

CHAUTAUQUA GAZETTE



CHQgazette.com | L. Cornell and Company, LLC

Happy, Healthy New Year!

Volume 3 • Issue 1 | January 5, 2025



SOUTHERN CHAUTAUQUA
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION
IMPACT. EMPOWER. ACHIEVE.

716-665-7000 | www.665-7000.com

WE WILL HELP YOU PREVENT FRAUD BEFORE IT STARTS!

Free Credit Monitoring
Anytime. Anywhere.

Knowledgeable Team
Educated on fraud prevention.

Free Fraud Prevention Seminars Call to Schedule.

Your Community ~ Your Credit Union



Jamestown Area Community Federal Credit Union

MAIN OFFICE
915 East 2nd St. • 716-483-1650

LAKESIDE: 121 Chautauqua Ave. 716-763-3642	RANDOLPH: 71 Main Street 716-358-9326
FREWSBURG: 7 N. Pearl Street 716-569-6789	PANAMA: 1 E. Main Street 716-782-2336

www.jacfcu.org

This credit union is federally insured by the National Credit Union Administration.

Feature your Business or Organization in the Next Gazette



CHQgazette.com

— Text, call, or email today! —

Lori Cornell

716-720-1845
cornell@CHQgazette.com

Proud Member



— CHAMBER —

JOIN TODAY!



A YEAR THAT REFUSED TO SIT STILL: LOOKING BACK AT 2025, LOOKING AHEAD TO 2026

Contributing Writer
Jordan Nicholson

If 2025 had a unifying theme, it was motion without certainty. The year did not move in straight lines so much as it swerved—politically, culturally, economically, and emotionally. Old assumptions were tested, new ones emerged half-formed, and Americans, Western New Yorkers included, found themselves toggling between exhaustion and fascination. It was a year when the extraordinary became routine, when headlines blurred into background noise, and when even the most local conversations felt tethered to global forces far beyond Chautauqua County.

As we turn the calendar to 2026, it's worth pausing—not to settle arguments or declare winners and losers—but to take stock of where 2025 carried us, and where the next turn of the road may lead.



photo credit: Bemus Point Golf Club & Tap House
pictured: Serena Head



CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

THE "NEW YEAR, NEW ME" TRAP: FINDING GENUINE HEALTH & HOPE IN 2026

Featured Writer
Jennifer Hickman

Hope Counseling, LCSW, PLLC

As the holiday glitter settles and a fresh year begins, we're bombarded with calls for radical reinvention: new diets, new routines, a totally new you. But for those dedicated to genuine mental wellness, the pressure to instantly "fix" everything can be a massive barrier to the very hope we seek.

At Hope Counseling, we recognize that true renewal doesn't come from striving for an impossible "New Me," but from gently befriending the Current Me and giving ourselves permission to heal. Hope is stronger than fear, but the healing journey begins with one step at a time; large steps cause us to fall. This year, let go of the pressure to achieve

overnight transformation. Instead, embrace the three simple, powerful pillars of sustained healing—Self-Reflection, Change Mindset, and Naming the Uncomfortable Emotion—that create a solid foundation for lasting hope.

Pillar 1: Self-Reflection & Resilience

The first step in healing is not to criticize, but to pause and reflect. This isn't a punishing review of failures; it's an opportunity to find your resilience. You survived the challenges of last year, making you a warrior in your own healing story.

Ask yourself:

- **The Energy Sink:** What person, habit, or commitment felt heaviest last year? What tiny, manageable step can you take this month to lessen that weight? (e.g., muting a

toxic group chat, blocking out one evening a week for quiet time).

- **Gentle Wins:** Name one instance where you showed yourself self-compassion or resilience. True healing is found not just in what you achieved, but in how kindly you handled the challenges.

Pillar 2: The Change Mindset

Healing requires us to move away from the **Fixed Mindset** ("This is just who I am") toward a **Growth Mindset** ("I can learn and improve"). This subtle shift is where hope takes root.

Embrace the power of the **micro-step**. Instead of an overwhelming resolution ("I must exercise every day"), focus on a tiny, daily, non-negotiable action. For instance, promise yourself: "I will put

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

Live CHQ. Love CHQ.
Read CHQ.

Distributed in Asheville, Barcelona, Bemus, Cassadaga, Celoron, Chautauqua, Clymer, Dewittville, Dunkirk, Ellington, Falconer, Findley Lake, Fredonia, Frewsburg, Gerry, Greenhurst, Irving, Jamestown, Kennedy, Lakewood, Maple Springs, Mayville, Niobe, North Clymer, North Warren, Panama, Randolph, Ripley, Sherman, Silver Creek, Sinclairville, Stockton, Stow, Warren, Westfield

THIS WEEK AROUND TOWN

MONDAY, JANUARY 5

One Laugh at a Time Memory Cafe | 10 AM

National Comedy Center | Jamestown
For Info: comedycenter.org/memorycafe

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7

Moves at The Reg: Rental Family | 7 PM

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

FRIDAY, JANUARY 9

Do We Still Believe in Free Speech? | 6 PM

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

Moves at The Reg: One Battle After Another | 7 PM

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



SATURDAY, JANUARY 10

Winter Market Kick Off 9 AM-1 PM

St. Luke's Episcopal Church | Jamestown
For Info: facebook.com/JamestownFarmersMarket1

Chautauqua Striders Winter 5K Race #2 | 10 AM

Chautauqua Harbor Hotel | Celeron
For Info: runsignup.com/winter5k1

Winter Festival | 12 PM-6 PM

Bemus Point Golf Club & Tap House | Bemus Point
For Info: facebook.com/BPGCTapHouse

13th Annual Library Lock-In 12 PM-10 PM

Hall House Research Center | Jamestown
For Info: fentonhistorycenter.org

On Ice! | 1 PM

Northwest Arena | Jamestown
For Info: aspirewny.org/on-ice

Live at The Met: I Puritani 1 PM

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

★ Look Back: ★ Chautauqua County in 2025



*Contributing Writer
Jordan Nicholson*

If 2025 will be remembered for anything in Chautauqua County, it will be for its steadiness. This was not a year defined by sweeping breakthroughs or singular moments of transformation, but by endurance—by the quiet, persistent resolve that has long sustained Western New York through economic shifts, political noise and the ever-present realities of life along the lakes.

Across the county, people showed up for work, filled gymnasiums for school concerts and basketball games, volunteered at fire halls and food pantries and looked in on neighbors when winter storms or personal hardship made it necessary. Schools, libraries and town halls once again proved themselves to be the connective tissue of civic life. In a year when resources were tight and expectations remained high, these institutions, staffed by our neighbors, offered continuity and reassurance.

Seasonality continued to define life across the county. Winter tested patience and infrastructure, spring

brought cautious optimism and summer offered its familiar sense of relief. At the Chautauqua Institution, another season of well-balanced lectures, performances, and reflection, reinforced the county's unique national role as a place where ideas still matter.

As the calendar turns, there are genuine reasons to look ahead with optimism. 2026 promises moments both big and small. On the sports front, the Buffalo Bills will begin a new chapter as they prepare to move into a new home, marking a symbolic shift for the entire region. The Buffalo Sabres, meanwhile, carry real momentum into the new year, riding a remarkable 10- game win streak that has reenergized a fan base long accustomed to patience. Sports make up our collective identity and form communities far more intrinsically than any geographic borders.

Closer to home, there are smaller but no less meaningful signs of renewal. The Redline Drive-In, under new ownership, is set to light up summer nights once again, providing just one example of local small business prowess that proves tradition and change may coexist when cared for in equal measure.

If 2025 is any indication, progress here in 2026 will remain measured and rooted in realism rather than hype. In a world that too often mistakes noise for substance, that may be our region's greatest strength.

NEW YEAR'S

Trivia

1. What calendar is most commonly used to mark New Year's Day?
2. Which ancient civilization is credited with the earliest New Year celebrations?
3. What Roman god is January named after?
4. In what year did January 1 officially become New Year's Day in the Roman calendar?
5. What is the name of the New Year celebration in Scotland?
6. How many pounds does the Times Square New Year's Eve ball weigh?
7. Which country is the first to ring in the New Year each year?
8. What food is traditionally eaten for luck on New Year's in the southern United States?
9. What is the name of the Jewish New Year?
10. What European country is famous for eating grapes at midnight on New Year's Eve?

1. Gregorian 2. Babylonians 3. Janus 4. 153 BC 5. Hogmanay 6. 12,350 pounds 7. Kiribati 8. Black-eyed peas 9. Rosh Hashanah 10. Spain

The New Year's Eve Countdown

10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1....

