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"Opening Doors" Edition

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What Is a Dream?

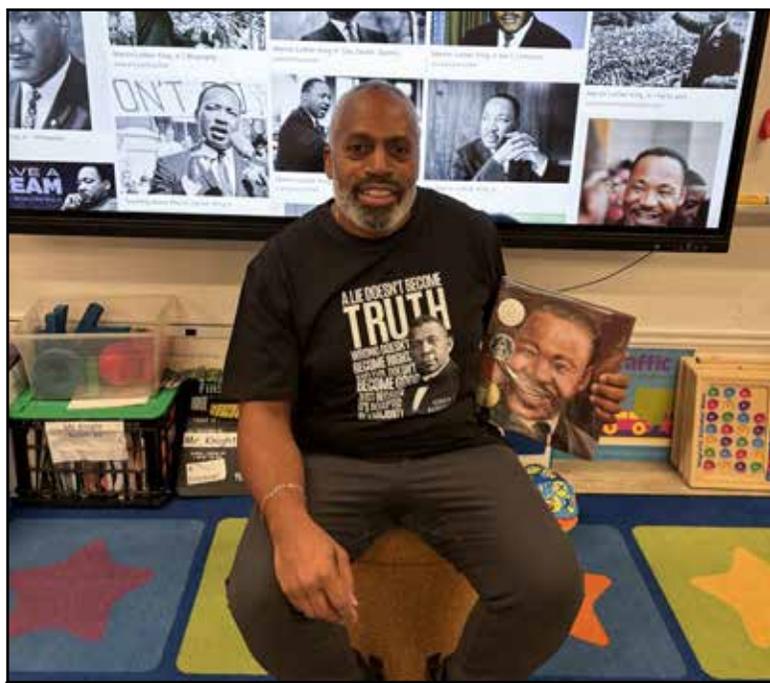
Featured Writer

Travis Knight

A dream is more than just hope; it is the courage to believe in a future that does not yet exist and the strength to fight for it when the world says it cannot be done. For millions of people in this country, that dream found a voice through the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Martin Luther King Jr. was a role model—a man defined by profound courage, integrity, empathy, and an unwavering commitment to justice through nonviolence. He was a visionary determined to build a nation free from racial injustice.

As we prepare to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Monday, January 19, 2026, I am grateful for the sacrifices he made so that I, as a Black man, could pursue and fulfill my dreams in this country. America is often called the land of the free—a place where, if you work hard, you have a chance to be rewarded. That opportunity exists



M.J. Fletcher Elementary School's UPK Teacher Travis Knight

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Celebrating Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Contributing Writer

Paul Leone

Time for reflection. Time for praise and song. Time to revel in fellowship within a cozy warm church among joyful celebrants of the legacy of peace and common humanity Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. left to Jamestown, to America, and to the world. What a treasure of fond memories I hold of past MLK celebrations there in the Emmanuel Baptist Church (EBC), 53 West 23rd Street, a holy place, a balm on that day, bursting with a spirit of joy and the unquenchable anticipation and expectation of a universal justice in brotherhood that was Dr. King's dream. Thanks be to Emmanuel Baptist Church for keeping the dream alive.

For decades EBC has been celebrating the federal holiday that is Dr. King's birthday. Dr. King was born on January 15, 1929. His birthday is remembered not on that specific date, but on the third Monday of January in keeping with federal holidays observed under the Uniform Monday Holidays Act. This year the observance at EBC fell on this past Sunday, January 18.

The campaign to establish King's birthday as a federal holiday began shortly after King's assassination in April, 1968. I remember well witnessing in the television room at my university the grim reportage of the events in Memphis that day. A sense of shock and foreboding registered nationwide then and there and continued through the remainder

of that turbulent year. Unsurprisingly, there was an initial opposition to establishing the federal holiday. Two North Carolina Republicans, Jesse Helms and John Porter East led the opposition. In October 1983 Helms introduced a document in the Senate alleging that King had associations with communists. New York Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan threw the "filthy" document onto the Senate floor and stomped on it. President Reagan was initially opposed as well. Dr. King had been vilified in the press as a "Marxist" particularly after he voiced public opposition to the Vietnam War. His reservations notwithstanding, in November 1983, Reagan signed into law the bill

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

DOORS OPEN JAMESTOWN

FREE admission day at local museums and attractions.
January 24, 2026 • 10am-4pm



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- Martin Luther King Jr.

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THIS WEEK AROUND TOWN

MONDAY, JANUARY 19

Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Luncheon | 11:45 AM

SUNY Fredonia Williams Center | Fredonia
For Info: 716-363-1102

January Camp | 9 AM-3 PM

Audubon Community Nature Center | Jamestown
For Info: auduboncnc.org

Movies at The Reg: Zootopia 2 | 2 PM

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

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20

Free Classic Movie: The Man Who Knew Too Much | 7 PM

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

Cinema Series: Springsteen: Deliver Me From Nowhere | 7:30 PM

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

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21

Movies at The Reg: Ella McCay | 2 PM

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

Searching for Extraterrestrial Life | 7:30 PM

Martz-Kohl Observatory | Frewsburg
For Info: martzobservatory.org

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23

Nu Juice Acoustic | 6 PM-9 PM

Jamestown Wine Cellar | Jamestown
For Info: 716-483-0599

Found Footage Festival | 7:30 PM-9 PM

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

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24

Chautauqua Striders Winter 5k Race #3 | 9 AM

Chautauqua Harbor Hotel | Celeron
For Info: runsignup.com/Race/NY/Celoron/2023ChautauquaStridersWinter5kRace3

Doors Open Jamestown | 10 AM-4 PM

Greater Jamestown Attractions
For Info: chqchamber.org

Movies at The Reg: Wicked: For Good | 4 PM

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

Menage a Caw: Hosted by Juliette Stark | 9 PM

Raven & Thorn | Fredonia
For Info: ravenandthorn.com

What Is a Dream?

Continued from Front Page

today because of leaders like Dr. King.

I remember not long ago hearing my mother speak about how hard life was for Black people in the South during the era of Jim Crow, when segregation was the law and "separate but equal" was anything but equal. People were abused simply because of the color of their skin.

She told stories of riding the bus and being forced to sit at the back because she was Black. At times, she quietly resisted by sitting in the first seats toward the back. She also shared warnings from her aunt to walk along the side of the road because there were no sidewalks, to move out of the way if a car approached, and even to jump into a ditch for safety. White drivers would sometimes try to run over Black children intentionally. The idea of someone harming a child because of their skin color is unimaginable, yet these were real and tragic realities. There are many heartbreaking stories I heard growing up.

I was born shortly after the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. My experience was different from my mother's. Though Jim Crow was abolished, I still felt its ripple effects in Jamestown, N.Y. While Jim Crow never officially reached the North, racism and prejudice were present. I remember meeting with my guidance counselor to discuss my future and education. I believed I could become a great engineer, architect, or teacher. But when I shared my dreams of college, he told me my grades were questionable and suggested I pursue a career as a custodian or in retail. I was floored and defeated. I attended college off and on, but eventually took a part-time job that became full-time in a grocery store. I worked in retail for eighteen years. It was a good job, but I often wondered why my dreams had been stifled—was it me, or was it the seed of doubt planted by my counselor? I don't know.

Eventually, I decided to fulfill my dream of becoming a teacher. I

was a single father of two boys at the time. I knew that with hard work and dedication, I could overcome the doubt that haunted me. I now realize that the racism I experienced in high school was not as harsh as Jim Crow laws, but it was subtle. I went on to graduate from several colleges, earning a bachelor's degree in education and a master's in special education. I fulfilled my dream, and today I am employed as a teacher. I do my best not to stifle my students' dreams. I have four children of my own who are pursuing their dreams in higher education. I feel Martin Luther King Jr.'s hard work and due diligence paved the way for many Black Americans, including my family and me.

Martin Luther King Jr. used nonviolent civil disobedience to challenge injustice. He organized boycotts like the Montgomery Bus Boycott, sit-ins in Birmingham, and massive marches such as the March on Washington and the Selma marches. Inspired by Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. King disrupted the status quo through peaceful resistance and powerful oratory. He was truly a trailblazer of protest through peace.

I am grateful for the sacrifices of civil rights leaders like Martin Luther King Jr., sacrifices that ultimately cost him his life. Many people in this country continue to benefit from the progress made through civil disobedience. This holiday is more than just a day off from work; it is a time to remember the sacrifice of a great man.

Dr. King's dream did not end with his life; it lives on through us. While we have made progress, our work is not finished. This day challenges us to look honestly at how we treat others, especially those still marginalized. Honoring Dr. King means more than remembering his words; it means living them through action, courage, and a commitment to justice.

Happy Martin Luther King Jr. Day.



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Editorial with Lori Cornell

OPENING DOORS



Owner & Publisher
Lori Cornell

It's a kindness; a gesture of support. Sometimes, it's helping someone unable to help themselves. Other times, it's a simple act of respect and deference. Opening Doors. We do it every day for one another. And this week, we don't think it's a stretch to glean a little meaning from this metaphor and, not ironically, enjoy a little "theme" mash-up as we celebrate both Martin Luther King, Jr. and Jamestown.

Our entire nation joins together this week to honor MLK for the Doors he opened in our hearts and minds. Through courage, compassion, and nonviolent action, Dr. King challenged us to see one another differently; to open the Doors of opportunity, justice, and dignity that had long been closed to so many. His legacy reminds us that progress begins when we are

willing to step forward, hold the door open, and invite others to walk through together.

