestown, support this program as the host sponsors, displaying the original works of art and coordinating artists and banner production.

ArtScape aims to create an outdoor gallery experience in the heart of the community. The colorful banners add interest and intrigue to the downtown streetscape, encouraging pedestrians and vehicle traffic to slow down and enjoy the display. Each banner showcases local artists, highlighting the creativity and talent of people who live and work in the region.

A jury of arts professionals will select up to 60 pieces to be included in the

2026 program. The chosen works are professionally photographed for display on the banners. Local businesses can sponsor a banner, and the names of the artists and the sponsors are featured on the banners. At the end of the outdoor display, the banners are removed and given to the sponsor, or the sponsor may choose to donate the banner to the artist. Sponsors are encouraged to display the banner in their place of business, highlighting their support for enriching the community through public art programs.

Banners will be hung in May & June of 2026, and a brochure with a walking tour of the banners will be distributed. The original art show will be held May 22 through July 4. A new addition this year will be Artist Talks and workshops at Pearl City Clay House and Chautauqua Art Gallery.

"I am proud to see the ArtScape program continue into its fourth year," said Leslie Calimeri, owner of Chautauqua Art Gallery. "I've watched ArtScape grow each year since its inception and I'm looking forward to new artwork and continuing to build our ArtScape community."

"Pearl City Clay House strengthens the community through art and we couldn't be more thrilled to participate in ArtScape," said Deb Eck, PCCH Program Director. "We look forward to showcasing artists in our gallery and hosting ArtScape artist talks and workshops"

Interested artists and those interested in sponsoring a banner can find information and an application at <https://ArtScapeJamestownNY.com> The deadline for both artists and sponsorship is February 24, 2026.

St. Susan Center Awarded State Grant to Expand Food Recovery Efforts

Contributed by
St. Susan Center

The St. Susan Center is proud to announce it has been awarded \$61,123 in New York State grant funding through the Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) Local Emergency Food Relief Equipment Grant Program.

The funding will support the purchase of a walk-in freezer, significantly strengthening the Center's Produce Recovery Program and expanding its ability to serve nutritious meals to neighbors in need throughout Jamestown and Chautauqua County.

The grant was announced by DEC Region 9, which recently awarded a total of \$176,000 to emergency food relief organizations across Western New York. The program, launched by Governor Kathy Hochul in October, is part of a \$5 million statewide investment aimed at reducing food insecurity while preventing food waste through improved food storage and recovery infrastructure.

"This grant is not just a financial contribution — new commercial refrigeration is a lifeline for St. Susan Center," said Cherie Rowland, Executive Director of St. Susan Center. "It empowers us to provide nutritious meals to those in need, reduces food waste, and strengthens our ability to serve our community during challenging times. With this support, we can continue to uphold our mission of dignity and respect for every individual who walks through our doors."

DEC Region 9 Director Julie Barrett-O'Neill emphasized the importance of these local investments, noting that the grants support organizations doing critical frontline work while also helping the environment by keeping surplus food out of landfills.

The Local Emergency Food Relief Equipment Grant Program is part of New York State's broader commitment to hunger prevention, affordability, and sustainability. DEC also administers the state's nation-leading Food Donation and Food Scraps Recycling Law, which has helped recover millions of pounds of food for New Yorkers in need while reducing climate-altering emissions.



Other Western New York Grant Recipients In addition to St. Susan Center, the following organizations also received funding through DEC Region 9:

- Buffalo Federation of Neighborhood Centers – \$29,670 for a reach-in freezer, reach-in refrigerator, and generator to support its community food pantry

- Buffalo Urban League – \$85,848 for a commercial refrigerator and freezer, portable generator, and cargo van to enhance Senior Multi-Service Center food pantry operations

A full list of statewide awardees is available on the DEC website. St. Susan Center is grateful for this investment and the continued partnership with New York State in the shared mission of fighting hunger, reducing waste and building a stronger, healthier community.

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Arts Services Inc. Awards \$50,000 in Give for Greatness Grants to Strengthen Western New York Arts Organizations

Contributed by
Arts Services Inc.

Arts Services Inc. (ASI) has awarded 25 Give for Greatness grants, totaling \$50,000 in capacity-building support, to small and micro nonprofit arts and cultural organizations across Western New York. The \$2,000 grants support investments that strengthen internal operations and long-term sustainability, helping organizations better serve their communities.

This year's funding cycle was highly competitive, with 70 organizations applying for support. Grant recipients represent a wide range of artistic disciplines and community-centered missions across Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, and Niagara counties.

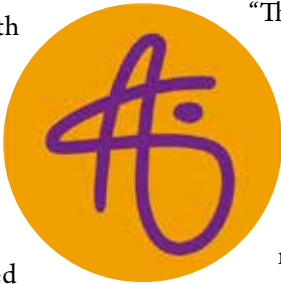
"Small and micro nonprofits are the backbone of our region's creative ecosystem," said ASI Executive Director Jen Swan-Kilpatrick. "Representing 76% of the organizations we serve, they play a vital role in community building and cultural representation."

The Give for Greatness grants support capacity-building activities such as technology upgrades, consultant support, staff and board development, and infrastructure improvements—often critical needs that are difficult to fund through project-based grants.

For many organizations, these investments have an immediate and lasting impact. At Hallwalls Contemporary Arts Center in Buffalo, funding supported upgrades to essential technology and shared digital infrastructure. "Capacity-building expenses like computers and shared digital infrastructure may seem small, but for artist-run organizations operating on tight bud-

gets, these are often the costs that get deferred," said Parrish Gibbons, Executive Director of Hallwalls Contemporary Arts Center. "These investments have an immediate, meaningful impact on how we work day-to-day and will support our sustainability and growth well into the future."

At the Rich-Twinn Octagon House, operated by the Newstead Historical Society, the grant supports organizational renewal and volunteer engagement.



"This ASI Grant affords The Newstead Historical Society's dedicated and committed volunteers an opportunity to re-energize and renew the focus needed to strengthen our organization going forward," said Kate Stapleton Parzych, Director of the Rich-Twinn Octagon House.