Come New Year's Eve, it's customary to count down the last 10 seconds until the clock strikes midnight and the new year officially begins. It seems like the 10-second countdown is as old as time itself, but the tradition actually is much more modern. According to Alexis McCrossen, a history professor at Southern Methodist University, prior to the twentieth century, New Year's Day was celebrated rather than New Year's Eve. And even up until the mid-twentieth century, countdowns were not associated with New Year's Eve or even festive occasions. However, the tides turned on countdowns with the Apollo moon launch in 1961. After that, countdowns for radio hits and other fun activities began. Although some TV announcers in the 1960s began counting down to the new year, it wasn't until 1979 that the crowd at Times Square in New York City began joining in. This was despite the first New Year's Eve ball drop being held more than 70 years earlier in 1907. Publisher Adolph Ochs organized the first New Year's Eve party in Times Square in 1904, while the first-ever ball drop took place three years later when the city banned fireworks for the celebration. Yet it was not until the final year of the 1970s for it to be fashionable for a crowd to gather and participate in shouting out the 10-second countdown, a practice that is now tradition.



Editorial with Lori Cornell

Happy New!



Owner & Publisher
Lori Cornell

2 – Become a “Friend of the Gazette”: If you are a loyal reader rather than a business, you can still make a difference! Now is the perfect time to renew your annual “Friends Membership” or become a “Friend” for the first time. Please see page 16 for more details. We would be honored to list your name among our dedicated contributors.

3 – Subscribe to receive the Gazette in the Mail: While we remain committed to keeping the Gazette free and widely available at key community locations, you can now receive your own copy delivered directly to your home. This is a wonderful option for homebound individuals, college students, out-of-town friends or seasonal residents who would love to stay connected to our community.

Simply call me today at 716-720-1845 or visit our website to sign up for any of these opportunities!

I want to again express my heartfelt thanks to all our loyal readers, current and prospective partners and friends, and our incredible team of designers, technicians, and writers who make it all possible. Next month will mark two years since I had the honor of purchasing this beloved newspaper to carry on the legacy of its founder, Stacey Hannon. Together, with your support, we look forward to launching strong into 2026.

We are thrilled to leap into the new year with gratitude for your continued support of our community's weekly newspaper. As we move forward together, we hope you will consider furthering your much-appreciated patronage in 2026 by helping us grow and thrive in three meaningful ways:

1 – Partner with us: Whether you are a business or organization, we would love to feature you in our weekly edition. We offer low rates and complimentary design services. Not only does advertising with us provide an effective way to reach 35 communities across three counties via over 350 weekly distribution locations, but your partnership directly ensures that the Gazette remains an invaluable and beloved resource for an estimated 20,000 readers each week. We offer both online and in-print opportunities to meet your needs.

In the New Year, never forget to thank your past years because they enabled you to reach today! Without the stairs of the past, you cannot arrive at the future.

- Mehmet Murat Ildan



Fessenden, Laumer & DeAngelo, PLLC

ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS AT LAW

81 Forest Avenue, Jamestown, NY 14701
716-484-1010

Personal Injury • Social Security Disability
Workers' Compensation • Real Estate
Wills • General Litigation

*We protect injured people and their families.
We have successfully obtained awards for thousands of our clients over 38 years.*

Attorney Advertising

www.fldlaw.com

CHAUTAUQUA GAZETTE

Publisher.....Lori Cornell
Founder.....Stacey Hannon
Art Director.....April Colburn
Editor-in-Chief.....Katrina Fuller
Marketing Director.....Shannon Nixon
Technical Design.....Marc Scapelitte
Designer Emeritus.....Nick Trussalo
Graphic Design Intern.....Jonah Grace
Contributing Writer.....Pat Locke
Contributing Writer.....Linda Kent
Contributing Writer.....Paul Leone
Contributing Writer.....Jordan Nicholson
Featured Writer.....Jennifer Hickman
Featured Writer.....Sam M. Qadri
Distribution Director.....Matt Emmerling

MAILING ADDRESS
PO Box 32
Bemus Point, NY 14712

PHONE
716-720-1845

EMAIL:
cornell@CHQgazette.com

WEBSITE:

CHQgazette.com

SOCIAL MEDIA
Facebook — /chautauquagazette
Instagram — @jamestowngazette

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.

All content is copyrighted and all rights reserved. No part of the Chautauqua Gazette may be reproduced without permission. Opinions expressed by contributing writers, columnists and submitted press releases are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinions or positions of the owner, staff or management of The Chautauqua Gazette.

Brought to you by: L. Cornell and Company, LLC



WWW.EVANSWINESANDLIQUORS.COM
986 FAIRMOUNT AVE • JAMESTOWN, NY 14701



We're Open!
Mon-Sat
8:30am-10:00pm
and Sun 11-8pm

FOLLOW US

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 holiday season. Our hearts and prayers go out on behalf of our community.

Riccardi's Family Funeral Homes

"Our family honoring yours."

Two Locations

Hubert Funeral Home
111 South Main St.
Jamestown, NY 14701
716-483-1902

Jordan Funeral Home
6 Parkway Dr.
Sinclairville, NY 14782
716-962-2895

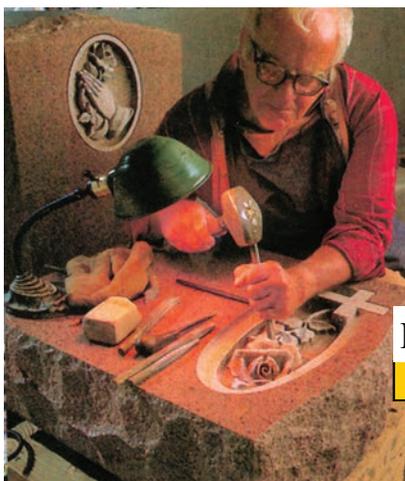
Dignified services including:

Traditional Burials • Cremation Options • Memorial Choices
Veteran Tributes • Preplanning Services Available

CRANDALL & HINMAN MEMORIALS

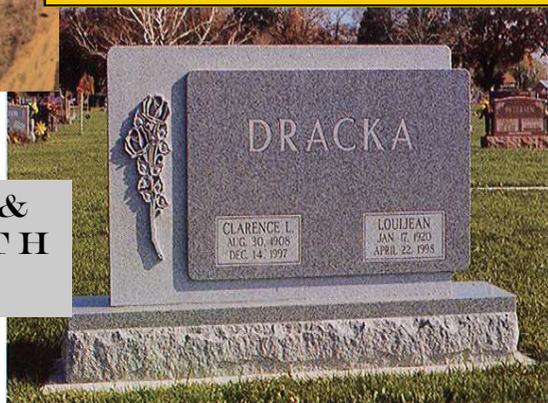
FREWSBURG • OLEAN • WELLSVILLE • ALLEGANY

Largest Indoor Showroom in the Jamestown Area
125 West Main Street
Frewsburg, NY, 14738



Monuments & Mausoleums

Don't Settle For Less



DESIGNED &
CARVED WITH
PRIDE

For Appointment Call
Toll Free 1-877-407-1717

Faith Matters

"HALAL" IN ISLAM



Featured Writer

Sam M. Qadri

Community Outreach Coordinator
Jamestown Islamic Society

When Muslim families go out food-shopping, among other supplies, they look for meat that came from a "permissible" animal or a bird which had been properly blessed with a prayer and was humanely slaughtered. Hence, the Arabic term "Halal." The result: a better-tasting meat, healthier, blessed, and "permissible" for family consumption.

Traditionally, a Muslim individual must recite the prayer and do the initial slaughtering. The animal itself must be separated from the rest of the flock and offered food and drink.

Most commercial slaughter houses nowadays use stun-guns or electric shock tools to kill the animal prior to the start of the butchering process. Islam considers that particular process to be inhumane, causing unnecessary pain and/or death of the animal, all of which resulting in an unhealthy meat to consume.

Muslim practitioners have a regular routine when shopping at any supermarket or meat processing plant. If the meat package does not have a "Halal" label, it would not be purchased for regular food consumption.

Islam requires its practitioners to make sure that their meat consumption is from "Halal" sources only. This is in line with the Muslim belief that "Allah" (Arabic for God) created human beings and that He knows what's best for them. That's why God/Allah provided the guidance and standards

through holy scriptures, like the Quran. Non-compliance on this would be considered a major sin in Islam! Obeying the commandments in the holy scriptures is an act of worship and is rewardable by having a good, healthy, and wholesome life as well as paradise on judgment day.

Area Muslim families usually bring their Halal meats either from Buffalo, NY, or Erie, PA, where there is a larger Muslim population, as well as businesses that offer specialty meats and poultry. Others may go to a local source in the area to purchase a live animal and slaughter it themselves on their own private hobby farm.

Although the term "Halal" might have been used around Muslim food and sources of meat, but in reality, and in the Muslim culture, "Halal" is also used in other aspects of life including: social interactions, family rights and responsibilities, religious practices, economic structures, legal processes, financial sources, and business transactions. Each aspect of a Muslim's life has to conform to some type "Halal" regulation. A process that's based on standards and guidelines in order to make a particular aspect of life blessed and "permissible." These guidelines are found in the Muslim scriptures, The Quran, and the authenticated and documented life example of the final messenger to humanity, the prophet Muhammad. May Allah's peace and blessings be onto him and all the other prophets and messengers including: Abraham, Isaac, Ishmael, Jacobs, Joseph, Moses, and Jesus. Islam teaches that these prophets were chosen from among people and sent by the One and only God, whose name in Arabic is "Allah." The basic message by all of the prophets was a simple covenant: worship the One and only God/Allah and abide by all of his divine-revelations, then, be granted a good life in this world and receive paradise on Judgement Day.