And this Saturday, January 24, 10 am-4 pm, our community comes together to celebrate the CHQ Chamber's "Doors Open Jamestown". We open our hearts and minds to the many participating small businesses and nonprofit organizations throughout downtown and beyond. (See page 19 in this edition for the complete and exciting list.) These destination locations are opening their Doors for our enjoyment with free admission and open arms. Each winter, this annual tradition reminds us of the many delightful Doors that are open YEAR-ROUND in the Greater Jamestown community and all that they have to offer. The darker, colder days of Chautauqua County's deep winter can't put a damper on the kindness and support we can still show these hardworking assets that help make us this great place we love to call home.

We open doors every day. This week, open Doors that mean something special.

CHAUTAUQUA GAZETTE

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SUBMISSION DEADLINES
Thursdays at 5:00 pm

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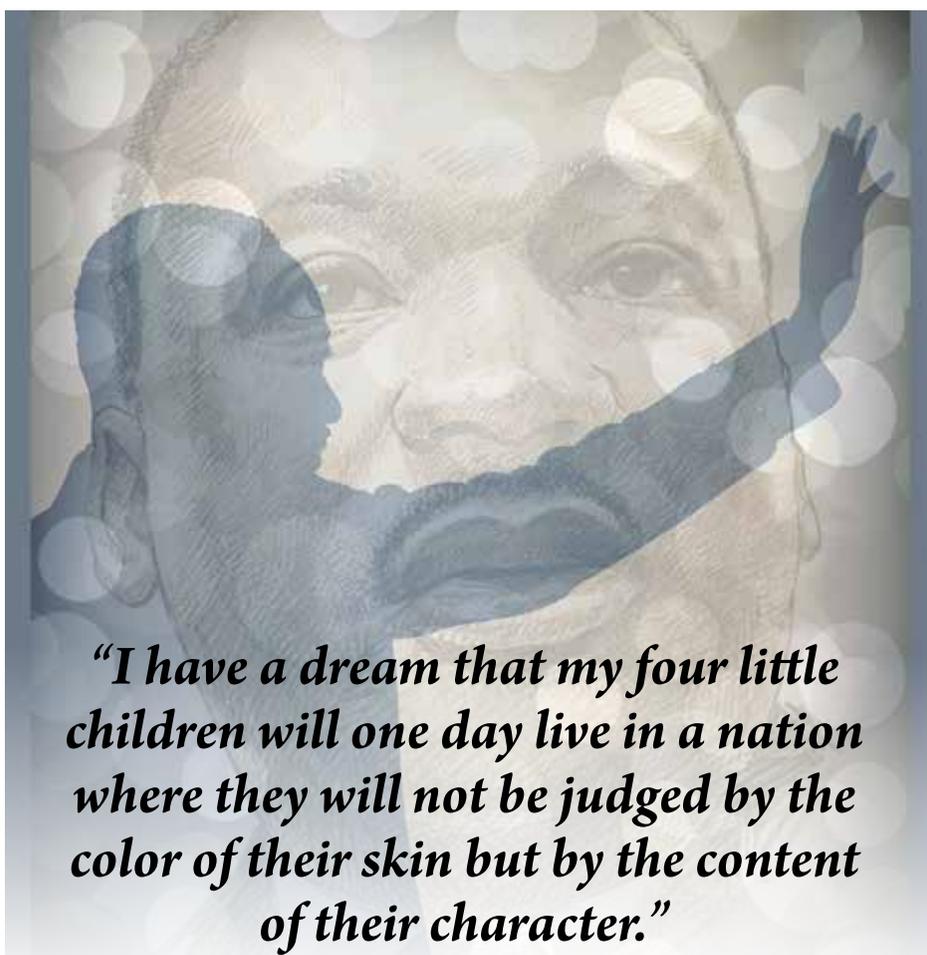
Wednesday, January 21
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Doors Open Jamestown

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martzobservatory.org



"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character."

- Martin Luther King Jr.

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Please note that this edition of the Chautauqua Gazette does not include our weekly obituary listings. We are introducing a new way to present obituaries and will share details in February.

We offer our sincere condolences to all those who have lost loved ones this week. Our hearts and prayers go out on behalf of our community.

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Faith Matters

OPENING DOORS



Featured Writer

Rev. Luke Fodor

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

heaven and earth will pause and say: here lived a great street sweeper who swept their job well."

As someone who did not grow up in Jamestown but who moved here twelve years ago, I am continually struck by the legacy of the many great individuals who not only sweep the streets here but who imagined, created, discovered, and built this place. Whenever I share my enthusiasm for Jamestown, longtime residents—like one of my predecessors, Fr. Richard Fenn, who took me to lunch at Liscian-dro's on my very first day—offer the same refrain: "I wish you could have seen Jamestown in its heyday."

They describe a city that was bustling—streets filled with people, storefronts alive with energy and purpose. And each year, events like Doors Open Jamestown—much like the Comedy Center or the Lucy Festival—offer a glimpse of what that vitality once felt like, as buildings and streets come alive with activity and shared attention.

But what makes Jamestown truly special isn't nostalgia, or even revitalization alone. It is the deep sense of belonging—of being known, welcomed, and rooted—that continues to hold this community together.

As we celebrate Doors Open this week, and as we honor the legacy of Dr. King and his dream of a beloved community, it is worth remembering his call to build our lives—and our city—on a sound blueprint. Doors to new and future opportunities are opening. The question is whether we will be ready. Will we honor the legacy of those who have gone before us? Or will we remain at home, glued to our screens?

My friends, it is time to open those doors. It is time to get out into the streets and do our work well—to build a better, brighter future for this city we love. A city that bustles once again.

Six months before his assassination, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. spoke to students at Barratt Junior High School in Philadelphia on October 26, 1967. He asked them a question that still echoes with urgency today: "What is your life's blueprint?" Using the metaphor of an architectural blueprint, Dr. King invited those young people to consider whether they had a clear and sturdy vision for who they were becoming, even as the structure of their lives was still under construction. He reminded them that they were living in a moment of expanding possibility:

"And I say to you, my young friends, doors are opening to you—doors of opportunities that were not open to your mothers and your fathers. And the great challenge facing you is to be ready to face these doors as they open."

Then he offered a charge that went far beyond ambition or success: once you discover what you are called to be, he said, pursue it as if God Almighty has summoned you—at this precise moment in history—to do that very work.

"Don't aim merely to do a good job. Do it so well that no one, living, dead, or unborn, could do it better. And if your calling should be to sweep streets, then sweep them with the artistry of Michelangelo, the devotion of Beethoven, the power of Leontyne Price, the imagination of Shakespeare. Sweep them so well that all the hosts of

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Chautauqua County Launches Expanded Government Reduction Initiative (GRI)



Submitted Photo

GOVERNMENT REDUCTION INITIATIVE

Contributed by Chautauqua County Government

Chautauqua County Executive PJ Wendel today announced the official launch of the County's expanded Government Reduction Initiative (GRI), a program aimed at helping local governments address rising costs while improving services and providing long-term financial relief to residents.

Information about the initiative, including application documents and program details, is now available at chautauquacountyny.gov/GRI. The County will also be distributing this information directly to local municipalities, school districts, and special districts to ensure eligible entities are aware of the opportunity and how to apply.

The expanded GRI is designed to support local governments as they explore innovative ways to reduce costs, increase efficiency, and deliver services more effectively — all with the goal of easing the tax burden on Chautauqua County residents. The initiative builds upon a program originally adopted in 2017 and now provides up to \$100,000 per project to eligible entities considering, planning, or implementing:

- Dissolutions, consolidations, or mergers of municipalities
- Consolidation of public services or facilities
- Intermunicipal collaborations that improve service delivery

"Every dollar spent by government ultimately comes from our residents, and with the cost of living continuing to rise, we have a responsibility to look for smarter, more efficient ways to operate," said Wendel. "The expanded Government Reduction Initiative is about giving local governments the tools they need to explore long-term solutions that can reduce costs, strengthen services, and provide meaningful financial relief to taxpayers."

Encouraging Action and Collaboration

As part of the initiative, Wendel is encouraging applicants to begin developing action plans that identify opportunities for analysis and collaboration. These efforts may range from shared services to full consolidations or dissolutions.

Before any proposal is presented to the Chautauqua County Legislature for consideration and approval, applicants will meet with County representatives to discuss their ideas, goals, and potential plans. Wendel encourages local officials to come prepared with preliminary concepts, talk with neighboring communities, and engage in conversations that can spark collaboration and creative problem-solving.

Funding FAQs

Is the GRI retroactive?
No. Funding cannot be used for costs already incurred prior to legislative approval.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

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Martin Luther King Day

Continued from Front Page



Submitted Photo

Emmanuel Baptist Church, Jamestown

that created the federal holiday. Both the House and the Senate had voted veto proof margins for passage. Not every state immediately observed the holiday. New Hampshire, in 1999, was the last to name the holiday after King. The holiday was first observed nationally in 1986, twenty-eight years after King's assassination. For the most of those forty years following national recognition EBC has honored the unflinching

and indefatigable conviction of the man universally admired for his moral integrity in the pursuit of social justice. Thanks to Rev. Maria Jones, interim pastor at EBC and to William Avery, Deacon and Trustee, for tracking down for me the year the MLK birthday was first celebrated at the church, 2004. I'm pretty sure I attended that first celebration. I have been a faithful participant ever since.

"If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward."

- Martin Luther King Jr.