The 2025 Give for Greatness grants are made possible with generous support from **Lawyers for the Arts** and **The Marilyn Gohr McTaggart Reveal Fund at the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo**.

A full list of 2025 Give for Greatness grant recipients is available at asiwny.org.

Arts Services Inc: Where the arts meet business.

Arts Services Inc. (ASI) empowers the region's artists and arts organizations with connections to funding, learning opportunities, and community access to the arts. ASI is a resource hub for the Western New York arts and cultural sector.

At ASI, we firmly believe the arts belong to everyone. By creating opportunities with the arts, we're crafting a future where people of all backgrounds can connect and find community.

County Executive Wendel Provides Update & Continues To Seek Solution To Higher Gas Prices in Chautauqua County



Contributed by
Paul M. Wendel Jr.

Chautauqua County Executive

Six months after calling on state and federal law enforcement to investigate persistently higher gasoline prices in Chautauqua County, County Executive Paul M. Wendel Jr. says he remains committed to finding answers and advocating for residents.

Despite having a lower sales tax on gasoline than neighboring Erie County, Chautauqua County residents continue to pay more at the pump than those in surrounding regions. County Executive Wendel has repeatedly reached out to New York State Attorney General Letitia James and to both current and former U.S. Attorneys for the Western District of New York, requesting a review of motor fuel pricing in the County.

While the Attorney General's Office has indicated that, in their view, no illegal activity is occurring and will not pursue an investigation, the County

has yet to receive a response from the U.S. Attorney's Office.

"Chautauqua County families, small businesses, and commuters are paying more at the pump than their neighbors," Wendel said. "I pump gas just like everyone else, and this is an issue that continues to impact the cost of living in our community. We are not giving up."

While efforts continue to seek better answers, County Executive Wendel encourages residents to compare prices, seek the lowest-cost stations, and use tools like GasBuddy (www.gasbuddy.com). Making informed choices helps create competitive pressure that can encourage lower prices throughout the region.

County Executive Wendel first raised concerns in June 2025, citing AAA data showing Chautauqua County's gasoline prices significantly above the state and national averages. His office continues to monitor trends and will keep residents updated on any developments.



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CCHD Announces Upcoming Animal Rabies Immunization Clinics

Contributed by
Chautauqua County Health Department

The Chautauqua County Health Department (CCHD) is announcing a free rabies vaccination clinic sponsored by The Salvation Army Jamestown Corp, the Chautauqua County Humane Society and the CCHD. Animals must be pre-registered to receive vaccinations. Vaccinations will be provided free of charge to all dogs, cats, and domesticated ferrets three months of age and older.

While supplies last, microchipping and distemper shots will also be available through the Chautauqua County Humane Society at no cost.

When:
Saturday, January 17, 2026
and Saturday, February 7, 2026
10:00am-1:00pm
Where:
The Salvation Army of Jamestown
83 South Main St.
Jamestown, NY 14701

Pre-registration is required and should be submitted online by visiting HealthyCHQ.com/Rabies and view the calendar for upcoming clinics or scan the code below.



Spot
Owner: Aidan Colburn

If you register but decide not to attend the event, please cancel your appointment so the spot is available for another pet. You can cancel appointments via the confirmation email you receive when you register.

Pet owners must bring previous rabies vaccination records for each animal receiving a shot to ensure proper and effective vaccination; clinic staff will confirm previous rabies vaccination records. All dogs must be on a leash. All cats and ferrets must be in individual carriers. Animal handlers will transport animals to the veterinarian for vaccination.

For more information about the clinic contact the Chautauqua County Humane Society 716-665-2209. For general rabies information, visit HealthyCHQ.com/Rabies or contact Chautauqua County Health Department at (716) 753-4481.

Chautauqua Striders Hiring After-School Program Tutors

Contributed by
Chautauqua Striders

Chautauqua Striders is now hiring part-time After-School Program Tutors to support students in grades K-4 at Ring Elementary, Bush Elementary, and Love Elementary.

Tutors will provide academic enrichment in literacy and math in a safe, structured after-school environment in partnership with Jamestown Public Schools. Positions run Monday through Thursday from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m., with potential Friday hours available. Pay starts at \$17 per hour.

Chautauqua Striders is a nonprofit organization dedicated to mentoring and guiding youth through education, advocacy, and athletics. The

organization's after-school programs focus on improving academic skills, fostering positive behavior, and creating supportive spaces for students to succeed.

Applicants must be at least 18 years old and demonstrate strong communication, reliability, and an ability to work with children. Experience in tutoring, teaching, or mentoring is preferred. Bilingual candidates are encouraged to apply.

Interested candidates can apply online at <https://www.indeed.com/cmp/Chautauqua-Striders-Inc./jobs> or contact Anna at anna@chqstriders.org for more information.



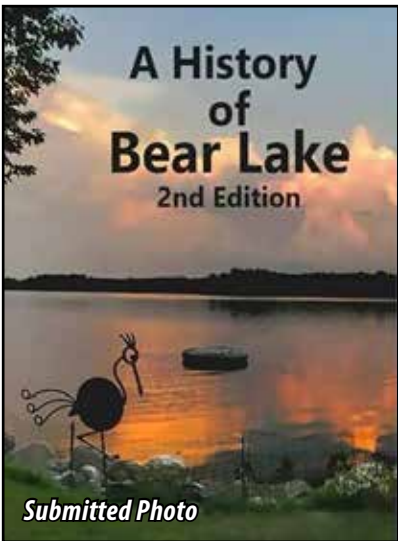
Beyond the Glass: Why You Should Visit Lake Erie Wine Country

Continued from Page 7

When asked by campers to extend the chapter in the 2018 book on Camp in the Woods, the Y Camp that was on the lake from 1927 to 1974 into its own book, the Demings published Camp in the Woods on Bear Lake with KDP Amazon in 2021. More about the camp is included in this 2025 book, also published with KDP Amazon.