For general information about Islam and Jamestown Islamic Society, please visit the local webpage: <https://www.jiswny.org>

*Learn from yesterday, live for today,
hope for tomorrow.*

- Albert Einstein

Peace, Hope and Joy with Linda Kent

NEW YEAR, NEW START



Featured Writer

Linda Kent

Another thing: reach out to others who need help. I've needed help over the years, and someone was always there for me. I want to be there for someone in their time of trouble. Going through things alone is hard; going through things with someone is better.

Third on the list would be to listen better. To be a better friend and listen when they need someone. We live in a world where everyone wants to be heard, but we're not very good listeners. I want people to feel heard and acknowledged. It's so simple, yet a skill that needs to be practiced.

Now for the hard part. To believe in myself, so I can do this list without failing. Well, not failing the entire year anyway. I'm sure I'll miss the mark sometimes. But I'll keep trying. I'll actively look for those occasions and put another checkmark on the list.

I'm not one for New Year's Resolutions. I never stuck to them; I gave up on them years ago. I see everyone posting resolutions and I'm happy for them. I'm also envious.

I'm trying something new this year. I'm going to make a New Year New Start list. First on this list I'm going to put, to finish things... anything! I'm a procrastinator. This must stop. Maybe if I write it down for everyone to see it will encourage me to follow through.

ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY-FOUR SONNETS

Just Published! Paul Leone's Sonnet Spree compiled over many years, some of which have appeared in the Gazette

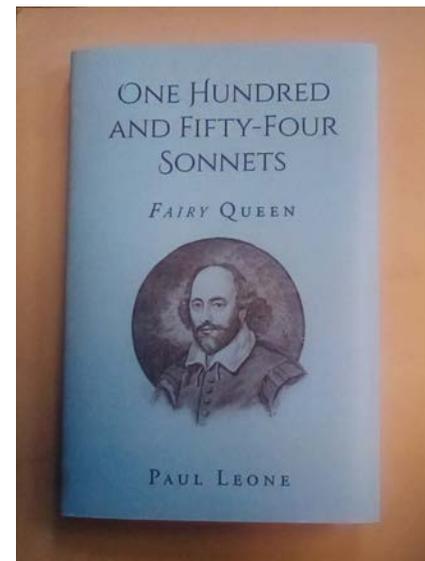
Contributed by
Paul Leone

From the Foreword:

"Having committed years ago, certainly with some degree of naïve confidence, to complete the *One Hundred and Fifty-Four Sonnets*, I reflect upon the result with a conflicted sense of accomplishment. I fear I may have crossed a certain boundary line into a space of self-revelation I had not considered. I have always guarded a certain anonymity, which, I've believed contributed to a charisma I still labor to cultivate. I admit to a delusional vanity I have heretofore been able to disguise, but with the publication of the *Sonnets* I am afraid I am now revealed. Such a vanity, however, motivated a desire to emulate the Esteemed Bard's sonnet output."

I have long been a devoted fan of Shakespeare. The plan to complete a volume of sonnets equal in number to Shakespeare's output originated at a session of my Shakespeare social group, affectionately and facetiously referred to as the *Jamestown Shakespeare Guild*. The Guild, aged thirty plus years, meets monthly at the alternate homes of its members to share a meal and a play, mirth and laughter. We have completed the Bard's repertoire several times over, even including the more obscure and, frankly, disreputable of the plays (*Titus Andronicus*?). To read Shakespeare's sonnets through is a monumental and rewarding task. Each reading discovers new and delightful thought-provoking understandings (or misunderstandings). With naïve confidence, then, I committed in homage to Shakespeare to complete my *One Hundred and Fifty-Four Sonnets*.

Not that in any way, except it be tongue-in-cheek, do I claim for my sonnets the same beauty and sophistication as the best of Shakespeare's. (Let me not overcompensate here with false self-deprecation, however. I am justifiably proud, if I blush



to admit it, to the best of mine). My sonnets were directed by a number of Muses, most prominently my *red-lipped Muse* who yet walks the streets of Jamestown but who will remain, like Shakespeare's *Dark Lady*, unnamed. It was she who conjured the *fancies*, sweet and suspect, that predominate in the unabashedly Romantic of the *Sonnets*. Muses come and Muses go. A *Dark Muse*, provoked by the turbulent social and political climate of the last decade, influenced the dark sonnets among the *One Hundred and Fifty-Four*, And humor. Looking back over intentionally humorous sonnets, I chuckle, whether because I know from what disguised recess of my brain it emerged, or if it is genuinely funny I could not say.

Many *Gazette* readers, I suppose, will have read one or another of the sonnets published over time in the *Gazette*. I have posted sonnets on *facebook* as well. My intention has been to generate interest in the project. To those who have responded favorably, I return sincere thanks.

I hesitate to provide an example, but I have decided for purposes of clarification, doing so is appropriate. I do caution, however, that software complexities will likely distort here in the *Gazette* and on *facebook*, the formal sonnet form.



CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

Visit Dreamland MCM

314 W. Main St. Falconer NY

A vintage collection of Mid Century Modern furniture, lighting, art, glassware and decor.

Hours: 10-4 Fri. Sat. Sun.
Cash PayPal Venmo



We buy MCM also. Call or text.
Mary Johnson. 716- 487-7307

GOT GAS?

James B. Thompson

We Have Gas

Variety of Tanks

- Oxygen
- Acetylene
- Argon
- CO²
- Helium
- Nitrogen
- Propane
- Mixed Gases

JBT WELDING & GAS PRODUCTS



Delivery Available

We exchange all owned tanks!

9360 Route 60 • Fredonia, NY
716-672-9098 • Cell: (716)672-9098



PIKE'S
AUTO REPAIR

763-8945 Mon-Fri: 8am-5pm

4819 Route 474
Ashville, NY 14710

- Auto Repair
- Brakes & Belts
- Check Engine
- Exhaust & Electrical
- Batteries & Wipers
- Transmissions
- Air Conditioning

Fredonia Central School District Seeks Wall of Fame Nominations

*Contributed by
Fredonia Central School District*

Their public example serves to inspire future graduates to perform and serve in the same spirit."

The Fredonia Central School Alumni Hall of Fame Committee is currently accepting nominations for candidates for the Alumni Hall of Fame. This distinguished award honors individuals whose deeds and character exemplify outstanding achievement in their life's work and/or service to their communities. The honoree's spirit and leadership are worthy of recognition and have inspired praise and gratitude among their peers.

Nomination forms are available on the District website (bit.ly/FCSDAlumni). The deadline for applications is January 16, 2026.

- 2024 Inductees include:
- C. McCollister Everts, Class of 1949
 - Timothy Fogarty, Class of 1971
 - Kathy Lefferts Wickmark, Class of 1976
 - Michelle Hughes, Class of 1977
 - Lisa Symula Langton, Class of 1979
 - Catherine Ullman, Class of 1991
 - Kora Davis, Class of 1994.

Ron Tonelli, Fredonia High School Principal, stated, "The Alumni Hall of Fame recognizes individuals who have, through their performance, conduct, and achievement, brought credit and honor to themselves and the Fredonia Central School District.



Fredonia Central School District is a place of learning and exploring. We are dedicated to paving innovative pathways to dynamic and global educational experiences that allow individuals to become their greatest selves.

CCPEG Announces Launch of Rebranded Economic Growth Fund Program

Letters of interest from eligible applicants due by January 23



In 2025, a number of projects, including updates to the Westfield Village Green (pictured), received funding from the newly rebranded CCPEG EGF program. Up to \$300,000 in funding will be made available to eligible projects again in 2026. Organizations and municipalities seeking funding are invited to submit a letter of interest, starting Monday, January 5, 2026. (Submitted photos)

*Contributed by
Chautauqua County Partnership for Economic Growth*

Foundation – awarded to CCPEG in late 2024. This year, up to \$300,000 in grant funding will be made available for eligible projects.

The Chautauqua County Partnership for Economic Growth (CCPEG) will once again provide support for qualifying economic development projects through its rebranded Economic Growth Fund (EGF). Municipalities, nonprofits, academic institutions, economic development organizations, and community organizations in Chautauqua County are invited to apply for this leverage funding to be used toward a project that focuses on growing or strengthening the local economy.

Grant awards typically range between \$10,000 and \$20,000, and requests of up to \$50,000 will be considered for high-priority projects. Some projects that have received funding previously include the Westfield Village Green updates, improvements to Hartley Park in Lakewood, developing a Waterfront Activation Plan for Mayville, strategic plan development for the SUNY Fredonia Center for Innovation & Economic Development, CHQ Chamber's ShopLocalCHQ program, the Dream It Do It Tech Career Initiative, the Chautauqua County Fair Conceptual Planning and Enhancement project, the Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy's Nature for All CHQ

In addition to a new name for the program, CCPEG is also adjusting the application process. Before interested applicants can apply for funding, they must first send a letter of interest that will be used to determine if their project is eligible. After initial review by CCPEG, any and all qualifying projects would then be invited to fill out an application for funding.

project, and many more. Over the past four years, CCPEG has awarded a total of \$1,765,000 to more than 80 qualifying projects.