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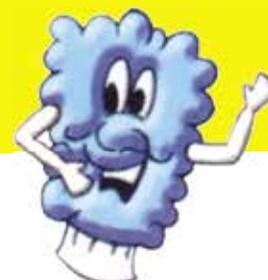
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A Dream That Persists Through Generations



Contributing Writer

Ryan-Chambers Leonard

a PhD from Boston University in Systematic Theology. At the same time, King met his wife, Coretta Scott, with whom he had four children. Although King spoke for freedom and equality, he was apparently known to keep Scott limited to the house rather than the movement. Despite this, Scott went on to make a name for herself that was as strong as (if not stronger than) King's. Beyond racial equality, Scott fought for women's rights, LGBTQ+ rights, and also expressed many anti-apartheid ideals. Scott is also responsible for this very holiday, pushing the very legislation that President Ronald Reagan signed into law to create MLK Jr. Day.

Speaking of the holiday, we've hopefully all heard of King's famous Civil Rights speech, "I Have a Dream," a momentous speech made in Washington, D.C., which was made on the steps of a memorial dedicated to the President who abolished slavery: Abraham Lincoln. Delivered on August 28th, 1963, King's speech rang throughout the country as a call to end the racism that had been accepted for so long, and ushered in a new era of the Civil Rights movement.

While Martin Luther King Jr. was killed almost 60 years ago, his death reminds us how important the fight for peace is. King fought for absolute peace in politics and fought for a political climate that didn't need hate or bigotry. Decades later, our society still has a lot to learn from King's life and rhetoric, and these holidays are an important landmark to preserve those ideals throughout one of the most divisive political periods the United States has ever seen.

Editorial note: Among our impressive team of volunteer writers includes Ryan Chambers-Leonard. At only 17-years-old, this Chautauqua County student writes well beyond his years and takes great care to research interesting topics for our readers. We are proud to showcase his talents.

In a world where every topic in existence is debated, where politics grows more polarizing each day, and the news headlines become increasingly frightening, a holiday that celebrates the fight for equality, nonviolent protests, and a leader among leaders is a holiday that we need more than ever. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, observed on the third Monday in January, is one of only two federal "National Days of Service," with the other being the 9/11 National Day of Service. While King's birthday is January 15, which is why the holiday falls around this time, the observance can take place anywhere from the 15th at the earliest to the 21st at the latest, depending on the year. This year, the holiday falls on the 19th, and while President Trump has removed Martin Luther King Jr. Day as a free entry day for National Parks around the country, the administration has not yet announced any further intentions to interact with the holiday today.

During King's Childhood, he attended Yonge Street Elementary School, a segregated school, and in his teenage years, he was enrolled at Booker T. Washington High School. To the shock of presumably very few, King was particularly good with his words and even better at speaking. At the same time, King was known in his community for being quite the dancer and also for his interest in fashion. While King did not end up becoming a dancer like some may have thought he would, he later received his Bachelor's of Arts in Sociology from Morehouse College. Later on, King also received

Wellness Initiative for Senior Education (WISE) Program Empowers Older Adults to Live Healthy, Vibrant Lives

Contributed by

Prevention Works

Prevention Works, Inc. is proud to announce the expansion of the Wellness Initiative for Senior Education (WISE) Program, a dynamic health education initiative designed to help older adults celebrate healthy aging, make smart lifestyle choices, and enhance their overall well-being. This opportunity is made possible through generous funding and partnership with United Way of Chautauqua County, the Chautauqua County Office for the Aging, and New York State OASAS.

The WISE Program is a six-session series that provides older adults with valuable tools and insights to support physical and emotional wellness. Each interactive session explores topics such as medication management, improving brain health, understanding how aging affects the body, and making informed decisions about alcohol, prescription medications, and other substances.

"WISE is more than just an educational program; it's a chance for older adults to connect, share experiences, and learn practical ways to enhance their quality of life," said **Melanie Witkowski**, Executive Director of Prevention Works.

Developed by the Prevention Research Institute, Inc., the WISE Program is evidence-based and nationally recognized for its success in promoting healthy aging and preventing substance misuse among older adults. Participants benefit from

engaging discussions, educational materials, and opportunities to ask questions in a supportive and welcoming environment.

Participants have shared overwhelmingly positive feedback, with one noting, "I would love all of my loved ones to go through this. It has opened my eyes to many things I was unaware of."

The program is facilitated by **Ruth Chase**, WISE Coordinator at Prevention Works. "WISE reminds us that healthy aging isn't just about living longer — it's about living well, staying engaged, and embracing each chapter with confidence," said Chase.

Prevention Works is offering the WISE Program at **no cost** to adults aged 55 and older in Chautauqua County. Upcoming sessions include:

- **Fredonia First Presbyterian Church**
Wednesdays
January 21 – February 25
9:30 AM – 11:30 AM
- **Silver Tree Methodist Gardens-Falconer**
Thursdays
January 22- February 26
1:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Registration is now open! To sign up, please contact NY Connects/Office for the Aging at **716-753-4582**.



The WISE Program is coming to:
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THURSDAYS, 1:00 P.M. to 3:00P.M.

Dates	Topics
January 22 nd	Understanding the Changes Associated with Aging
January 29 th	Aging Sensitivity
February 5 th	Valuing Cultural and Generational Diversity
February 12 th	Medication and the Older Adult
February 19 th	Substance Misuse, Addiction, and Older Adults
February 26 th	An Enhanced Quality of Life

*Make-up day if needed: March 5th

To register, call Aging Services NY Connects line at (716) 753-4582! Seating is limited.

"Forgiveness is not an occasional act. It is a permanent attitude."

- Martin Luther King Jr.

Different Roads & Shared Dreams

Contributed by
Northern Chautauqua County Juneteenth Committee

In honor of Martin Luther King Day, the Dunkirk-Fredonia community will gather for a celebration luncheon that has occurred for more than forty years. This annual event, to be held on Monday, Jan. 19, 2026 at noon, is planned by the Northern Chautauqua County Juneteenth Committee and chaired by longtime local leader, Loretta Slaton Torain. The attendees will consist of administrators and educators from the State University of New York at Fredonia, Dunkirk Public Schools, law enforcement members, firefighters, numerous organizations from Chautauqua County, the City of Dunkirk, the Village of Fredonia and surrounding communities. This year, the luncheon will be held at the SUNY Fredonia Williams Center. The agenda will consist of proclamations from New York State and local city officials commemorating the day and the presentation of the Janice D. Slaton Scholarship in tribute to community service. The keynote speakers will be Sandra Lewis, Marcus Buchanan and Frank Torain. Lewis and Buchanan

are representatives of the Chautauqua County Legislature and Frank Torain is a Council member for the Second Ward in the City of Dunkirk.

Torain made history by becoming the first African American to be elected to a government office in the City of Dunkirk. He will share his thoughts on the theme, "Different Roads and Shared Dreams" and reflect on how different the rugged roads that Martin Luther King travelled were than those that Torain travelled that were paved with the blood, sweat and tears of the nonviolence movement.

"Those roads, although still flawed, allowed me to be able to maneuver down a path of many responsibilities and experiences which led to my current endeavor," Torain said. "Martin Luther King had a dream, and I still believe that there are good people who still believe in the tenets of his dream. It is up to all of us generational people to continue to learn, understand, teach and apply these tenets. Martin Luther King led a generation to overcome during the civil rights movement. It is our responsibility to lead this generation to overcome the challenges we face during a time such as this."



Chautauqua County Launches Expanded Government Reduction Initiative (GRI)

Continued from page 5

Can GRI funds be used for studies or analyses?

Yes, on a project-dependent basis. Applicants must explain how the project will lead to greater efficiencies, improved service delivery, and estimate potential one-time and/or recurring savings if fully implemented.

Can GRI funding be matched with other grant funds?

Yes. However, total funding may not exceed the total project cost. Applications that demonstrate leveraged funding will be given higher priority.

Examples of Successful Collaborative Projects in Chautauqua County

While not funded directly through GRI, the following projects highlight how collaboration and consolidation can deliver long-term benefits:

- Formation of the **North Chautauqua County Water District (2016)**

- Dissolution of the **Village of Cherry Creek into the Town of Cherry Creek (2017)**
- Consolidated court system in the towns of **Mina, Clymer, French Creek, and Sherman (2021)**
- Consolidation of **Dewittville, Hartfield, and Mayville Fire Departments into the North Lake Fire District (2024)**

Looking Ahead

Chautauqua County officials hope the Government Reduction Initiative will lead to **lasting, positive impacts** by improving service delivery, strengthening intergovernmental partnerships, and generating cost savings that enhance value for taxpayers. Local governments, school districts, and special districts are encouraged to begin discussions now and prepare preliminary action plans to take advantage of this funding opportunity.

For more information or to apply, visit chautauquacountyny.gov/GRI.

Congressman Langworthy Secures \$1.25 Million for City of Jamestown Stormwater Channel Maintenance to Reduce Flooding and Protect Infrastructure

Contributed by
Office of Congressman Nick Langworthy

Congressman Nick Langworthy recently announced that he has secured \$1.25 million in federal funding for the City of Jamestown's Stormwater Channel Maintenance Project, a critical investment aimed at reducing flooding risks and protecting public safety along the Chadakoin River, the outlet of Chautauqua Lake.

The funding will support the restoration and maintenance of stormwater channels by removing accumulated sediment, debris, and obstructions that threaten nearby homes, businesses, and essential infrastructure. These improvements will help ensure stormwater flows safely through the system, particularly during periods of heavy rainfall and flooding.