The authors: Bob, a retired professor of English from SUNY at Fredonia (with degrees from Union College, the University of Kansas and the University of Wisconsin), and Anne, a psychologist and former college president at Notre Dame College in Cleveland (with degrees from The College of Notre Dame of Maryland, Miami University and SUNY Buffalo), now live in Glen Mills PA, after living in seven other states. They still spend their summers at their Bear Lake home, 48 years to date, where they have been active in the Bear Lake Association, both serving as president and in other capacities.

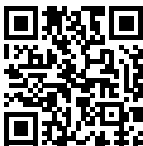
The Demings hope that readers will



Submitted Photo

enjoy their new book as much as the earlier two Bear Lake books. They look forward to hearing your comments.

We run this article in follow up to our special lake feature in 2025.



<https://www.chqgazette.com/PDF/CG5-12-25.pdf>

Opera House to Screen Springsteen: Deliver Me From Nowhere

Contributed by
1891 Fredonia Opera House Performing Arts Center

The Cinema Series continues at the 1891 Fredonia Opera House Performing Arts Center with screenings of the Bruce Springsteen biopic, "Springsteen: Deliver Me from Nowhere," on Sat., Jan. 17, and Tues., Jan. 20, at 7:30 p.m. The Tuesday night screening will be shown with captions visible on the screen.

On the cusp of global superstardom, New Jersey rocker Bruce Springsteen (Jeremy Allen White) struggles to reconcile the pressures of success with the ghosts of his past as he records the album "Nebraska" in the early 1980s.

The New York Times calls the film "a solid, very likable, very affecting drama about an anguished period in the life of the young Bruce Springsteen." USA Today calls it "a solid portrait of an artist working through some stuff, and a man learning the power of being 'the Boss.'" The San Jose Mercury News calls it "a quiet beauty that understands and has compassion for how creativity and depression so often can be inexorably linked and produce such iconic works." Rated PG-13 for some sexuality, smoking, strong language, and thematic material, "Springsteen:



Submitted Photo

"Deliver Me From Nowhere" runs one hour, 59 minutes.

Tickets are available at the door for \$7 (adults), \$6.50 (seniors & Opera House members) and \$5 (students) the night of each screening. The Opera House is equipped with assistive listening headsets for the hearing-impaired. Simply request one from any usher or staff member. The Opera House Cinema Series is generously sponsored by Lake Shore Bank.

The 1891 Fredonia Opera House Performing Arts Center is a member-supported not-for-profit performing arts center with a mission to "present the performing arts for the benefit of our community and region ... providing access to artistic diversity ... and high-quality programming at an affordable price." It is located in Village Hall in downtown Fredonia. For a complete schedule of events, visit www.fredopera.org.

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Wednesday, January 21
7:30 PM to 9 PM

Doors Open Jamestown
Saturday, January 24
10 AM to 4 PM
free admittance

176 Robbin Hill Rd
Frewsburg, NY 14738
martzobservatory.org

WINTER Trivia

1. What atmospheric layer contains most winter weather?
2. What winter phenomenon creates needle-like ice crystals?
3. What type of snow is best for insulation?
4. What holiday always falls on the third Monday of January?
5. What term describes freezing rain coating surfaces?
6. What ocean current warms Northern Europe in winter?
7. What meteorological term describes below-freezing wind effect?
8. What type of cloud produces winter snowstorms?
9. What planet is closest to Earth in January on average?
10. What winter optical phenomenon forms rings around the sun?

1. Troposphere 2. Hoarfrost 3. Powder snow 4. Glaze 5. Sun halo 6. Gulf Stream 7. Wind chill 8. Nimbostratus 9. Mars 10. Sun halo



MARTZ-KOHL OBSERVATORY

Martz-Kohl Observatory Announces Exciting Events for January

Contributing Writer

Andy Felong
Public and Media Relations
Martz-Kohl Observatory

The Martz-Kohl Observatory invites the public to a month of discovery featuring a deep dive into NASA's future and a community-wide open house featuring science and service.

On Wednesday, January 21, 2026, at 7:30 p.m., the observatory will host Lee Feinberg, the Principle Architect for NASA's proposed Habitable Worlds Observatory (HWO). This next-generation "super-Hubble" is being designed to directly image Earth-like planets orbiting distant stars and analyze their atmospheres for biosignatures—the chemical fingerprints of life. While Feinberg will be presenting remotely, his talk is best viewed on the big screen at the observatory while also being streamed via Zoom.

As a NASA Goddard Senior Fellow, Feinberg brings a wealth of experience to this future flagship mission, having spent over 20 years as the optical lead for the James Webb Space Telescope and serving as a key member of the Hubble repair team. His presentation will explore the cutting-edge technology and lessons from past missions that are shaping the HWO. Following the talk, attendees at the observatory are encouraged to participate in a lively, interactive Q&A session with Feinberg to discuss the next era of astronomical discovery.

Join us Saturday, January 24, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., as the Martz-Kohl Observatory participates in Doors Open Jamestown. This annual event invites residents to be "tourists in their own hometown" with free admission to the region's premier cultural and scientific attractions. As a featured venue, the observatory will offer guided tours of our world-class facilities and sophisticated telescope systems. Visitors can also participate in the community-wide scavenger hunt, searching for our clues for a chance to win prizes.

Running concurrently with the open house on Saturday and continuing through Sunday, the Chautauqua Amateur Radio Service (CARS) will be operating from the observatory for Winter Field Days. CARS is a local club, call sign W2DRZ, dedicated to providing emergency communications for Chautauqua County during natural disasters and community events. Through a unique collaboration with the observatory, CARS maintains a permanent radio station on-site. During this event, members will set up several radio stations utilizing various power sources and antenna configurations to demonstrate their capabilities.

Winter Field Day, organized by the Winter Field Day Association, challenges "Ham" operators to practice portable emergency communications in winter environments. Because freezing temperatures and ice pose unique operational hazards, this event ensures operators are prepared to maintain global connections even in adverse conditions. Visitors can watch the CARS team use various radio bands to contact other participants worldwide and learn how to become licensed Amateur Radio Operators themselves.