Grant seekers can apply in one of two categories for their projects: either for Planning and Technical Assistance

"We wanted to rename this grant program to better reflect its connection to CCPEG and our efforts to support economic development projects scattered across the county," said Josiah Lamp, CCPEG Program Manager. "We also wanted to incorporate a letter of interest into the grant request process in order to better identify eligible projects before applicants spend the time filling out the application."

Funds to plant the seeds for future projects; or for Implementation Funds to execute projects. Prioritization will be given to projects that need local match funding for state or federal grants, or are otherwise leveraging new resources for the County.

This is the fifth year that CCPEG has offered the funding program, which focuses on enhancing economic revitalization and long-term strategic investment throughout the County. Funding for the 2026 EGF program comes from a support grant provided by the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr.

"Since 2022, CCPEG has supported numerous high-priority projects, all of which were intended to spur economic development within Chautauqua County," said Mark Geise, Deputy County Executive for Economic

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17



TURN YOUR SCRAP METAL INTO CASH!

3 SCRAP METAL RECYCLING SERVICE LOCATIONS!

Free Scrap Metal Recycling!

- 10224 West Main Road • North East, PA 16428
814-725-1253
- 5338 Route 474 • Ashville, NY 14710
716-782-2125
- 286 High Street • Bradford, PA
814-362-6873

WE BUY SCRAP CARS!

**MON-FRI 8AM-4:30PM
SAT 8AM-NOON**

CHECK US OUT AT METALICO.COM!

A Year That Refused to Sit Still: Looking Back at 2025, Looking Ahead to 2026

Continued from front page

Cultural and World Affairs: The Unexpected Center

For a world accustomed to symbolic firsts, 2025 delivered one that still feels surreal: an American pope. The election of a U.S.-born pontiff sent shockwaves through the Vatican and far beyond it, reframing conversations about faith, geopolitics, and the global balance of moral authority. The Holy See is now occupied by a White Sox fan from South Chicago who likes pizza and marshmallow peeps. Pope Leo's early popularity is a sign the cardinals hit a home run (not those Cardinals).

Beyond Rome, global affairs remained tense and fragmented. Wars simmered without resolution. Alliances strained to a breaking point. Technology continued to compress distance while amplifying misunderstanding. Yet even amid uncertainty, there were flickers of optimism: renewed diplomatic channels, climate commitments that felt marginally more serious, and a growing sense that younger generations are no longer content to inherit a broken global order without a fight.

Looking to 2026, the question is whether those flickers become flames. Will the American pope help reposition the Catholic Church—and perhaps global moral discourse—toward reconciliation and reform? Will fragile ceasefires harden into peace, or crack under pressure? Do threats of regime change manifest themselves into war? The world enters the new year cautious, but not entirely cynical.

Domestic Politics and Business: Tension as Policy

At home, 2025 often felt like governance by brinkmanship. Another federal shutdown—brief but bruising—reinforced the sense that dysfunction has become a feature rather than a bug of American politics. Tariffs reemerged as a favored tool, framed as protection for domestic industries but felt by consumers as higher prices and thinner patience.

Economic anxiety hovered constantly. The word “stagflation,” once a historical footnote, crept back into serious conversation. Growth slowed. Inflation cooled unevenly. Wages struggled to keep pace. For many households, especially in rural and post-industrial regions, stability felt conditional at best.

Corporate America, meanwhile, continued to consolidate. Television and media mergers reshaped how Americans consume news and entertainment, shrinking the number of voices while expanding the power of a few platforms. The result was efficiency, yes—but also unease about who controls the stories we're told.

Looking ahead to 2026, politics promises no quiet. An election year looms, and with it sharper rhetoric, higher stakes, and deeper divides. Will voters continue to reflect the President's growing unpopularity or will this cycle buck the trend for incumbents in midterms? Economically, much hinges on whether policymakers can thread the needle between inflation control and growth—or whether stagnation becomes more than a theoretical risk. For consumers, the hope is less drama, fewer disruptions, and a return to predictability that now feels nostalgic.

Pop Culture: Escape, Reflection, and Spectacle

If politics exhausted, pop culture absorbed the overflow. Television in 2025 doubled down on prestige and nostalgia—reboots, finales, and sprawling limited series designed to dominate conversation for weeks at a time. Streaming fatigue became real, even as viewers kept watching.

Movies oscillated between spectacle and introspection. Big-budget franchises still ruled the box office, but smaller, more personal films punched above their weight, reflecting a public appetite for stories that felt human again.

Music, as always, captured the mood most cleanly. Taylor Swift continued her era-defining run, less a pop star than a cultural institution. Sabrina Carpenter's ascent felt emblematic of a new generation—self-aware, sharp, and unapologetically online. Kendrick Lamar's Super Bowl halftime show was not just entertainment but statement, reminding viewers that mass audiences can still be challenged, not

just placated.

In 2026, expect pop culture to wrestle even more directly with identity, technology, and authenticity. Artificial intelligence will test ideas of authorship and creativity. Audiences may finally rebel against endless franchises—or embrace them fully as comfort food in an uncertain world. And yes, there will be a new Taylor Swift album.

Sports: Highs, Lows, and the Business of Fandom

For Western New York, sports in 2025 were familiar in their emotional range. The Buffalo Bills remained contenders—close enough to taste glory, only to lose to the Chiefs in the playoffs. The Sabres showed flashes of progress and then faltered, inspiring hope but reminding everyone how fragile rebuilds can be, even if they've lasted more than a decade.

Nationally, sports betting continued its rapid normalization, with controversies involving high-profile baseball names like Emmanuel Clase and Luis Ortiz underscoring the uneasy marriage between gambling and integrity. The epic World Series—one for the ages—offered a reminder of baseball's (and Shohei Ohtani's) enduring magic, even as debates about a potential salary cap and the future of the sport's economic model grew louder.

Closer to home, the final season at Highmark Stadium symbolized the balancing act between honoring tradition and chasing modern revenue streams. As more teams and cities seek sleek new stadiums, taxpayers and municipalities are often left wondering if it was worth it. Kansas City, Nashville, Washington, Cleveland, and Chicago are all building

new football facilities, most with major public subsidies. As stadium financing continues to be a hot-button topic, one thing remains clear: sports are big business.

Looking to 2026, sports promise both novelty and nostalgia. NHL players will return to the Olympics, restoring a long-missed layer of international drama. The World Baseball Classic will again remind fans that the game belongs to the world, not just Major League balance sheets. Locally, the Bills and Sabres enter the year with something dangerous: expectations. The Sabres are riding a 10-game winning streak. The Bills are in the playoffs. Let's go, Buffalo!

Here's to 2026

As winter tightens its grip and 2026 has come into full view, the feeling is less of arrival than of approach. The forces that shaped 2025—economic unease, cultural realignment, political volatility, and a public increasingly aware of how fragile systems can be—are not receding. They are maturing. An election year will test institutions and patience alike.

Global conflicts will continue to blur the line between distant headlines and local consequence. Technology will push further into creative, professional, and civic life, forcing overdue questions about trust, labor, and authenticity. Yet there is also reason for guarded hope.

Sports will again offer shared joy and heartbreak. Music and art will continue to translate uncertainty into something human. Communities, including those here in Chautauqua County, will keep proving that resilience is not an abstract concept but a daily practice.

If 2025 was a year that exposed cracks, 2026 may be the year we decide—quietly, imperfectly, and together—what we are willing to rebuild, what we are ready to let go, and what still binds us when the noise finally fades.





HEALTHYCHQ



Healthy CHQ highlights the people, practices, and organizations shaping health and wellness across Chautauqua County. From hospitals and medical providers to fitness centers, wellness practitioners, and local health-focused businesses, Healthy CHQ connects readers with trusted services that support healthier lives close to home.

Advertising in Healthy CHQ places your business or organization in front of a highly engaged local audience actively seeking care, services, and solutions. This dedicated section, offering consistent monthly placements, provides an effective way to boost your brand's visibility, reinforce credibility, and stay top of mind within our county-wide readership.

Call 716-720-1845 or email cornell@chqgazette.com to learn more.



Intensive Trauma Therapy - With Integrative EMDR & Progressive Counting Intensive Therapy, you can experience profound improvements in just one to five days, reclaiming your life and well-being. Insurance does not cover this level of therapy, so we provide a structured pricing/payment plan.
Compassion Fatigue is a full day training supporting those on the front-lines of helping people.

Accepting New Patients

Fenton Building, 2-6 E 2nd St, 4th Floor, Suite 404, Jamestown
Call (716) 980-7850 | info@hopecounselingministry.com



The "New Year, New Me" Trap: Finding Genuine Health & Hope in 2026

Continued from front page by Hope Counseling

on my walking shoes for **two minutes** every morning." This small step builds immediate success and proves to your brain that change is possible without causing you to stumble. We are finding our resilience one small, safe step at a time.