"Jamestown has experienced firsthand how devastating flooding can be to families, businesses, and critical transportation routes," said Congressman

Langworthy. "This \$1.25 million investment will help reduce flood risks, protect public safety, and preserve vital infrastructure. This is exactly what government should be focused on--making smart, responsible investments in the infrastructure people rely on every single day. Safe water, flood control, and reliable public systems are essential to a functioning community, and when we get these basics right, we can be in a strong position to grow, attract investment, and thrive."

The Chadakoin River and its stormwater channels have a documented history of flooding and related issues that have impacted Jamestown and surrounding communities. Congressman Langworthy emphasized the importance of proactive maintenance along the River to safeguard major transportation corridors and prevent damage to state, county, and local infrastructure. In addition to improving flood resilience, the project will help preserve the ecological health of the river system and surrounding environment.



The Chautauqua Gazette is committed to supporting nonprofit organizations across Chautauqua County that strengthen our communities and enrich local life. From community services and arts initiatives to education, health, and advocacy, the many organizations of Chautauqua are the backbone of our county and their impact deserves to be seen, celebrated, and supported.

Think of the Gazette as your partner in amplifying your mission by raising awareness, promoting upcoming events, and sharing your latest news with a broad local audience. Our mission is to shine a spotlight on the organizations that give so much to our community. To learn more about customizable collaboration opportunities, contact cornell@chqgazette.com or call 716-720-1845.

Found Footage Festival comedy show coming to Reg Lenna Center for The Arts January 23



Contributed by
**Reg Lenna Center
for The Arts**

The Found Footage Festival is a celebration of the videos that time forgot, dredged up in dusty thrift stores and estate sales throughout North America. Childhood friends Joe Pickett (The Onion) and Nick Prueher (Late Show) - hosting live on stage at The Reg - take audiences on a guided tour of their latest and greatest VHS finds, providing commentary and where-are-they-now updates on the people in these videotaped obscurities in their live tour and their weekly YouTube show, VCR Party Live! The event begins at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, January 23.

Pickett and Prueher began collecting found videotapes in 1991 after stumbling across a training video entitled, "Inside and Outside Custodial Duties," at a McDonald's in their home state of Wisconsin. Since then, they have compiled the world's largest collection of strange, outrageous and profoundly stupid videos. The Found Footage Festival live show debuted in New York City in 2004 and has gone on to sell out hundreds of live shows each year. It has been featured on The

Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon, Jimmy Kimmel Live!, and National Public Radio.

Pickett and Prueher are also the masterminds behind the Kenny "K-Strass" Strasser (featuring What We Do in the Shadows actor Mark Proksch,) Chef Keith, and Chop & Steele pranks that hit local morning TV news shows across and have since racked up millions of hits on YouTube.

Tickets for this event are \$24.50 and are on sale now. The Reg Lenna Center for The Arts box office is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 12-5 p.m. and one hour before movies and events. Tickets may also be purchased by calling 716.484.7070 or at reglenna.com. Reg Lenna Center for The Arts is located at 116 E. 3rd St. in Jamestown, NY.

The Reg Lenna Center for The Arts' programs are made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.



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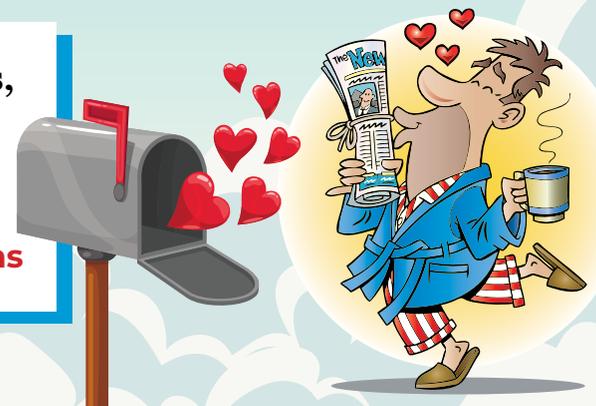


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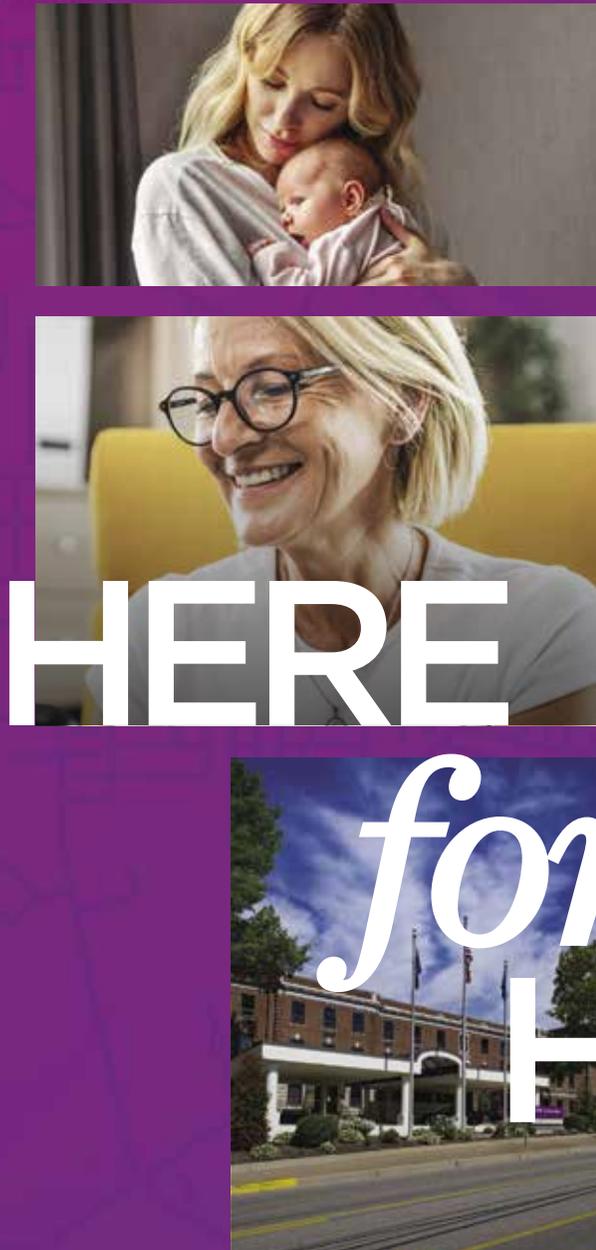
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UPMC | CHAUTAUQUA



Business of the Week

Celebrating Local Businesses & Giving them the Spotlight!

DoubleTree: Proud Community Partner



Contributing Editor
Katrina Fuller

N Brandon Odell, general manager of the Jamestown DoubleTree by Hilton, has been on the scene since day one. Odell was hired in 2016 by Hamster Group to oversee the opening of the hotel.

"I was the first one," he said. "I did everything from ordering every little thing that goes in the hotel to being side by side with the construction team to hiring all the staff."

Odell, a Navy veteran, came to Jamestown by way of Texas and later Nevada, and has made Chautauqua County his home with his wife and children. He said he appreciates the local community for all the opportunities, local attractions and events that make the area special.

"There is more to do than just a couple of things," he said. "If people would really look at all of what Chautauqua County has to offer, even Jamestown itself, there's so much out there. You could probably be busy for a whole year and still not do everything Chautauqua County has to offer."

The DoubleTree is one of those options, with its comfortable rooms and amenities, caring staff and a genuine gastropub on site: Pearl City Hops. The restaurant, with its seven-year history, offers a variety of scratch-made meals and features what Odell calls "the largest selection of bourbon in Chautauqua County," which rivals the collections of some Buffalo establishments.

"Bourbon tasting is a big trend right now," he said. "We do offer flights, so you can have a chance to try something you've never had before." The restaurant also offers some of the best wings and burgers in town, Odell said. For those looking for a little fun on a Thursday night, visitors are welcome to take part in their trivia nights starting at 7 p.m. Other upcoming events include a Valentine's themed dinner with a Sweetheart Package that includes chocolate-covered strawberries, champagne, breakfast and dinner. Odell said other popular events include the upcoming Mother's Day and Easter brunches, which sell out quickly.

However, it's not only locals who take advantage of the amenities and attractions of the DoubleTree. Odell said residents would be surprised at the number of international visitors the area draws.

"And they come and stay with me," he said with a laugh. Odell said there are visitors from as far as Japan and Germany who come to visit our neck of the woods. "They have said it's like what they picture an old American

city would look like from the movies. They enjoy the beautiful green scenery and they love that there is so much to do."

Odell said one of his favorite and unexpected experiences with international travelers was a visit from an Australian baseball team for the annual Babe Ruth World Series in Jamestown. He said last year was the first time the hotel had hosted all the teams from the series, which included the Australian team that they sponsored.

"We personally got to know them and were hanging around them, and it was just excellent being able to connect Jamestown, New York - a very small area - with a big group of folks from another country. I still have their team baseball hat in my office."

Connection is a very big deal at the DoubleTree, he added. The staff is trained on personal connection through the concept of "DoubleTree Care," which focuses on personal interaction and connection with guests during their stay. Odell said the idea is to make a customer feel at home, from extra efforts for a child's birthday with balloons and decorations in their room to making sure a guest who has experienced a fire at their home feels welcome and safe.

"They come here, and we make them feel at home, we get to know them and I think that's what sets us apart;

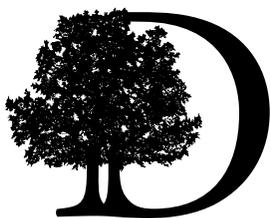
CONTINUED ON PAGE 14




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Brandon Odell
Area Operations Director/GM





Why hire a tax professional?