All events take place at the Martz-Kohl Observatory, located at 176 Robbin Hill Rd, Frewsburg, NY. For the evening lecture, weather permitting, public stargazing and telescope viewing will follow the presentation. While our lecture room is heated, you should dress for outside weather for tours and viewing. For more information, event updates, and the Zoom link for the lecture, please visit martzobservatory.org.

The Martz-Kohl Observatory is managed by the Marshal Martz Memorial Astronomical Association, Inc., a non-profit organization comprised of amateur astronomers. The association is committed to observational astronomy, with a particular emphasis on educational outreach, citizen science initiatives, and the enjoyment derived from stargazing.



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Opera House Cinema Series to Screen Wicked: For Good



Contributed by
1891 Fredonia Opera House
Performing Arts Center

The Cinema Series continues at the 1891 Fredonia Opera House Performing Arts Center with screenings of “Wicked: For Good,” on Sat., Jan. 10, and Tues., Jan. 13, at 7:30 p.m. The Tuesday night screening will be shown with captions visible on the screen.

Now demonized as the Wicked Witch of the West, Elphaba (Cynthia Erivo) lives in exile in the Ozian forest, while Glinda resides at the palace in Emerald City, reveling in the perks of fame and popularity. As an angry mob rises against the Wicked Witch, she’ll need to reunite with Glinda (Ariana Grande) to transform herself, and all of Oz, for good.

The London Evening Standard calls the film “an exhilarating piece of movie musical magic.” The New York Times calls it “a testament to diversity (species included) as a common good, as well as to love, friendship and solidarity.” The Travers Take says “Cynthia Erivo and Ariana Grande are twice as

wonderful the second time around.” New York Magazine says the film “brings the ‘Wicked’ cycle to a surprisingly satisfying conclusion.” Rated PG for some suggestive material, action, violence, and thematic material, “wicked: For Good” runs two hours, 17 minutes.

Tickets are available at the door for \$7 (adults), \$6.50 (seniors & Opera House members) and \$5 (students) the night of each screening. The Opera House is equipped with assistive listening headsets for the hearing-impaired. Simply request one from any usher or staff member. The Opera House Cinema Series is generously sponsored by Lake Shore Bank.

The 1891 Fredonia Opera House Performing Arts Center is a member-supported not-for-profit performing arts center with a mission to “present the performing arts for the benefit of our community and region ... providing access to artistic diversity ... and high-quality programming at an affordable price.” It is located in Village Hall in downtown Fredonia. For a complete schedule of events, visit www.fredopera.org.



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SUDOKU

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			4					9
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9		1		2		5		7
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8				7	9			2
3	6							
5					6	7		
	1	7	5	3		8		

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Level: Beginner

CROSSWORD

1	2	3							4	5	6					
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39	40					41					42					
43						44						45				
46				47								48				
49													50			
	51												52			

CLUES ACROSS

1. Former CIA

4. Language

7. Constrictor snake

8. Demand

10. Rich man

12. Short-tailed marten

13. Zoroastrian concept of holy fire

14. Superconducting super collider

16. International group of countries within the Americas

17. Sacred state for Muslims

19. Shock therapy

20. Engrave

21. Localities

25. Paddle

26. Periodical

27. Dishonestly gained money

29. Gain possession of
30. Actor DiCaprio

31. High schoolers' test

32. Mr. October

39. Sign of healing

41. One's grandmother

42. Entrap

43. One who simultaneously buys and sells

44. __ Francisco

45. Web-based data provider of marital life

46. Type of snake

48. Dark mark or stain

49. Member of the Salii

50. Former measure of length

51. CNN's founder

52. Witness

CLUES DOWN

1. Acquire

2. Console

3. Hunting expedition

4. Pie __ mode

5. Simple shoes for peasants

6. Eurasian shrub

8. Reciprocal of a sine

9. Work together in harmony

11. Grenade

14. File extension

15. Minute pores in a plant

18. Medal of Honor

19. Make a mistake

20. Advance slowly, as if by inches

22. Sandwich meat

23. An awkward stupid person
24. Strong tree

27. Commoner

28. Electroencephalograph

29. __ Mahal

31. Congressman

32. Disorderly crowd

33. 007's creator Fleming

34. Atomic #55

35. Part of a door

36. Short-tail martens

37. Baltimore ballplayer

38. Cuddle

39. Gang in "The Outsiders"

40. Of Croatia

44. Body cavity

47. Get free of

Two Regional Manufacturers Renew Flexible Electric Rate Contracts with Jamestown Board of Public Utilities (BPU)



Submitted Photos

Bush/eSolutions management team signs a new SC-6 flex-rate electric agreement with the Jamestown BPU. Shown are Troy Pitts, Operations & Quality Director and Rick Matter, MRO Buyer for Bush/eSolutions, along with BPU GM David L. Leathers, Business Development Coordinator Ellen Ditonto, and Deputy GM-Electric Kristofor Sellstrom.



SKF USA's Falconer leadership team celebrates the signing of a new SC-6 flex-rate electric contract with the Jamestown Board of Public Utilities. Shown L-R are John Pagett, Controller, and Joseph Sienicki Jr., Plant Manager, along with BPU General Manager David L. Leathers and Deputy General Manager – Electric Kristofor Sellstrom.

Contributed by Jamestown Board of Public Utilities

The Jamestown Board of Public Utilities (BPU) has executed renewed electric “Flex Rate Agreements” with two regional manufacturers, providing them with slightly lower electric rates in exchange for continued economic development investments and stable workforce numbers.

Both SKF USA and Bush/eSolutions have signed new contracts to continue in the Service Classification Six (SC-6) program. The two companies were required to provide statistics on their current and projected employment numbers, their annual capital investments and their planned business outlook for the new contract period.

The BPU’s Flex Rate Program is an economic development tool used by the utility to assist local industrial companies by offering reduced electric costs in exchange for a manufacturer’s pledge to invest in its local facility and workforce. Currently, six of the region’s largest manufacturers qualify for inclusion in the SC-6 program.