Pillar 3: Name It to Tame It

The final pillar is where we meet our uncomfortable emotions head-on. Many people feel a generalized sense of stress or sadness, but healing requires emotional granularity—giving the feeling its specific, true name. When we can name an emotion, we gain mastery over it.

The next time a difficult feeling arises,

pause and ask: "Is this just Anger? Or is it Frustration, Jealousy, or Annoyance? Is it just Sadness? Or is it Loneliness, Guilt, or Grief?"

The moment you can specifically label the emotion—saying, "I'm feeling Apprehensive," instead of just "I'm stressed"—you create a crucial space between the feeling and your reaction. This is the arrival of healing, the moment you choose a conscious response over an emotional reaction.

This year, choose to be the gentle warrior of your own journey. Your healing doesn't require giant leaps, only consistent, compassionate steps forward.

CENTER FOR NATURAL WELLNESS WNY WHOLE BODY HEALTH

500 PINE ST, MEDICAL ARTS BUILDING
2ND FLOOR, SUITE 10, JAMESTOWN, NY

716-665-5015
wnywbh.com



NANCY RICH JOHNSON
716-640-1310
NANCYRICHJOHNSON@GMAIL.COM



Healthy Aging Tips

Ready Set Wellness Bundle

Wellness Storefront



Peterson Farm

FLUVANNA AVE

Winter Hours: Wednesday-Saturday 10am-5pm

Gift Shop • Cuba Cheese • XL Eggs
Swedish Imports • Pickled Herring • Korv



BEEF & PORK

BEEF BY THE SIDE AVAILABLE



CORPORATE WELLNESS RETREATS & Private Nature Immersions



THE WORLD IS COMING BACK TO NATURE. DON'T GET LEFT BEHIND.

BOOK YOURS TODAY!



716.499.7811
Jamestown NY

www.forestacresretreats.com

HEALTH AND WELLNESS SERVICES



The Area's Leading Holistic Wellness Center

Vitality
Natural Health & Wellness Center

130 Chautauqua Ave
Lakewood, NY
716-763-8880

www.vitalityhealthandwellness.com

"The successful warrior is the average man, with laser-like focus."

- Bruce Lee



Celebrating healthy aging and educating older adults

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.**





HEALTHYCHQ



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**.

About Prevention Works, Inc.
Prevention Works, Inc. is dedicated to educating and empowering our community to thrive. We are committed to promoting health and wellness throughout Chautauqua County. Through prevention, education, and outreach initiatives, we work to empower individuals of all ages to make healthy, informed choices.



Start the New Year
right with fresh produce!

Family Owned • Since 1924
Fresh Produce • Deli • Specialty Groceries
Daily Lunch Specials!

414 Fairmount Avenue • Jamestown NY

EIGHT LIMBS

wellness studio

WORKSHOPS • YOGA • MASSAGE • REIKI

FOLLOW US @

141 Chautauqua Ave, Lakewood, NY
www.eightlimbslakewood.com

the

FIND YOUR PASSION.

JAMESTOWN AREA YMCA

Join today:

www.jamestownymca.org



MISSION HEARING, LLC

Serve Others. Hear Better.

716-708-4343

Is it hearing loss or clarity loss?

SPEECH IN NOISE TESTING
LOUD DOESN'T MEAN CLEAR!

Hearing aids are designed to improve your ability to hear as clear and accurate as possible.

- Speech in Noise Outcomes
- Real Ear Measurement
- Hearing Aid Programming Verification

The gold Standard!

Local Family Owned & Operated
Open Mon-Fri 9-5
Hearing Exam and Hearing Evaluation
ALL Hearing Manufacturers Service and Sales!

No special events or limited time offers.
Never sit with a salesperson! Successful hearing aid fittings with no sales gimmicks.



Jamie L. Parasiliti, BC-HIS

Owner

Board Certified Hearing Instrument Specialist

16 years experience

Rebecca McCoy, PCC

Patient Care Coordinator

102 E. Main St. • Falconer, NY 14733 • www.thehearingplace.net

ADVERTISEMENT

The Role of Medication in Substance Use Recovery
WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

UPMC | CHAUTAUQUA



Heather Anderson, program manager of UPMC Chautauqua's Outpatient Addiction Medicine Services, takes a deep dive into what you should know about medication for substance use disorders.

How can prescribed medications help people living with substance use disorders?

Prescribed medications can play a vital role in helping people with substance use disorders by addressing both the biological and physiological aspects of addiction. They can make it easier for individuals to focus on recovery rather than fighting constant urges to use.



RECOVERY LOOKS DIFFERENT FOR EVERYONE.

How do they work?

These medications work by helping to reduce cravings, ease withdrawal symptoms, and restore normal brain function affected by substance use. These medications can also help to reduce or block the euphoric effect of the substances, making it less rewarding to use them.

Can these medications also become addictive?

These medications are prescribed to minimize the risk of addiction. Most medications for substance use disorders are not addictive. Medications like methadone and buprenorphine, which are commonly used to treat opioid use disorder, can become addictive if misused.

How does medication fit into the integrated care approach?

With an integrated approach, medication is used alongside counseling to treat both physical and emotional components of a substance use disorder. This approach:

- Improves treatment outcomes.
- Reduces relapse risk.
- Supports long-term recovery and overall well-being.

What else would you like people to know about medications for substance use disorders?

Medications for substance use disorders are evidence-based, effective, and safe when used under the recommendation of medical staff. This is another supportive tool that helps individuals regain balance, reduce cravings, and focus on recovery. Recovery looks different for everyone. Combining medication with counseling, peer support, and lifestyle changes provides the best outcomes.

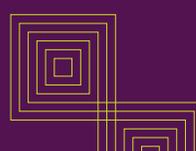
INPATIENT SERVICES

UPMC Chautauqua
207 Foote Ave.
Jamestown, NY 14701
716-664-8620

OUTPATIENT SERVICES

UPMC Chautauqua Behavioral Health
306 Central Ave.
Dunkirk, NY 14048
716-363-0018

Jones Memorial Health Center
51 Glasgow Ave.
Jamestown, NY 14701
716-664-8641



For more information, visit UPMCChautauqua.com/MentalHealth.

One Hundred and Fifty-Four Sonnets

Continued from page 5

I Am Enamoured

I am enamoured of my Muse,
 Who both delights and torments me,
 And oft times doth my brain confuse,
 With naughty whim and wanton fancy.
 She's more sophisticate than I,
 More self-assured and worldly wise;
 Upon her whimsy I rely
 For truant thoughts myself belies.
 I spied my Muse across a room,
 One evening late when I was tipsy;
 I knew she was my Muse because
 My heart beat at fancy's beauty.
 O, now I fear her dark lips painted
 Might leave my suspect honor tainted.

sent the opening lines:

A word now about *Fairy Queen*. This subtitle of the collection refers to Shakespeare's beloved comedy *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Many of the sonnets among the *One Hundred and Fifty-Four* refer specifically to one of Shakespeare's plays. Because I love this play I have reserved for it pride of place. The long narrative poem in rhyme entitled *Fairy Queen* follows the final sonnet of the collection. The poem relates the hilarious curious goings-on in Shakespeare's fairyland. I can't help but indulge myself to pre-

Sometime the likeliest mistress
 Will dote on the rudest master,
 The more so if her emotion
 Be stimulated by a potion.

One Hundred and Fifty-Four-Sonnets/ Fairy Queen is available for purchase by contacting Paul Leone at chautauquaregionpress@gmail.com or calling Paul at 716 969-6442. The volume is not at this time available in bookstores. Hardback price \$20, not including postage.