Courtesy of

Metro Creative Connection

Tax season, which begins in January and ends in April with the tax-filing deadline (tax day falls on Wednesday, April 15 in 2025), can be a stressful time for people in the United States. Individuals and businesses are required by law to file their income tax returns with the federal government and either await a refund or pay what they owe.

Tax laws are not always easily understood by people outside of the field of accounting and financial planning, and they often change from year to year. Rather than face the daunting task of taxes alone, taxpayers can work with a professional tax preparer or a certified public accountant. These people keep up with the tax code and their expertise can help filers make the process less daunting while ensuring all eligible deductions and credits are noted. The following are a handful of the many benefits of relying on a tax professional.

· **Save money:** The cost of using a tax professional often is offset by the amount of money that professional can save you. A tax prep pro may find

deductions or tax credits that the average person may miss.

· **Save time:** The Internal Revenue Service says that it typically takes the average person around 13 hours to correctly and completely fill out a Form 1040 or 1040-SR. Professional tax preparers are more intimately familiar with these forms and can do it in a fraction of the time.

· **Answer questions:** A tax professional can answer questions taxpayers may have, which can help you avoid having to check with the IRS directly. Getting immediate answers to questions can provide you with peace of mind.

· **Avoid mistakes:** Professionals help taxpayers avoid common mistakes that can lead to an IRS inquiry or audit.

· **Look at past returns:** Tax preparers can review previous returns and, in some cases, get you additional money back. They also can speak to the IRS on your behalf if there are any penalties from back taxes or provide support if you get audited.

Working with a professional tax preparer is a wise move for people who find handling their own tax returns very taxing.

Western New York Youth to Lead Effort to Award More Than \$2 Million in Grants to Support Out-of-School Time Programs

Contributed by
With Youth for Youth

Abigail, a board member from Lyndonville.

In a groundbreaking shift in philanthropy, a 24-member Youth Advisory Board of teenagers ages 13-17 will distribute more than \$2 million in grants to out-of-school time and youth sports programs across Western New York. The effort is funded by the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation and part of **With Youth For Youth (WYFY)**, a national initiative which puts decision-making power directly in the hands of young people to rethink how their communities invest in youth development programs, and ultimately, transform their educational opportunities by embedding youth voice into afterschool systems.

Beginning January 20, 2026, nonprofit organizations, government agencies, and schools serving youth ages 5-18 can apply for grants ranging from \$25,000 to \$150,000. Applications for this **one-time grant process are due February 23 at 4 p.m.**, with funding decisions to be announced in April and grant distributions made through the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo beginning in June.

Unlike traditional grantmaking models, the Western New York WYFY Youth Advisory Board has designed the grant guidelines and will evaluate applications and make the grant award decisions. The initiative serves the nine-county region including Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Monroe, Niagara, Orleans, and Wyoming counties. Over the last year, the Youth Advisory Board, which has representation from across all nine counties, has participated in leadership development, experiential adventure-based learning, and design thinking sessions that prepared them to make strategic funding decisions.

"Research continues to prove that programs are more efficient when youth voice and participation are constantly present," said Willow, a Youth Advisory Board member from Warsaw. "Youth voice being implemented in programs helps engagement and relevance to increase."

The Youth Advisory Board will evaluate applications based on criteria including youth voice and leadership, youth experience and benefits, mission and impact, and systems-level thinking. Geographic representation across all nine counties will be considered to ensure equitable distribution of resources.

"When young people are meaningfully involved in decision making, they develop leadership and self-advocacy skills, feel respected and valued, and are more likely to commit to and benefit from the program," explained

Eligible programs include afterschool and drop-in youth programs, community-based youth sports, arts and cultural programs, workforce development, library-based programming, leadership development, and prevention programs.

The initiative is part of a national WYFY effort supported by the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation in partnership with the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation. Five partner sites across the country are working with Youthprise to build sustainable youth leadership infrastructures rooted in equity, shared power, and design thinking.

Western New York Grant Application Details:

- **Process Opens:** January 20, 2026
- **Virtual Information Session for Interested Organizations:** January 21, 2026 at 3:30 p.m.
- **Deadline to Apply:** February 23, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. (no exceptions)
- **Funding Range:** \$25,000 - \$150,000
- **Limit:** One application per organization
- **Decision Notifications:** April 2026
- **Fund Distribution:** June 2026

For more information about eligibility requirements and to access the application and information session link, organizations should visit <https://www.cfgb.org/nonprofits/grants/with-youth-for-youth-wyfy-grant-opportunities-forwestern-new-york/> or contact Tracy Bradshaw at tbradshaw@bgcea.org.

About With Youth For Youth (WYFY)
Afterschool With Youth for Youth (WYFY) is a multifaceted initiative empowering young people to redesign afterschool programming from the ground up. Coordinated by Youthprise and funded by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation and the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation, the project connects five partner sites across the United States: (Missouri, Minnesota, Southeast Michigan, Vermont and Western New York). WYFY builds upon two earlier efforts: the Generator Z project, funded by the Wilson Foundation, and the Powered by Youth Voice project, funded by the Mott Foundation. Both projects aimed to uplift the voices of young people by promoting more channels for youth to contribute to decisions about program activities and practice leadership. Through collaborative design thinking sessions and paid youth participation, WYFY centers young people as creators and leaders of their own learning experiences. The goal is to develop blueprints from each partner site that will help afterschool systems amplify youth voices seeking to transform their educational opportunities.

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CHAMBER CORNER

Shopping Locally is Still in Season

Article Contributed by

Daniel J. Heitzenrater

Chautauqua County Chamber of Commerce
President and CEO

Last fall we asked you to consider prioritizing community over convenience by choosing to shop locally. We stand by that message, not just as we approached the holidays, but throughout the year. During these slower than usual times for retailers, restaurants, and attractions, you can be just the boost a small business needs to keep going. Some of them may have changed hours during the remainder of the winter, but they are still there and will be waiting for you to stop in. Buy a sweater on sale to keep you warm. Buy a book to read on a cold winter night. Buy some flowers to brighten up your home now that holiday décor is packed away. Join some friends and buy lunch or dinner. Our local businesses will appreciate it more than you know.

Did you get a ShopLocalCHQ Gift Card over the holidays? Now would be a great time to use it. Check the list that came attached to your gift card – or check the listing in our online business directory – and see the more than 160 local businesses that participate in this program. The CHQ Chamber sold over \$150,000 in ShopLocalCHQ Gift Cards in 2025. All of that is money that can help boost local businesses, but only if you actually use the cards. The value of your gift card can be used for a variety of products and services at Chamber member businesses and attractions throughout Chautauqua County. We urge you to support our local economy and redeem your ShopLocalCHQ Gift Card so it can make a true difference for businesses.

The true value of small businesses goes beyond economic prosperity. It goes to the heart of who we are. Local businesses create a sense of place and provide gathering spots for friends and neighbors. Local businesses build our main streets and create walkable downtown centers where people want to congregate. They infuse life and vibrancy into our daily lives by providing unique experiences each time we buy a latte, a sandwich, or a gift.

Throughout the Christmas shopping season you undoubtedly heard the Shop Local message numerous times. Well, the holiday season may be over, but the message remains

relevant – perhaps even more so. Supporting local businesses is something you can, and should, do all year long. Even during the slower-paced winter months, small locally owned businesses are here to serve our communities. The coffee shops, restaurants, retailers, salons, service stations, insurance offices, and others that make up the fabric of our cities, towns, and villages are here all year round to serve you. Chautauqua County is always in season, and so are our locally owned businesses.

CHQ Chamber Presents the State of Business

As a countywide business association, the CHQ Chamber convenes local businesspeople in a variety of ways throughout the year. For the second year in a row, we are proud to present the State of Business Breakfast. This event will be held Friday, January 30 at 8am at The White Inn, 52 East Main Street, Fredonia. Our goal this year is to bring together knowledgeable active professionals from a variety of economic sectors in Chautauqua County.

Our confirmed speakers are, Jennifer Phillips Russo, Cornell Viticulture Senior Extension Specialist and Team Leader of the Lake Erie Regional Grape Program with Cornell Cooperative Extension in Chautauqua County; Ken Morris, President/CEO of Brooks-TLC Hospital for the Healthcare sector; Brad Walters, Director of the Builders Exchange of the Southern Tier for the Construction & Trades sector; and Cathy Kerr, M&T Bank Vice President/Senior Branch Manager, from the Finance sector. Each speaker will provide an overview and there will be time for a question-and-answer period.

The State of Business breakfast is sponsored by the County of Chautauqua Industrial Development Agency, Gullo Law Office, Media One Radio Group, the State University of New York at Fredonia, and The White Inn. We strongly encourage local businesspeople to attend this breakfast event and come with questions for our panelists. Pre-registration is required. The cost is \$30 per person. Check-in will open at 7:30, with a buffet breakfast planned. The program will begin shortly after 8am. Registration is open now through the Chamber's web calendar at www.chqchamber.org/events.

Stop by our table at the EXPO...



...for info, fish tales and fun.



Photo Credit: Eric Engbretson, USFWS

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Nick Langworthy

CONGRESS DISTRICT 23

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Congressman Langworthy Secures \$1 Million for Town of Ellicott Water Service Extension to Deliver Safe Drinking Water

Recently Congressman Nick Langworthy announced that he has secured \$1 million in federal funding for the Town of Ellicott Water Service Extension Project, a critical infrastructure investment that will bring clean, reliable public water service to the Fluvanna neighborhood by extending municipal water lines from the City of Jamestown.

The project will replace unsafe private wells with a regulated municipal water system, addressing long-standing public health concerns. Local assessments have shown that approximately 40 percent of existing wells in the area are unsafe for human consumption, making access to clean drinking water an urgent and essential need.