SKF USA’s Factory Manager, Joseph Sienicki Jr., indicated that the flexible electric rate has enabled the local plant to plan for the acquisition of new equipment and to maintain a high level of employment while increasing its production of aircraft bearings.

“SKF continues to provide the highest quality ball bearings for the aircraft industry and our plant operates three shifts with a high level of electricity needed for machine operations at all times,” Sienicki said. “The electric flex rate has

helped our company balance our production requirements and expenses related to our machinery’s electric loads.”

Bush Industries, doing business as eSolutions, located in Mason Industrial Park in the Town of Ellicott, is a leading manufacturer and distributor of case goods and ready-to-assemble furniture for commercial and residential offices.

Troy Pitts, Operations and Quality Director at eSolutions, believes that the SC-6 program and the savings it represents for that company translate into reinvestment in people and equipment.

“Utilizing the SC-6 program and the guidance of the Jamestown BPU, Bush/eSolutions has seen efficiency gains in the last two years and we look forward to our continued partnership with the BPU for many years to come,” Pitts said.

“Both SKF USA and Bush Industries/eSolutions, operating in highly competitive fields, continue to succeed right here in the Greater Jamestown Community,” said BPU General Manager David L. Leathers. “We are pleased that the BPU’s Flex Rate/SC-6 Program provides both companies with this assistance as they continue to thrive in our utility territory, employing local residents.”

“The SC-6 Flex Rate Program is designed to keep large employers competitive while reinforcing their long-term commitment to our region,” said Kristofor Sellstrom, BPU Deputy General Manager–Electric. “By aligning electric costs with investment, efficiency, and workforce stability, the BPU is helping these companies grow, modernize and provide high-quality jobs in our community.”

STATE LEGISLATORS BEGIN 2026 SESSION FOCUSED ON RESPECT, FAIRNESS AND RESULTS FOR CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY



Andrew Molitor
ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 150

DISTRICT OFFICE: 716-664-7773
ALBANY OFFICE: 518-455-3563
MOLITOR@NYASSEMBLY.GOV

“As the new legislative session begins, my focus is on making sure Chautauqua County isn’t left behind. Too often, decisions made in Albany fail to reflect the realities of rural and upstate communities, leaving families, seniors and local employers stretched thin. Our region deserves attention, respect and solutions that reflect how people here actually live and work.”



George M. Borrello
SENATE DISTRICT 57

DISTRICT OFFICE: 716-664-4603
SATELLITE OFFICE: 716-372-4901
ALBANY OFFICE: 518-455-3563
borrello@nysenate.gov

“As we begin a new legislative session, we have an opportunity to move New York in a better direction and refocus on the issues that matter most to families and communities. For too long, one-party rule in Albany has taken our state off course, driving up costs, weakening public safety, and imposing unrealistic and unaffordable energy mandates that have hit rural and upstate communities especially hard. I will continue to stand up for the people and interests of our district and fight to restore common sense and balance. New Yorkers deserve results, and it’s time to put what’s best for them ahead of politics and get this state back on the right track.”

Beekeeping Presentations Scheduled

Contributed by
Chautauqua County Beekeepers Association

The Chautauqua County Beekeepers Association will present its 3rd annual Beekeeping Lollapalooza on Saturday, January 17, 2026 from 11 A.M. - 3 P.M. at the Fluvanna Community Church, 3363 Fluvanna Avenue in Jamestown. The program will feature a special presentation by Randall Cass, Extension Associate at Cornell's Dyce Lab for Honey Bee Studies.

The event will kick off at 11 A.M. with "So You Want to Start Beekeeping—Now What?", a show-and-tell presentation of the basic equipment and protective clothing required to get started in beekeeping.

At 12 P.M., and repeated at 1 P.M., attendees may choose presentations on "Intermediate Beekeeping", "Candle/Salve Making/Infused Honey Making" or "Native Plants with Cornell Cooperative Extension's Master Gardeners".

At 2 P.M., Mr. Cass will discuss results from the NYS Beekeeper Tech Team's examination of New Yorkers' hives, as well as trends in beekeeping over the last decade. Mr. Cass manages the NYS Beekeeper Tech Team and is an extension resource for beekeepers throughout the state. Previously he served as a bee extension specialist at Iowa State University, and has conducted research and beekeeping projects in Chile, Guatemala, El Salvador, Ghana, and Sweden. He holds a Master of Science degree from the University of California, Davis and a B.A from Willamette University. The NYS Beekeeper Tech Team supports NY beekeepers with one-on-one extension, apiary vi-

sits, and lab analysis of hive pests and pesticides. The Tech Team also collects information from beekeepers regarding annual hive loss, management practices, and sales of hive products.

The presentations are open to the public free of charge. No previous experience in beekeeping is required. Presentations will be geared for the complete novice, though the experienced beekeeper will find ample reward. Questions will be encouraged.

Club members will staff a Welcome Station offering free coffee, snacks and honey sampling, as well as informal Q&A about beekeeping and club activities. Whether you're taking your first steps into beekeeping or continuing your journey, this Lollapalooza has something for you!

In the event of a travelers' advisory, this event may be postponed. For more information, check the club's Facebook page or e-mail the club at ccba1870@gmail.com.

One of the oldest beekeeper organizations in the country, the Chautauqua County Beekeepers Association, founded in 1870, is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization committed to advancing public interest in, and the enlightened practice of, beekeeping. The Association holds regular membership meetings at the Fluvanna Community Church, 3363 Fluvanna Avenue in Jamestown at 7 P.M. on the 2nd Thursday of each month from February thru November. The meetings are open to the public free of charge.

For more information, e-mail the club at ccba1870@gmail.com.



Bemus Point Library Establishes Endowment to Sustain Library for Generations



Submitted Photos

Contributed by
Bemus Point Library

The Bemus Point Library Board of Directors is proud to announce the creation of the Bemus Point Library Fund, an endowment fund established at the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation to ensure the long-term strength and sustainability of the library.