SUDOKU

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

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			52				53			
54		55				56					57	58	59
60						61					62		
63						64				65			
66						67				68			

- 6. Electromotive force
- 9. Invests in little enterprises
- 13. Longtime Utah Jazz coach
- 14. Small sailboat
- 15. Actor Idris
- 16. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls
- 17. System that detects objects under water
- 18. Harsh, grating noise
- 19. Steward
- 21. A fencing sword
- 22. Infections
- 23. Actress Ryan
- 24. Sodium
- 25. Swedish castle
- 28. A lump of slime
- 29. African antelope
- 31. Insurance providers
- 33. Choosy
- 36. Ringworm
- 39. Drenches
- 41. Pant style
- 44. Son of Noah
- 45. Spiritual being
- 46. Upton Sinclair novel
- 48. Journalist Tarbell
- 49. Popular sports highlight show
- 51. Born of
- 52. Rich tapestry
- 54. S. China seaport
- 56. State of being unclothed
- 60. Surrounded by
- 61. Residue
- 62. Away from wind
- 63. Dried-up
- 64. Visionary
- 65. A very large body of water
- 66. Garden tools
- 67. Screen type
- 68. Ancient Scandinavian poet

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Millisecond
- 2. Spanish city
- 3. A sudden very loud sound
- 4. "The Indiana Jones of beer"
- 5. Tin
- 6. Sea eagles
- 7. Volcanic crater
- 8. Type of coat
- 9. Women's apartments in Ottoman palace
- 10. Divulge a secret
- 11. Norwegian playwright
- 12. "It's a Wonderful Life" director
- 14. Poisonous perennial plant
- 17. 18-year astronomical period
- 20. Clothes
- 21. Places to sit
- 23. Family of regulator genes
- 25. New York ballplayer
- 26. Impressive in size or scope
- 27. Jacques __, French biologist
- 29. One from the Big Apple
- 30. Genus of woolly lemurs
- 32. Songs to one's beloved
- 34. Indigenous person of N.E. Thailand
- 35. Supplemented with difficulty
- 37. Farewell
- 40. Investment account (abbr.)
- 42. One from Utah
- 43. Begets
- 47. A male child
- 49. Break apart
- 50. Brief appearance
- 52. Partner to "oohed"
- 53. A light informal meal
- 55. Fabric with smooth, shiny surface
- 56. One billionth of a second
- 57. Ancient Italian-Greek colony
- 58. Close tightly
- 59. Mail out
- 61. Language
- 65. Computer characteristic

RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL REPAIRS, REPLACEMENTS, RENOVATIONS & MAINTENANCE

- Furnace & Air Conditioning Cleaning
- Boilers & Radiant Floor Heating
- Hot Water Tanks & Tankless Systems
- Water & Sewer Excavation
- Drain Cleaning
- Backflow Device - Certified Testing
- Video Inspection

Financing Available!



KRD

PLUMBING • HEATING • COOLING

We accept all major credit cards



716-951-8033

www.krdplumbing.com

120 Central Ave., Silver Creek, NY 14136

GMT GAY MARK TIRE & WHEEL



ON THE FARM TIRE SERVICE!

AUTO, TRUCK & FARM, LAWNMOWER, WHEELBARROW, & ATV TIRES

Western Plow Retailer



Firestone

COMPLETE CAR CARE CENTER

- Brakes • Batteries
- Alignment
- Mufflers Shocks
- MacPherson Struts
- Oil Changes
- NYS Inspections
- Windshield Wipers

6624 RT 60 Between Sinclairville & Cassadaga

962-9315

595-3408

HEAP Heating Equipment Repair & Replacement Program Now Open for Chautauqua County Residents Age 60+



Contributed by

Chautauqua County Office for Aging Services

As winter settles into Chautauqua County, local officials are sharing welcome news for older adults worried about staying warm at home. The New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) has reopened the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) Heating Equipment Repair and Replacement (HERR) benefit for qualifying older homeowners.

The reopening follows OTDA's announcement earlier this fall that the benefit was temporarily paused. With funding now restored, HERR is once again available—though with temporary changes. Due to limited statewide resources, HERR benefits are being offered only to homeowners aged 60 or older. Applicants must own and reside in their home as their primary residence; if multiple people are listed on the deed, at least one must be 60 or older when applying. All other HEAP eligibility rules remain the same. Residents may apply by contacting our local Department of Social Services (DSS) online at chautauquacountyny.gov/social-services/social-services or by calling: 716-661-8200.

Dana Corwin, Director of the Chautauqua County Office for Aging Ser-

vices, emphasized how meaningful this support is for older adults facing unexpected home heating problems. "This is more than a program—it's peace of mind," Corwin said. "For seniors living on fixed incomes, a broken furnace or unsafe heating system can be frightening. We're grateful that OTDA restored this funding so our older residents can stay safe, warm, and independent in their homes."

Carmelo Hernandez, Director of Mental Hygiene and Commissioner of Social Services, highlighted the strong partnership that made this reopening possible. "We truly value the collaboration with OTDA and the Office for Aging Services," said Hernandez. "Our teams are ready to help eligible homeowners navigate the process and receive the repairs or replacements they urgently need."

OTDA HEAP expressed appreciation for its continued partnership with the New York State Office for the Aging (NYSOFA) and the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) network, crediting their shared dedication to assisting New York's most vulnerable residents.

If older residents in Chautauqua County need help connecting to services or navigating available benefits, they can contact New York Connects at 716-753-4582 or visit chautauquacountyny.gov/office-aging.

Wright Air Museum to Commemorate Tragic Napoli Crash



Top: Ron Donhauser of Springville Hoists Propeller Blade from Flight 44-2 Donated by Author Tim Lake. **Bottom left:** Robert Rockwell of Napoli and Ron Donhauser of Springville Examine Wreckage from Flight 44-2. **Bottom right:** Ron Donhauser of Springville Examines 'Pitot Tube' from Flight 44-2 Wreckage.

Contributed by

Lucille M. Wright Air Museum

The Lucile M. Wright Air Museum has acquired over 150 artifacts from Continental Charters Flight 44-2, which crashed in the Cattaraugus County Town of Napoli (nuh-POLE-eye) on December 29, 1951, and claimed 26 lives. The crash wreckage items will be used in conjunction with an exhibit to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the disaster in 2026.

The artifacts were collected from the debris field after the official salvage operation concluded and were held privately until now. The museum received the crash remnants from Robert Rockwell, who lives near the crash site, and Ron Donhauser, a collector from Springville, NY. The donations were coordinated by Tim Lake, author of *Hang on and Fly* (Lake Publishing, 2015), the definitive book on the tragedy and heroism of Flight 44-2.

The artifacts range in size from small cranks, aluminum shards, and the airplane's original equipment to a significant portion of one of the wings. Additionally, Lake is donating a blade from one of the plane's propellers, which he purchased at an Erie County auction earlier this year. The propeller

blade includes an inspection sticker that is an exact match for those seen in vintage 1951 photographs of the wreckage. He said, "After all the years of research and studying the story of the crash, it felt surreal to hold pieces of the airplane in my hands. While I understand how the plane crash parts remained on a Napoli farm for so long... under today's rules of air crash investigations, it didn't seem possible."

Continental Charters was a non-scheduled airline service operating in a regulatory gray area in the post-World War II era. The plane used for Flight 44-2 was a recently converted C-46

military aircraft reconfigured for commercial use. The flight was hours late when it completed the first leg of its journey from Miami to Pittsburgh. In an attempt to get back lost time, the pilots made a disastrous decision to fly to Buffalo on a visual flight plan, despite bitter winter weather that required an instrument flight plan.

The aircraft slammed into Bucktooth Ridge in Napoli at approximately 10:25 PM and was ripped apart. Most of the 26 fatalities occurred immediately upon impact. Fourteen survivors

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

STORER'S Container Service INC.
 COMPREHENSIVE PROFESSIONAL WASTE HAULING & DISPOSAL SERVICE
 • 2-40 yd Containers Available
 • Commercial, Small Business & Residential Disposal
7534 Rt 380 • Stockton • 716-595-3186

Wright Air Museum to Commemorate Tragic Napoli Crash

Continued from page 13

braved two nights in life-threatening weather before one of the largest rescue operations ever in Western New York brought them to safety. It remains the longest stranding of a large group of airline crash survivors in the history of commercial aviation in North America.

The Curator of the Wright Air Museum, Dennis Webster, said, "It is most appropriate as we approach the 75th anniversary of this event to remember those who lost their lives on Flight 44-2 and the courageous efforts of the people of Cattaraugus County who participated in the rescue of the survivors."

Lake added, "I wrote at the end of the book that there was no monument or memorial to the crash victims and survivors. Finally, the exhibit at the Wright Air Museum will provide one."

The Lucile M. Wright Air Museum was established in 1986 as a place to document the aviation history of Southwestern New York and to motivate young people in aviation. The museum is named for Lucile M. Wright, a pioneer 20th-century aviator in the Jamestown area whose story is told there.

The Wright Air Museum's exhibit on Flight 44-2 is expected to be completed in late 2026.

Ranger Relief Fund Established to Support Local First Responders

Contributed by

Chautauqua Region Community Foundation

The Chautauqua Region Community Foundation has announced the establishment of the Ranger Relief Fund, created by a group of active and retired volunteers from the fire service across Chautauqua County. For decades, these volunteers have gone above and beyond their emergency responder roles, stepping in to repair facilities, improve training sites, strengthen emergency service operations, and support fellow first responders in times of need.

In 2024, the group hosted a community fundraiser to bolster these efforts. Following its success, members decided it was time to create a dedicated endowment fund to ensure long-term stewardship and impact. By establishing the Ranger Relief Fund at the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation, they ensured there is a sustainable resource to support first responders well into the future.

As many of the volunteers noted, establishing the Fund allows them to stay connected to the work and people who shaped their lives. "The goal is simple," said John Griffith, a long-time member of the volunteer fire service. "We want to make an impact on the people doing the work — the ones who show up every day to keep our communities safe."

Liz Jones, Community Impact Officer at the Chautauqua Region Communi-

ty Foundation, added, "This group represents the very best of what it means to serve."

They've come together, across departments, generations, and roles, with the shared goal of supporting those who protect our communities. Their commitment is extraordinary, and this Fund ensures that their impact will continue for years to come."