"This is about protecting families and ensuring access to safe drink-

ing water," said Congressman Langworthy. "This investment provides a permanent solution to a long-time problem, guaranteeing that every resident will have access to reliable, safe, quality water. I'm proud to deliver this funding for the taxpayers of Ellicott and I will always fight to ensure Western New York and the Southern Tier get its fair share of federal resources."

In addition to improving water quality, the project will significantly enhance fire protection, reduce long-term environmental and health risks, and strengthen the community's economic stability. Reliable public water service is also essential for maintaining property values, supporting future development, and ensuring the long-term vitality of the Town of Ellicott.

Doubletree

Continued from Page 11

our customer service," he said.

Guests and visitors alike can experience this exceptional service themselves for the upcoming Doors Open Jamestown event on January 24th. The DoubleTree will be open for visits, where Odell said they can sample the "world famous DoubleTree Cookies," take a tour of their event space and more.

"It's in the Smithsonian, if you didn't know that," he said. "Our cookie was actually the first baked good in space. They actually baked the cookie in space."

Guests will also have the ability to visit Pearl City Hops and view a guest room as well.

Odell said the connection between DoubleTree and the community doesn't stop with visitors and guests. The DoubleTree prides itself on maintaining strong connections with the community - including businesses and organizations. Odell said the Jamestown Rotary Club meets at the

Pearl City Hops restaurant every week for lunch, and the hotel is fortunate to have an excellent partnership with the National Comedy Center, the Northwest Arena and the Chautauqua Harbor Hotel.

"We do work well with each other trying to get business into the area," he said. "It's not all one-sided. It's a team effort of business leaders in the area."

Whether a guest is looking for the best bourbon selection in Chautauqua County, a trivia night, cozy accommodations or just a world-famous cookie, Odell said DoubleTree has it all. For those looking to keep up with the upcoming events and happenings at the hotel, Odell suggested following Pearl City Hops on Facebook. The restaurant, Pearl City Hops, is open during the winter 7 days a week from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. and later in the summer. Breakfast is open to the public and is available from Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. For more information, call 716-488-7227.

Winter Field Crop and Vegetable Meetings

Laing-Gro and Cornell Cooperative Extension host Winter Programming for Producers

Contributing Writers

Katelyn Miller and Elizabeth Buck

Laing-Gro, Division of Timac in collaboration with Cornell Cooperative Extension will be hosting their annual Winter Field Crop and Vegetable meetings in early February. These meetings, designed for field crop and vegetable producers will highlight industry updates and pesticide safety education for the 2026 growing season. DEC recertification credits will be available for attendees at each meeting. CCA continuing education credits will be available at the field crop meeting.

The events will be hosted at the Langford Firehall, located at 3901 Langford Road, North Collins, NY

14111. There is no cost to attend, and lunch will be provided for attendees. Register for either meeting by calling Laing-Gro at 716-992-3830 by January 27, 2026.

These events will highlight the use of biostimulants, fertility management, reducing risk with bio-pesticides, and pesticide safety. Additionally, crop protection products like herbicides, insecticides and fungicides will be highlighted as they relate to their production area. Each event will have unique content tailored to the production systems they focus on, including neonicotinoid seed treatments in field crops, and diamondback moth management in brassicas.

Field Crop Meeting

Date: February 3, 2026
Time: 9:30am – 3:00pm
 doors open at 9:00 AM
DEC recertification credits available:
 3 in CORE, 1a, 10, & 21
 3 CEU's available in Integrated Pest Management and Crop Management

Vegetable Meeting

Date: February 4, 2026
Time: 9:25am – 3:30pm, doors open at 9:00 AM
DEC recertification credits available:
 1.25 in CORE, 1.75 in 1a & 23

SWNYDLFC is a partnership between Cornell University and the CCE Associations of Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, and Steuben counties. Their team includes Amy Barkley, Livestock Management Specialist and Team Leader (716-640-0844); Kate McDonald Polakiewicz, Farm Business Management Specialist (716-640-0522); Katelyn Miller, Field Crops and Forage Specialist (716-640-2047); and Katie Callero, Dairy Management Specialist (607-422-6788). Cornell is an equal opportunity employer.

For more information about Cornell Cooperative Extension, contact your county's Association Executive Director.

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- Martin Luther King Jr.

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MLK

Trivia

- In what year was Martin Luther King Jr. born?
- Martin Luther King Jr. is best known for leading which movement?
- Martin Luther King Jr. won the Nobel Peace Prize in which year?
- Which famous song became associated with the Civil Rights Movement and MLK's marches?
- MLK co-founded which organization to advance civil rights through nonviolent means?
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day was signed into law as a federal holiday in which year?
- MLK earned a doctorate in theology from which institution?
- Which 1955 bus boycott in Montgomery did MLK lead?
- Who was the President that signed the Civil Rights Act of 1964?
- MLK's philosophy of nonviolent protest was inspired by which leader?

1. 1929 2. The American Civil Rights Movement 3. 1964 4. We Shall Overcome 5. 1983 6. Boston University 7. Montgomery 8. Martin Luther King Jr. 9. Nobel Peace Prize 10. Gandhi

SUDOKU

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

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			7	8	9	
	10	11									12		
	13									14			
	15									16			
17										18			
19			20							21			
22				23	24	25	26			27			
	28							29			30	31	32
				33				34					35
				36							37		
				38								39	
	40									41	42	43	
44						45	46	47					
48						49							
50						51							

CLUES ACROSS

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Mechanical lever | 33. Morning |
| 7. Rocky peak | 34. Perfected |
| 10. Leave a country | 36. Winger guitarist Beach |
| 12. Discount | 37. Abba __, Israeli politician |
| 13. D.C. ballplayer | 38. Self-immolation by fire ritual |
| 14. Partner to "oohed" | 39. A way to save money |
| 15. Engine sound | 40. Pulpit |
| 16. Japanese ornamental box | 41. Make ecstatically happy |
| 17. Fido is one | 44. Once more |
| 18. Amounts of time | 45. Works on |
| 19. DiFranco and Phyo are two | 48. Nocturnal S. American rodent |
| 21. Yearly tonnage (abbr.) | 49. State again |
| 22. Make secret plans | 50. Expression of disappointment |
| 27. "Tiny Bubbles" singer | 51. Type of door |
| 28. "His Airness" | |

CLUES DOWN

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| 1. Yugoslavian communist leader | 25. Email subject line feature |
| 2. Exchange rate | 26. A street with lots of nightmares |
| 3. High school dance | 29. Rapper Rule |
| 4. Peter's last name | 30. River in Scotland |
| 5. When you anticipate arriving | 31. One who settles a dispute |
| 6. Israeli city __ Aviv | 32. Most chummy |
| 7. Goat-like mammals | 35. We all have our own |
| 8. Margarine | 36. Arab tribe |
| 9. End-of-the-spectrum color | 38. Slap |
| 10. Make poisonous | 40. Ottoman military commanders |
| 11. Popular beverage | 41. Scottish or Irish Gaelic language |
| 12. Actress Lathan | 42. Emit coherent radiation |
| 14. Where planes land and depart | 43. Sun or solar disk (Egyptian mythology) |
| 17. Political fundraising entity | 44. Inclined to |
| 18. The distinctive spirit of a people or an era | 45. Olfactory reference syndrome |
| 20. Buffer used in microbiology | 46. Chest muscle (slang) |
| 23. Light, open carriage | 47. Body part |
| 24. Metrical feet | |

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS ON PAGE 17

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NY State of the State 2026

Gov. Kathy Hochul delivered New York's annual State of the State address on Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2026, in Albany. The speech formally opened the 2026 legislative session and outlined the governor's priorities for the year, with a focus on affordability, housing, child care and public safety, along with hundreds of proposed policy initiatives.

More information and a video of the address are available here: <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-kathy-hochuls-2026-state-state-your-family-your-future-my-fight>.



Senator George Borrello Responds



These same policies are also driving New York's housing affordability crisis. The Governor's housing initiative will not reach its needed goals while the all-electric mandate remains in place and without restoring common sense rules like the 100-foot gas service standard. As long as Albany restricts access to natural gas, housing will remain more expensive to build, rent, and own. Period.

Finally, on public safety, it was disappointing that the Governor did not address the state's disastrous bail and discovery "reforms" and other pro-criminal laws that continue to harm public safety and deny justice to victims. The high car insurance rates the Governor wants to fix are due, in large part, to soaring motor vehicle thefts, which rose more than 180 percent between 2019 and 2023, and to the state's failure to close glaring loopholes in its drugged driving laws. In addition, most categories of crime remain higher than they were before the bail and discovery changes, yet the Governor and legislative Democrats seem content to normalize that reality rather than fix it, while continuing to push the same misguided approach of restricting the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding New Yorkers. On top of that, it was troubling to hear the Governor's anti-law enforcement rhetoric and her insistence on a policy of "non-cooperation" with federal authorities, an approach that does nothing to make our communities safer.

The Republican Conference released our Save New York agenda. It offers the real prescription for turning this state around: a comprehensive, commonsense plan to cut taxes, lower energy, housing, and childcare costs, roll back costly mandates, restore public safety, and make New York affordable and livable again for hardworking families, seniors, and small businesses.

I agree with the Governor when she says 'government should be a force for good.' However, we disagree on what is truly 'good' for New York."