This fund will serve as a permanent source of annual support for the library's changing needs. Possible use for the annual grant distributions include building maintenance, programming, materials, technology, and emerging opportunities that help the Library continue to thrive as a vibrant hub of learning and community connection.

"For generations, the Bemus Point Library has been a place where people of all ages come to read, learn, gather, and grow," said Yvonne Makl, President of the Library Board of Directors. "Establishing an endowment that is our 'forever fund' reflects our commitment to preserving this space for future generations. This Fund will give us the flexibility to respond to emerging needs and to continue offering the programs and resources our community loves."

The Bemus Point Library Fund is held at the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation, whose stewardship will help the Bemus Point Library benefit from annual distributions while ensuring that the fund grows over time.



"We applaud the Bemus Point Library Board for taking this important step to secure the organization's future," said Tina Downey, Development Officer at the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation. "An agency endowment is one of the most powerful tools a nonprofit can establish. It ensures reliable, long-term support while giving future boards the flexibility to meet the changing needs of their community. We are honored to partner with the library in strengthening its legacy."

Community members are invited to contribute to the Bemus Point Library Fund through a variety of giving options including cash gifts, stock transfers, IRA qualified charitable distributions and planned gifts. Gifts of all sizes will help the Fund grow and support the library in perpetuity.

Those wishing to support the Bemus Point Library Fund can do so online, at crcf.me/bemuspointlibrary, or by sending a check to the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation at 418 Spring Street, Jamestown NY 14701. (Please note "Bemus Point Library Fund" in the memo line.)

For more information, please contact the Bemus Point Library or the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation at (716) 661-3390.

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1	7	5	4	8	3	6	2	9
2	4	9	7	6	5	1	3	8
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PUZZLES ON PAGE 15



DOUBLETREE BY HILTON



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Submitted Photo

MHA Receives Generous Grant from NCCF

Mental Health Association in Chautauqua County Executive Director Michael Nordin, right, and Grants Manager Michelle Colaiacovo were presented a \$11,000 grant from the Northern Chautauqua Community Foundation by Foundation board member Adam Dimitri. The grant will cover the costs for rent and supplies for MHA's North County recovery center for all of 2026. The program at Grace Lutheran Church, 601 Eagle Street in Dunkirk, is open Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m.–4 p.m.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Jamestown is collecting much-needed items for MHA participants, including gloves, deodorants, toothpaste and toothbrushes, and any kind of coffee. These are also welcome from community members who can drop them off at the Jamestown recovery center, Door 14 in the rear of the Gateway Center, 31 Water Street. Hours are 9:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Tattoo artist Denise de la Cerda, the owner of Secret Undisclosed Location in downtown Jamestown, is facilitating two new groups: Upcycle Sewing on Wednesdays, 3–4 p.m., and Meditation and Wellness on Thursdays, 10–10:50 a.m. Also, plans are underway for a major fundraiser for the MHA at the Frewsburg American Legion on Saturday, February 21. For more information on any of these, call (716) 661-9044 or visit MHACHautauqua.org or [Facebook.com/MHACHautauqua](https://www.facebook.com/MHACHautauqua).

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To schedule an appointment, call 716-664-8510, or visit UPMC.com/HereforHer.

UPMC Chautauqua was recognized by *U.S. News & World Report* as a Maternity Care Access Hospital.



UPMC | CHAUTAUQUA

Tapestry Releases Winter Edition of Digital Quarterly Newsletter & 2025 Winter Toolkit



WINTER 2026

www.tapestrychq.com

Contributed by

Chautauqua County Department of Mental Hygiene

Chautauqua Tapestry is excited to announce the release of its Winter 2025 Digital Quarterly Newsletter, along with the launch of the 2025 Winter Toolkit, both now available online.

The Winter edition of the quarterly newsletter highlights the ongoing work of Chautauqua County's System of Care (SOC), Tapestry and its partners across the county who are strengthening systems for children, youth, and families. This digital publication is designed to keep the SOC informed, connected, and inspired through stories, resources, and updates that reflect collaboration and shared impact.

Readers can explore:

- Updates on SOC initiatives and community partnerships
- Seasonal resources to support youth and family well-being
- Highlights of local programs and upcoming opportunities for development and engagement

Read the Winter Newsletter: tapestrychq.com/newsletter/

In addition to the newsletter, Tapestry has released its 2025 Winter Toolkit, a practical and easy-to-use collection of resources created for families, caregivers, educators, and community providers. The toolkit focuses on navigating the winter months with strategies that

support mental wellness, emotional regulation, and connection—especially during a season that can feel challenging for many.

The Winter Toolkit includes:

- Mental health and wellness supports for youth and families
- Indoor activity ideas and seasonal coping tools
- Resources that promote resilience, routine, and connection

Explore the Winter Toolkit: tapestrychq.com/tapestry-winter-toolkit-2025/

Community members and partners are encouraged to explore and share both resources widely. Together, these tools reflect Tapestry's ongoing commitment to communication, collaboration, and supporting the well-being of children, youth, and families throughout Chautauqua County.

Chautauqua Tapestry was established in 2008 with a federal grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), given to the Chautauqua County Department of Mental Hygiene to establish a system of care in Chautauqua County. After the initial success, SAMHSA has awarded more federal grants to fund the continuation of this work. The goals of the most recent expansion of the grant are to improve the mental health outcomes for children and youth, birth through 21, at risk for serious emotional disturbance (SED), and their families. To learn more, visit tapestrychq.com.

Pat's Pen with Pat Locke

America 250



Contributing Writer
Pat Locke

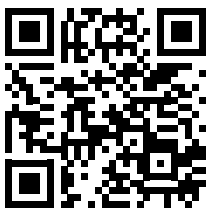
On July 4, 2026, our nation will commemorate and celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The journey toward this historic milestone is an opportunity to pause and reflect on our nation's past, honor the contributions of all Americans and look toward the future we want to create for the next generation and beyond. Organized by the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission, the events involve federal, state and local governments as well as private and non-profit organizations to commemorate the nation's history.