The Ranger Relief Fund also offers community members an opportunity to support local emergency service personnel in a meaningful, tax-efficient way. Individuals over 73 years of age may choose to direct their Required Minimum Distributions to the Fund, helping to fuel volunteer-driven projects and provide resources to those who protect and serve the region.

For more information about the Ranger Relief Fund, to make a gift, or to learn about maximizing your charitable impact, contact Tina Downey, Development Officer at 716-661-3390 or tdowney@crfonline.org.

The Chautauqua Region Community Foundation administers over 700 endowments in support of emerging community needs, charitable organizations and local students pursuing higher education. For more information visit www.crfonline.org



One Laugh at a Time: National Comedy Center Memory Café

Contributed by

National Comedy Center

Caring for someone with memory loss takes strength—and sometimes, a shared laugh can make all the difference. That's why the National Comedy Center hosts a free Memory Café on the first Monday of each month, designed for individuals living with dementia, Alzheimer's, or other memory-related conditions—along with their caregivers, family members, and care partners.

The next Memory Café will take place on **Monday, January 5, 2026**—an opportunity to share in laughter, connection, and the support of a welcoming community.

Participants can explore the museum's interactive exhibits at their own pace, rekindling joyful memories through beloved shows like *I Love Lucy*, *The Carol Burnett Show*, *The Dick Van Dyke Show*, and *Saturday Night Live*—along with legendary artists such as Johnny Carson, Carl Reiner, Mel Brooks, Betty White, Richard Pryor, Don Rickles and The Smothers Brothers. From timeless sketches to unforgettable characters, the experience inspires connection through the power of laughter.



These monthly gatherings create meaningful experiences for individuals living with memory loss, while offering caregivers and family members a comforting space to relax, connect, and feel supported—providing a break from daily routines and reminding everyone that they're not alone on this journey.

This marks the National Comedy Center's twelfth Memory Café event, building on its successful launch last February. The program was recently honored with two Gold Anthem Awards — for Corporate Social Responsibility and for Community Engagement — global recognition celebrating initiatives that create meaningful social impact. The Comedy Center now stands alongside fellow Gold winners such as Google, UNICEF USA, World Central Kitchen, PBS, AARP, Selena Gomez's Rare Beauty, Sesame Workshop, and Make-A-Wish America — placing its community-centered work among the most impactful and innovative programs worldwide.

Reservations for this and all Memory Café events is encouraged; space is limited. Learn more and register at ComedyCenter.org/MemoryCafe

- **When:** Monday, January 5, 2026
- **10 AM:** Check-in and museum exploration
- **11 AM:** Enjoy refreshments, great company, and a fun, engaging program.
- **Cost:** FREE



PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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

M	E	R	E	S	E	M	F	S	B	I	C		
S	L	O	A	N	P	R	A	U	E	L	B	A	
E	D	A	M	S	O	N	A	R	R	A	S	P	
C	A	R	E	T	A	K	E	R	S	A	B	E	R
	S	O	R	E	S	M	E	G	N	A			
M	E	M	G	O	B	N	Y	A	L	A			
E	P	O	S	S	E	L	E	C	T	I	V	E	
T	I	N	E	A	R	A	W	S	O	A	K	S	
C	O	R	D	U	R	O	Y	S	S	H	E	M	
D	E	I	T	Y	O	I	L	I	D	A			
S	C	N	E	E	A	R	R	A	S				
M	A	C	A	U	N	A	K	E	D	N	E	S	S
A	M	I	D	A	S	H	E	S	A	L	E	E	
S	E	R	E	S	E	E	R	O	C	E	A	N	
H	O	E	S	L	C	D		S	K	A	L	D	

PUZZLES ON PAGE 19



THE CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY TOWN AND VILLAGE HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION 25TH ANNUAL TOYS FOR KIDS DRIVE

The event benefited the Salvation Army and was held on Wednesday, December 10 at the Lakewood Rod & Gun. All the toys collected were used to bring Christmas to less fortunate children in Chautauqua County. Pictured left to right, Bob Pickett (Ellicott) - President, Doug Peterson (original chairman), Brian Malecki (French Creek), Captain John Merchant (Salvation Army), Greg Johnson (Busti), Rob Carlson (Kiantone), Captain Kimberly Merchant (Salvation Army), Greg Hallberg (Ellery).

Zonta Club of Jamestown Makes Donations to ANEW Center



Pictured at the presentation are Major Kim Merchant of the Salvation Army of Jamestown, Roberta Anderson of the Zonta Club of Jamestown, and Diana Butcher of the ANEW Center.

Contributed by

Zonta Club of Jamestown

The Zonta Club of Jamestown recently presented a monetary donation along with donated items to the ANEW Center, supporting its ongoing mission to provide critical services to individuals affected by domestic violence, rape, and sexual assault.



Pictured in the second photo are Zontians Wendy Burns and Kathy Stedman as they dropped items for the holiday season.

The ANEW Center provides services 24 hours a day to individuals in need and operates as a program of the Salvation Army of Jamestown. Services offered by the ANEW Center include crisis intervention, case management, and prevention education. Through these efforts, the ANEW Center strives to empower individuals and the community to end violence and begin anew.

Those in need of assistance can contact the ANEW Center's 24-hour hotline

for domestic violence, rape, and sexual assault services at 800-252-8748 or 716-661-3897.

For more information about the Zonta Club of Jamestown, whose mission is to build a better world for women and girls, go to www.zontajamestown.org or follow them on Facebook.

Blinding Blizzard Couldn't Impede Lion's Christmas Party



Some Lion's Club Members

Contributed by

Lions Club of Jamestown

A blinding blizzard couldn't impede attendance at the Mayville/ Chautauqua Lion's Club Christmas Party at Ariel's Bed/Breakfast owned and operated by Club Member Margo Stewart. It was the place to meet for festivities, and kindnesses for Lions recently.

Jeff Winton, founder and chairman of Rural Minds, was awarded \$1,100 by the Club as a result of prize money raised at a Buffalo Bills Watch Party in November. The Watch Party raised an additional \$1,100 to benefit the Club for the price of the menu and activities.

Those who were at the Christmas Party celebrated by preparing Christmas cards for area nursing facility residents. Members also brought contributions for the Mayville Food Pantry.

The Lion's Club whose mission statement is "We Serve" is international. Information regarding Lion's International may be located on www.lionsclubs.org. Check out our local Facebook Page, Mayville/Chautauqua Lions Club for recent pictures of activities and comments.

Rural Minds which is a national non profit organization is based in Mayville, New York. It is the only 501(c) {3} organization which solely advocates for mental health equity for the 46 million Americans who live in rural areas across this country. Rural Minds strives to address and help with the de-



From left to right: Jeff Szabo, Lion's Club Treasurer and Jeff Winton, Founder/Chairman of Rural Minds.

vastation of suicide. Mr. Winton has stated that a suicide occurs every 11 seconds in the United States. It is estimated that 74% of youth between the ages of 15 -19 living on farms are more likely to commit suicide. Farmers are 3.5% more likely to commit suicide. Individuals typically are hesitant to seek help due to the associated stigma of mental illness. Our farmers are currently struggling with depression and other mental illnesses partially due to the tariffs and trade wars taking place between the United States and other countries, resulting with their inability to market their crops.

The phone number for Rural Minds is 800 226-8113 and the CRISIS HOT-LINE to call or text is 988. Visit the website at RuralMinds.org. The email address is info@ruralminds.org. Lion Marie may be reached at 252 503-5419 regarding information about our Lion's Club and Rural Minds.

You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream.

- C.S. Lewis

FRIENDS OF THE GAZETTE

THANK YOU TO OUR SPECIAL SUPORTERS THAT HELP MAKE OUR FREE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER POSSIBLE

GOLD:

TIMOTHY CARLSON
TROY HINE

SANDRA & DANIEL GULLOTTI

SILVER:

JOHN GERACI
PATRICIA & WILLIAM LOCKE
YVONNE MCNALLIE
RITA & GARY MROWKA

SUSAN & DOUGLAS SEAMANS
KATIE & DAN SMITH
PETER STARK

BRONZE:

LINDA & LAWRENCE ADAMS
ELIZABETH & JOHN ANDERSON
TANYA & TODD ASHBAUGH
KATHY & THOM BEMUS
PATRICIA & CHARLES BRININGER
SUZANNE & KENNIE CAMPBELL
JOAN & L. BRUCE ERICKSON
ML FEATHER
MICHELLE GAERTNER
PAULETTE ZIEMBA
& NORMAN GREEN
CAROL S. HAY
DONNA & JIM HIGGINBOTHAM
JUNE & TODD JACOBSON
JILL & CHAD JAQUITH
ANONYMOUS IN JAMESTOWN
ANONYMOUS IN JAMESTOWN II
JENNIFER KITCHENER
& ERIC KRIEDLER

FRANCES LAPINSKI
JENNIFER MARTIN
KAREN McELRATH
LINDA & DAVID MELQUIST
MARGE & MIKE METZGER
SHARON & CHARLES NAZARRO
DIANE & DONALD NELSON
CAROL PETERSON
KERRI ROWAN
MARILYN & CARL SCARPINO
BARBARA SWIFT SUCKOW
BECKY & SAM TERESI
THE TRUSSALO FAMILY
MICHELE & JEFFREY VICTOR
JANET WAHLBERG
SUSAN & SHAWN WEATHERUP
DEB & JIM WEHRFRITZ

WHEN YOU'RE IN, YOU'RE IN!