"New York State remains one of the highest-taxed and least affordable states in the nation, putting growing pressure on families, businesses, and communities. Too many people feel squeezed, and too many employers are questioning whether they can keep growing here. Governor Hochul's State of the State rightly focused on affordability, and there are areas of agreement, including cracking down on car insurance fraud and joining the federal "no tax on tips" initiative. But we did not hear anything about the broad-based tax cuts or structural reforms needed to change the state's direction or reverse the outmigration that is hollowing out our economy. Instead, we heard once again that the answer is to spend billions more of New Yorkers' hard-earned dollars.

On energy and utility costs, I support the Governor's focus on developing more nuclear power, but that is at least a decade away and will not help families today. If the Governor is serious about lowering costs and improving reliability, she should expand access to natural gas and dependable baseload energy instead of waging war against them. Proposals like scrutinizing executive pay or creating an "affordability monitor" are window dressing. Utility rates are soaring because of Albany Democrats' failed energy policies: the CLCPA, the all-electric building mandate, and the push toward costly, unreliable wind and solar. Until the Governor turns away from these policies, utility costs will remain a relentless burden for New Yorkers.

Assemblyman Andrew Molitor Responds



places to do business, has some of the highest levels of outmigration, and one of the lowest homeownership rates in the nation. Good-paying jobs are not coming into New York, they're leaving.

"The Governor is responsible for what is happening in New York, and it's clear she has no real plan to fix it. Proposing solutions to the problems they have created is not a guarantee that the problems will ever be fixed, rather it is a stunning acknowledgement that they have created those problems and we should not entrust them with our future."

"The Governor's assessment of where New York is now and where New York is headed is an illusion.

"New York has the highest tax burden, one of the worst

Contact Your State Legislators

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THE ORIGINAL VF 12

Grilled patty, cheddar, arugula, red onion, tomato, pickles, mustard, hot sauce.

AFRICAN PEANUT BURGER VF 12

Grilled patty, over easy egg, scratch made apricot jam, and spicy peanut sauce.

GARLIC MUSHROOM SWISS 13

Grilled patty, garlic butter, grilled mushrooms, swiss cheese, and vegan garlic mayo.

RODEO CLOWN BURGER VF 14

Grilled patty, our spicy guava-lime BBQ sauce, caramelized onions, pickled jalapeños, a pile of crispy fried onions, mayo, and cheddar jack cheese.

SHAREABLES

CHIPS & SALSA GF V 7.5

LAB NACHOS GF V 16
Corn tortillas covered in cheddar sauce, chili bean mix, red onion, black olives, pickled jalapeno, salsa, and sour cream topped with cheddar jack.

SPINACH ARTICHOKE DIP GF 12

Scratch-made spinach and artichoke cheese dip served with yellow corn tortilla chips.

HUMMUS DIP V 8.5

Scratch-made hummus with grilled flatbread and sweet red bell peppers.

WHEN I DIP, U DIP, WE DIP VF 14

All dips, no skips on this platter: spin through our scratch-made grilled flatbread, hummus, whipped feta w/ honey, and avocado mousse. Includes crunchy veggies & tortilla chips.

BAVARIAN PRETZELS VF 10

Soft pretzel sticks grilled, cheese sauce, and honey dijon mustard.

KIMCHI PANCAKES & SLAW VF 16

Three battered, grilled kimchi pancakes topped with an over-easy egg, served with crunchy sesame slaw, scallions, and gochu mayo. Gluten free. Vegan without the egg.

WAR FRIES GF V 13

*AVAILABLE AFTER 3PM

Grilled potato wedges tossed in our gently spicy peanut sauce with scallions, vegan mayo, and yellow mustard.

KOREAN BEER FRIES VF 14

*AVAILABLE AFTER 3PM

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SIDES

MAC & CHEESE 5.5 / 8.5

SPICY BBQ MAC 7 / 10.5

HOUSE SALAD 6

CAESAR SALAD 8

RICE & BEANS 4.5 / 6.5

MAPLE GLAZED VEGGIES 5

ROASTED CARROTS 4.5

FRESH BROCCOLI SALAD 5

LATTES

COCOPRESSO/THAI ICED COFFEE 7

Espresso with our coconut cream soy milk blend steamed to perfection. Served hot or iced.

GOLDEN MILK LATTE 7.25

Coconut cream soy milk blend with turmeric, ginger, cinnamon, and vanilla. Hot or iced.

90s CHAI LATTE 7.5

Spicy chai concentrate and milk of choice, hot or iced. Add espresso for a dirty chai.

DEWDROP LATTE 6.5

Espresso, lavender syrup, vanilla, and milk of choice. Served hot or iced.

MINOTAUR MOCHA 7.5

Espresso, dutch cocoa powder, chocolate sauce, 1883 vanilla syrup, and milk of choice. Served hot.

VENUS VANILLA LATTE 7.25

Silky vanilla latte with warm cinnamon lift and a cloud-soft microfoam for a perfectly creamy, dreamy sip.

THE SHORT STACK 8

Orange juice, orange Emergen-C powder, and a splash of coconut cream soy blend topped with club soda over ice.

BAXT-O-RAMA 7.5

Raspberry syrup added to your beloved Thai Iced Coffee or Cocopresso. With real coconut cream and your choice of soy or almond milk. Served iced or hot.

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Choose your style: small or large burrito, bowl GF, or salad GF
*Gluten-free burrito option available for small size salad only (+\$1)

SOUTHWEST VF small burrito 7.5 / large burrito or bowl 13 / salad 16

Seasoned brown rice, our hot bean mix, cheddar jack, baby spinach, salsa, sour cream, and Frank's Red Hot.

HAVANA SHAKEDOWN V small burrito 7.5 / large burrito or bowl 13 / salad 16

Seasoned brown rice, black beans with lime, avocado, carrots, sunflower seeds, greens, agave, salsa, and Frank's Red Hot. *Add sour cream?*

EVEN MORE GREEKER VF small burrito 7.5 / large burrito or bowl 13 / salad 16

Greek-Style chickpea and cucumber salad, kalamata olives, feta, baby spinach, diced tomatoes, sunflower seeds, tzatziki, and hummus.

SMASH MOUTH VF small burrito 8 / large burrito or bowl 14 / salad 17

Maple-glazed tofu, roasted brussel sprouts, sweet potatoes, basmati rice, greek dressing, goat cheese, arugula, and vegan mayo.

FLATBREADS

Thin crust dough and toppings baked to order.
Sub gluten-free crust for +\$3 Sub Vegan Mozzarella +\$2

GET SHORTY VF 14

Scratch-made red sauce topped with mozzarella and plenty of fresh basil finished with an Italian three cheese blend and a drizzle of olive oil.

GOODFELLAS 15

Loaded with our house-made spinach artichoke dip, roasted red peppers, mozzarella, and an italian three cheese blend.

MYSTIC PIZZA VF 16

Scratch-made red sauce topped with mozzarella, Beyond sausage, Beyond pepperoni, and our crumbled veggie burger finished with chili garlic oil.

SAUSAGE PARTY 16

Baked flatbread crust topped w/ white sauce, garlicky mushrooms, diced veggie burger, mozzarella, and a sprinkling of goat cheese.

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Attractions

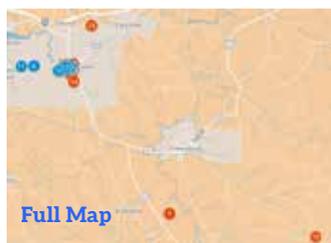
1. Audubon Community Nature Center
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3. Chautauqua Youth Symphony
4. CHQ Chamber and Visitor Information Center
5. *Fenton History Center
6. Infinity Visual and Performing Arts
7. James Prendergast Library
8. Lucile M. Wright Air Museum
9. *Lucille Ball Desi Arnaz Museum
10. Martz-Kohl Observatory
11. Marvin Community House
12. *National Comedy Center
13. Northwest Arena
14. Partridge-Sheldon House, Jamestown NSDAR
15. Pearl City Clay House
16. Reg Lenna Center for the Arts
17. Robert H. Jackson Center
18. Roger Tory Peterson Institute
19. Sukanya Burman Dance Inc.



Downtown Map

Businesses

1. 4 Below Haggy's Bar and Grill
2. Art Cloth & Craft
3. Ballgame Heroes
4. Biodome Project
5. Brazil Craft Beer and Wine Lounge
6. Brigiotta's Farmland Produce
7. Chautauqua Art Gallery
8. CHQ Plus
9. Crown Street Roasting Company
10. DoubleTree by Hilton
11. Labyrinth Press Co.
12. Lifted
13. Pearl City Cycle
14. SOLT Cafe
15. UPTwnKix
16. Wicked Warren's



Full Map

*Pre-registration required for timed entry. Please see their individual websites for details.



Sign up for the Doors Open pass and be entered to win great prizes donated by local attractions.

- Scan the QR code here or visit go.chqchamber.org to sign up for the pass. You will need to 'Checkout' to sign up. You only need to do this once. You'll get a text to start the pass.
- Answer the question correctly at each location you visit.
- You only need to answer the question correctly at one location to be entered into the drawing.
- Once you have completed your Doors Open visits, click the 'Rewards' icon at the bottom of the screen. Click 'Claim Now' to complete your drawing entry.

*Article Contributed by
Chautauqua County
Chamber of Commerce*

Doors Open Jamestown is back for a 22nd year on Saturday, January 24. This event presents an opportunity for people who live in our region to experience what tourists see in the Jamestown area, featuring a wide variety of outstanding local museums and cultural institutions that open their doors for a FREE day.

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; and Sukanya Burman Dance, 106 East 2nd Street, Studio 3A. Those marked with an asterisk (*) will require timed tickets through advanced registration and may have some additional restrictions. Please see their websites for details.