Across the country, Americans are planning unique and exciting ways to celebrate the 250th anniversary. America250 has compiled upcoming milestones and opportunities to get engaged and ensure that all Americans can find ways to commemorate this historic moment in our nation's history.

America250 is striving for "350 by 250," a goal to engage all 350 million Americans. America250 is challenging businesses, nonprofits, schools, youth groups, faith-based networks and organizations of all kinds to commit to increasing their volunteer efforts and measurable impact. Add your volunteer hours to the national total and you could win a chance to help decide where \$1 million in charitable donations will go. Initiatives include "America's Invitation," a storytelling program where Americans can share their stories about their personal history and dreams for the U.S.;

"America's Field Trip" student contest, which invites third through 12th grade students to share their perspectives on what America means to them; "America Gives," a volunteer service program; and "Our American Story," a historic project where Americans are invited to nominate a living person to share their story.

A year-long celebration with events across the country, including major cities such as Boston, Philadelphia, New York Harbor, including tall ships, Williamsburg and Washington, D.C. on the National Mall. These events will include fireworks, museum exhibitions, parades, historical event reenactments and more. The National Park Service will host events at historic sites like Independence Hall and Revolutionary War battlefields. The U.S. Mint will release special commemorative coins and medals. The National Archives will loan key historical documents for exhibitions. For a full calendar of events, visit www.america250.org/calendar/. For more on the initiative and other programming, visit www.america250.org.



Many of you know me as a personal friend and as author of this special column, "Pat's Pen". But I also invite you enjoy my unique blog that features people, places, and preservation in our community. To those who already follow my blog, thank you. To those who might have interest, simply tap on the word, FOLLOW upon entering the blog site: offshoremuse2023.blogspot.com. I appreciate your help in increasing my readership.

Sincerely - Pat Locke.

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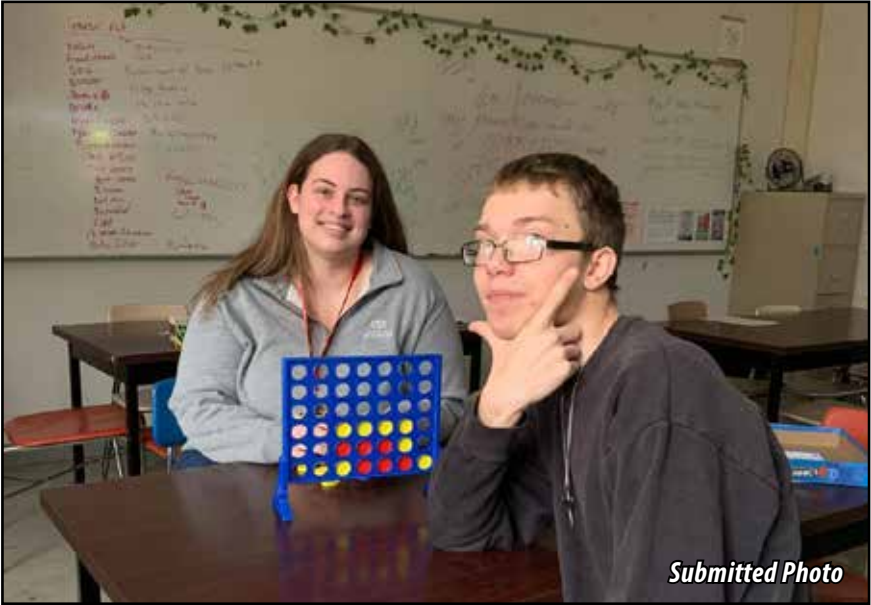
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CELEBRATING OUR MENTORS:
The MVPs Making a Lasting
Difference in Chautauqua County



Contributed by
Chautauqua Striders

Sometimes, a small investment of time creates a big ripple of change. Across Chautauqua County, Chautauqua Striders mentors are proving that every day. These dedicated volunteers are true champions. They are community MVPs whose support, guidance, and encouragement are helping young people grow into confident, capable winners in their own lives.

We are deeply grateful for the mentors who choose to show up for students month after month. Because of them, youth feel seen, heard, and valued. A few hours spent together can spark confidence, strengthen relationships, and build a sense of purpose that carries far beyond school walls. Mentors help students feel connected to caring adults, to their community, and to their own potential.

The impact of our mentors reaches well beyond individual matches. By investing in young people, mentors are strengthening the entire community. When students feel supported, they are more likely to engage positively at school, develop healthy relationships, and envision a hopeful future. That's how mentoring changes lives, not just one at a time, but collectively.

Chautauqua Striders mentors wear many hats: coach, teammate, listener, and cheerleader. Whether they're sharing a meal, working toward personal goals, or enjoying a friendly game, mentors create safe, consistent spaces where young people can grow. We appreciate our mentors not just for what they do, but for who they are: adults who believe that encouragement matters and that every child deserves someone in their corner.

Mentoring also leaves a lasting impression on the mentors themselves. Many share how meaningful it is to build real connections, gain new perspective, and feel more rooted in the community. We value the time, heart, and commitment our mentors give, and we recognize that their willingness to care makes all the difference.

Becoming a mentor doesn't require special skills, just compassion, reliability, and the desire to make a positive impact. Chautauqua Striders provides training, guidance, and ongoing support to ensure every match is successful and meaningful. Thanks to our mentors, countless students know they are not alone.

One student shared just how powerful that support can be:

"My Chautauqua Striders mentor is honestly one of my favorite people. We meet every week for lunch and it's the best part of my week. We talk, we laugh, and we get into some competitive Connect 4 games. She's really good! But more than that, she makes me feel supported, important, and like I can achieve anything. We have so many students just like me who are hoping for someone to believe in them, too. So for National Mentoring Month, I'm asking you to consider becoming a mentor. Mentor one child, change two lives."

To our current mentors: thank you. You are making a real, measurable difference in the lives of students and in the strength of our community. And to those considering joining this incredible team—your time and encouragement could change a life.

Mentoring changes lives. Make a difference. Join Chautauqua Striders.

For more information or to get involved, visit www.chqstriders.org or call Erika at 716-489-3483.

Senior Scene with Carey Skelton

Welcome 2026,
Chautauqua County!

Contributed by

Carey Skelton

Nutrition & Wellness Coordinator
Chautauqua County Office
for Aging Services

SNAP, or the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, is a federal program that provides money for groceries on a debit-like card. With today's prices at grocery store, we can use all the help we can get to eat nutritious foods. While these program funds are only to supplement your current grocery budget, there are tips to stretch your SNAP benefits further!

First, are you eligible? About 50% of older adults in Chautauqua County who are eligible for SNAP have not yet applied! Under federal law, household size and all income are counted to determine eligibility. "Income" is defined as both earned income such as wages and unearned income such as Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and veterans, disability, and death benefits. However, there are special rules for older adult households. A household with older adults may qualify for more relaxed income limits up to 200% of the federal poverty level. Additionally, federal poverty levels are updated annually. So, if you applied for SNAP in the past and didn't qualify, it's always good practice to check the annual updated levels. Your benefit



stores participate in programs like Double Up Food Bucks (DUFb)! This doubles the quantity of fresh produce you can purchase. So instead of using your \$23 on staples, get \$46 worth of food when you purchase fresh produce!

- Your benefit allotment changes if you have had a change in your income or deductions. While you are required to reapply annually, it's important to know that you can request a recertification if you have had a change that might increase your monthly benefits.

By making simple and healthy choices on a daily basis, you will be well on your way towards achieving total wellness. We know the healthy choice is not always the easiest choice, but small changes can make a big difference. Chautauqua County Office for Aging Services offers Nutrition & Wellness programs to support you in your journey toward total wellness. If you think you might be eligible or want more information on SNAP, just call us at our NY Connects line at 716-753-4582.

Also, check out our website at <https://chqgov.com/office-aging> to see all the programs and services offered. If you are not already signed up for our communication system, we can provide you with information about our programs and services at your fingertips. We send messages about the current programs you may be interested in through your preferred communication method: text, email, or an automated call.

Some of these materials have been funded in whole or in part by grants from the New York State Office for the Aging (NYSOFA), and/ or the Administration on Aging (AOA) and/ or Administration for Community Living (ACL). Nothing herein is intended, nor should be construed, as an endorsement by the State of New York.

Household Size	Monthly Income Guidelines (200%)
1	\$2,265
2	\$3,052
3	\$3,839

allotment is determined based on a few calculations and can range between \$23/month and \$298/month for a household size of one.

Even if you receive the minimum SNAP benefits each month, this can be a big help to your food budget. It's important to note:

- Your benefits roll over for up to one year. So, if you are hosting Christmas dinner at your house, minimum SNAP benefits saved over 6 months (\$138) could make this feasible!
- Farmers Markets and some

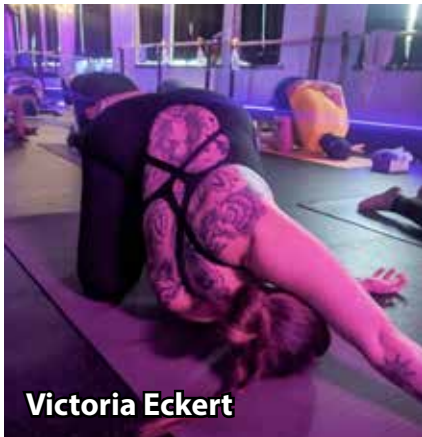
Flow with Lotus Healing Center



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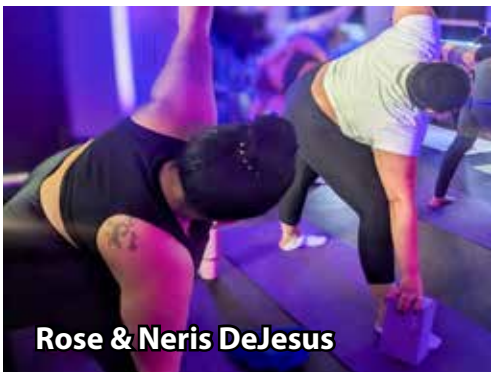
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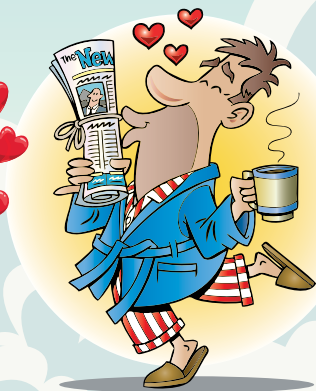
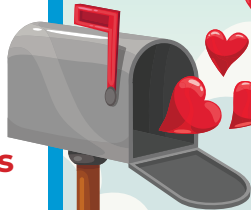
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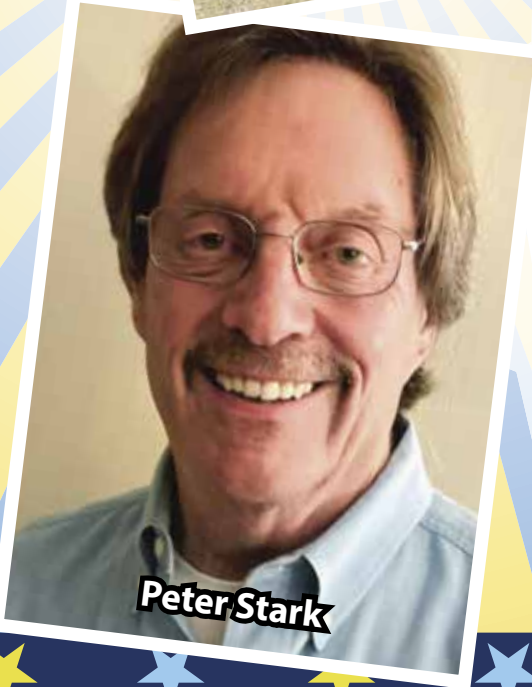
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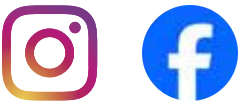
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