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) 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. Please enjoy Doors Open Jamestown January 24th.

**DOORS
OPEN
JAMESTOWN**

**Doors Open Jamestown is a
FREE admission day at local
museums and attractions.
January 24, 2026 • 10am-4pm**

**DOORS
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The **Partridge-Sheldon Mansion**

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*Contributed by
Jamestown Chapter
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Jamestown, New York, has many historic homes and the Partridge-Sheldon Mansion, located at 70 Prospect Street, is certainly one of the loveliest of those. Originally built in the mid-1800s by local carpenter Joel Partridge, the house was purchased in 1871 by Porter Sheldon, local businessman, attorney, and politician. Mr. Sheldon renovated and enlarged the house over the next decade, creating a lavish Victorian masterpiece suitable for entertaining guests and housing his family. Porter Sheldon and his wife Mary had three children—Cora, Ralph, and Henry. Cora went on to marry Herbert Tew and Ralph married Isabella Marvin, both of whom came from other prominent Jamestown families. Upon Mr. Sheldon's death, the mansion was left to Cora, who passed it onto her own child, Dorothy Johnson. As Dorothy and her husband, architect Oliver Johnson, had no children, she bequeathed the house to the Jamestown Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution at the time of her passing in 1969.

left in it. In order to complete these repairs, purchase furniture, and attempt to restore the home to its previous glory, the ladies held fundraising events and started a thrift shop. They cleaned, painted, hung wallpaper, and found a grant to repair the slate roof. In the early 1990s, the house was designated as a historical site by the City of Jamestown and this status helped to protect the house from attempts to bulldoze it. In 1994, as a result of the efforts of Chapter Regent Gretta Archer, the Partridge-Sheldon mansion became the first Jamestown area Decorators Show House and all 23 rooms were beautifully decorated. The house was placed on the State and National Register of Historic Places in 2000, with the help of the New York State Historic Preservation Department.

The Jamestown Chapter NSDAR continues to maintain this historic property through fundraisers and by renting out the first floor for small events such as bridal and baby showers, birthday parties, family holiday celebrations, and engagement parties. If you are interested in renting the Partridge-Sheldon Mansion for your event, please contact the Jamestown Chapter at jamestownnsdar@gmail.com or 716-488-9849 (leave a message). If you haven't had a chance to see this lovely historic home, Doors Open Jamestown is a great opportunity for a free tour!

When the members of the Jamestown Chapter received the Partridge-Sheldon house, it was in need of significant repairs and had very little furniture

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National Comedy Center Nominated for USA Today Readers' Choice "Best Pop Culture Museum" Award Winner to be Selected by Online Vote

Contributed by
National Comedy Center

The National Comedy Center, the United States' museum and national archive dedicated to the art form of comedy, has been nominated for USA Today's 10Best Readers' Choice Award for "Best Pop Culture Museum." The National Comedy Center is one of 20 museums in the United States nominated in this category by a panel of nationally recognized travel and lifestyle experts for the USA Today award series, which celebrates outstanding travel destinations, attractions and experiences, lodging, shopping sports and outdoors, and more.

The National Comedy Center is currently ranked #1 in the "Best Pop Culture Museum" contest, with 24 voting days remaining, and is the only museum based in the Buffalo-Niagara region nominated in this category.

The National Comedy Center is asking visitors, fans and supporters to cast their vote for the museum as part of the public voting process to select a

winner. Everyone is invited to vote once per day, now through Monday, February 9, 2026, at noon ET.

Vote daily for the National Comedy Center at ComedyCenter.org/Vote

Those who are interested may sign up for SMS text reminders to vote each day by texting the word "VOTE" to 888.420.0149. Standard message and data rates apply.

In 2020, the National Comedy Center was voted the #1 "Best New Museum" in the country by USA Today, and in 2019, the Comedy Center was voted the #2 "Best New Attraction," ranking as the #1 museum and #1 ticketed attraction in the USA Today poll.

The winner of the "Best Pop Culture Museum" award will be announced by USA Today on Friday, February 18, 2026.



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Robert H Jackson
U.S. Attorney General, 1940

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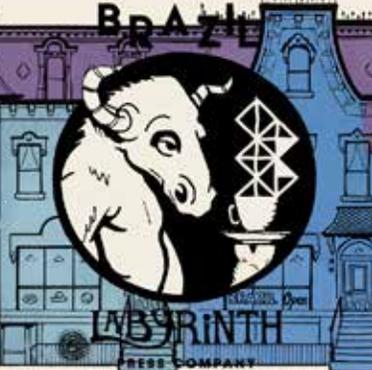


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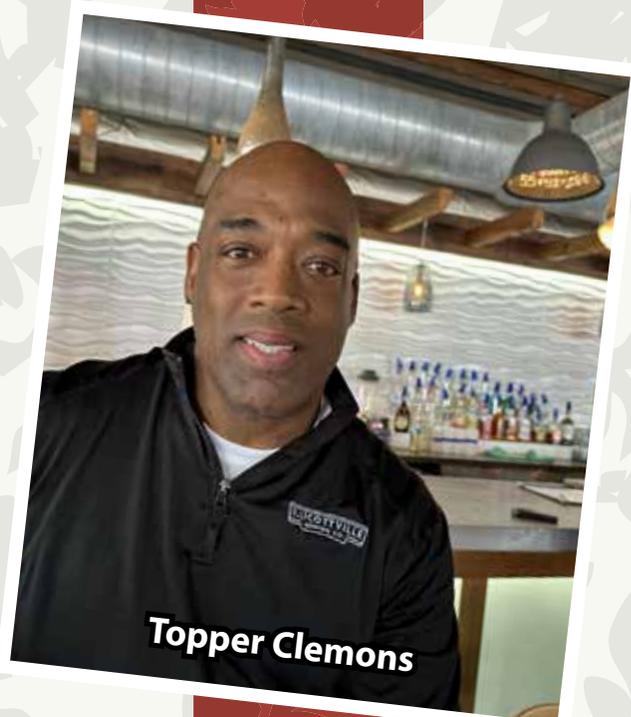
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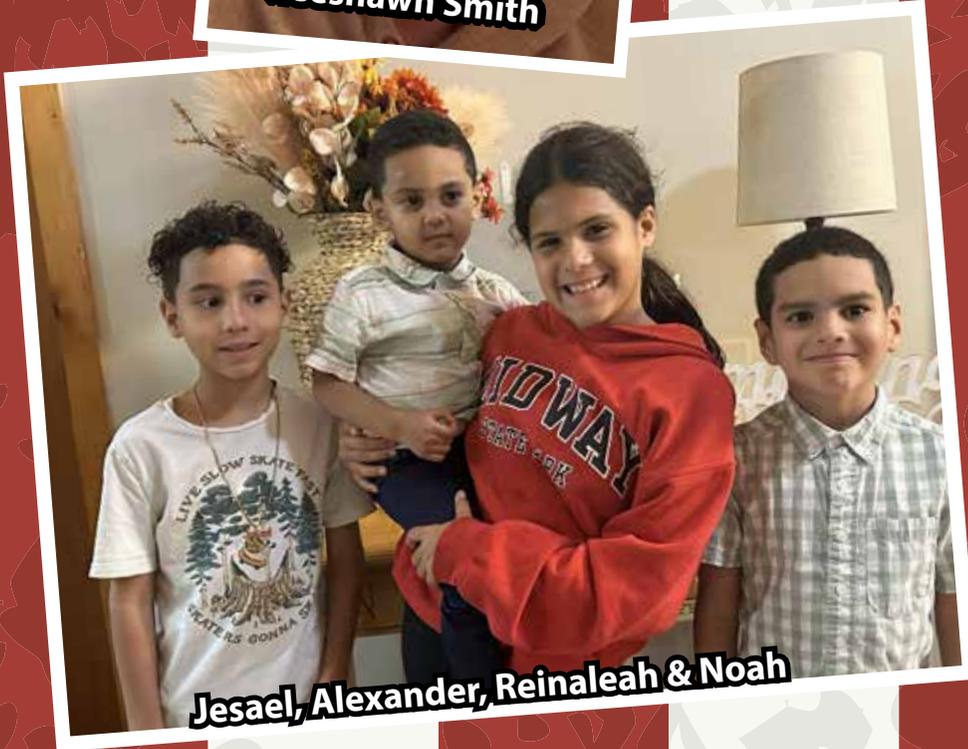
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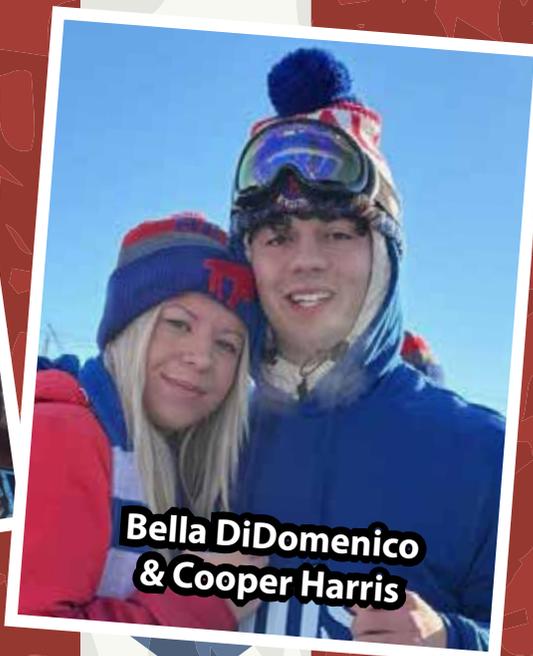
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