LIST YOUR NAME AMONG OUR CRITICAL SUPPORTERS

SUPPORTER LEVEL:

\$100/YEAR OR \$9/MONTH* - BRONZE
Your name printed weekly in 2025!

\$250/YEAR OR \$23/MONTH* - SILVER
Your name printed weekly; Your photo in (4) features

\$500/YEAR OR \$45/MONTH* - GOLD
Your name printed weekly; Your photo in (4) features;
Your weekly paper delivered to your doorstep every Monday!

ANY CONTRIBUTION OF ANY AMOUNT ALWAYS APPRECIATED!

*Paid in a lump sum or split up into automatic recurring payments online.

HOW TO SUPPORT

ONLINE:



Scan the QR code or visit our website to contribute securely.

BY MAIL:

Send a check payable to Chautauqua Gazette to:
PO Box 32, Bemus Point, NY 14712

Community Delivers Big for St. Susan Center

Holiday Haul Raises \$27,504 & Collects 24,446 Pounds of Food



Contributed by
St. Susan Center

The Jamestown community came together in a big way for the 13th Annual **Community Holiday Haul**, raising **\$27,504** and collecting **24,446 pounds (12.25 tons)** of non-perishable food to support **St. Susan Center**.

Thanks to the generosity of donors, volunteers, partners, and local businesses, the Holiday Haul surpassed its **\$25,000 fundraising goal**, reinforcing its role as one of the region's most impactful seasonal efforts. Monetary contributions will help sustain St. Susan Center's programs year-round, while the donated food will provide thousands of meals to individuals and families facing food insecurity.

"This year's Holiday Haul truly showed what our community is capable of," said **Cherie Rowland, Executive Director of St. Susan Center**. "Every dollar donated and every can collected represents a neighbor who cares. We are incredibly grateful to everyone who stepped up to support our mission and the people we serve."

Donations came from a wide range of supporters, from monetary gifts to individual cans of soup, contributed by **local businesses, school groups, and residents across the region**. The campaign kicked off in early December with the "**Forever Rising**" parade truck, sponsored by **Cummins**, which collected donations during the City of **Jamestown Holiday Parade**, hosted by **Collaborative Children's Solutions (CCS)**. Students with CCS's **NextGen Jamestown** program also helped collect food along the parade route.

Cummins further amplified the impact by pledging a **match donation to the United Way in honor of St. Susan Center**, matching the grand total of the Holiday Haul — a contribution

that longtime organizer and St. Susan Center Board Member **Dan Keefe** called the "**trifecta**" of giving."

"I always say I just stand there and collect the donations," Keefe said. "It's the community that makes this possible. People show up, no matter the weather, and that generosity is what makes the Holiday Haul work." Keefe braved cold temperatures, wind, rain, sleet—and even a little sun—throughout the three-day fundraiser, continuing a cherished holiday tradition in Jamestown.

"This year's Holiday Haul was a remarkable success, and I want to personally thank **Dan Keefe, Cherie Rowland, and Justin Gould** for their extraordinary efforts," said **Greg Lindquist, Board President of St. Susan Center**. "Their dedication — especially the push to engage donors online — helped us reach our fundraising goal and expand our impact well beyond what we could have imagined."

The 2025 Holiday Haul embraced a **digital approach**, led by Board Member **Justin Gould**, who coordinated online fundraising through the St. Susan Center website.

"Through **Facebook Lives, Instagram posts, and a live donation tracker** on our website, the **Holiday Haul's reach** extended far beyond the **Jamestown Cycle Shop parking lot**," Gould said. "I want to thank **Dan Keefe and Cherie Rowland** for their wonderful work appearing on live video to promote the effort — without their energy and presence, we wouldn't have been able to engage the community so effectively."

Organizers extend sincere thanks to everyone who **donated, volunteered, shared the event, and supported the Holiday Haul**. From the first can to the final cent, this effort was a true community achievement. For more information about **St. Susan Center** or to support its mission year-round, visit **StSusanCenter.org**.

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**.

CONFIDENCE BEGINS TODAY.

- K-12 academic support in all core subjects
- Assistance for students struggling with foundational skills
- Qualified tutors that meet students where they are

Register your student for personalized tutoring now!
Or call (716) 489-3487 for more information.

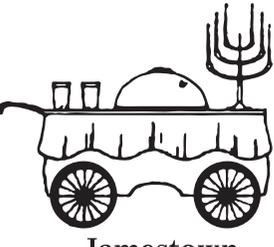



Join our Capital Campaign!

StSusanCenter.org/give
(716) 664-2253



"we freely offer meals, fellowship, dignity and respect to all who come through our doors"



Serving Jamestown's Seniors since 1969

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR INFO
CALL 716-488-9119

Jamestown Meals on Wheels

LIKE/FOLLOW US

 @chautauquagazette
 @chautauquagazette
www.CHQgazette.com



Live CHQ. Love CHQ. Read CHQ

In our perfect ways, in the ways we are beautiful, in the ways we are human — we are here. Happy New Year's. Let's make it ours.
- Beyoncé



CHOOSE YOUR OWN OPPORTUNITY

MAKE YOUR NEXT BUSINESS MOVE IN
CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY



Learn how the CCIDA and its affiliate agencies can help.

Providing: Technical Assistance, Tax Incentives,
Low Interest Loans, Site Location, and More.



LEARN MORE AT
CHOOSECHQ.COM



CCPEG Announces Launch of Rebranded Economic Growth Fund Program

Continued from page 6

Development and CCPEG Advisory Board co-chair. “Thanks to the additional funding we received from the Wilson Foundation in 2024, we’ve been able to continue providing leveraging support for local economic development projects that will build on the momentum we are generating across the County.”

Letters of Interest submissions can start on Monday, January 5, with a deadline of January 23. The application period for qualifying projects will run from February 2 through February 27. After a review of all applications, the

2026 Economic Growth Fund awards will be announced in late March of 2026.

More information about EGF, including what to include in a letter of interest, is available on the Economic Growth Fund page at CHQPartnership.org.

For questions or assistance, please contact Monica Simpson, CCPEG Partner Engagement Coordinator, by calling (716) 363-3770 or emailing SimpsonM@chqgov.com.



CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY PARTNERSHIP
for Economic Growth



CHAMBER CORNER

Thanks to Our Members for a Good Year

Article Contributed by

Daniel J. Heitzenrater

Chautauqua County Chamber of Commerce
President and CEO

Assessing where we have been helps lead us to where we are going next, so as we embark on a new year the CHQ Chamber has taken a look back at our progress in 2025. The work we do each day is focused on our mission: to build vital connections, provide professional resources, and champion our local businesses in Chautauqua County. Here’s a quick review.

Membership remains the heart of the Chamber of Commerce. Membership investments help to cover the costs of services for businesses that would be impossible for smaller organizations to provide, including our popular ShopLocalCHQ Gift Card, event planning and networking, and more – all substantial benefits for local businesses. We added 80 new members in 2025.

For the first time ever, we visited over 500 small businesses in person during National Small Business Week in May. This was an opportunity to say thank you to many businesses countywide for the work they do each day to make Chautauqua County a great place to live and work. The personal outreach felt meaningful to our staff and volunteers who participated in the exercise, and we are planning a similar event for 2026.

Attendance at CHQ Chamber functions had another strong showing in 2025. 1,873 people turned out for Chamber events including our Business After Hours networking events, Business Builder Workshops, restructured advocacy events, and annual Golf Tournament, Awards Banquet, and Annual Meeting. That number does not include the thousands who showed up for community-wide events offered by the Chamber including the popular First Fridays in Westfield, Doors Open Jamestown and Made in Falconer. If you attended a Chamber of Commerce function in the past year, we hope you made some new business contacts and will come again in the future and bring a friend or colleague. Participation remains one of the best ways to get the most out of your Chamber membership.

The ShopLocalCHQ Gift Card program closed out 2025 with a record high for sales at \$150,865. This is a 139% increase over 2024, mainly due to a single large corporate

order. Even without that large \$72,000 order, total sales increased 24.9% in the past year to \$78,865. Over 160 businesses countywide now accept the ShopLocalCHQ Gift Card. These gift card purchases create a direct impact on our local economy and help boost sales at small locally owned businesses. Because of the costs associated with this program, we require only that merchants be Chamber members to participate.

The Chamber of Commerce has once again stepped up its social media game in the past year. With an emphasis on creating more video content and live streaming, we saw a 23% increase in engagement over the prior year. The CHQ Chamber uses its social media pages to help promote local businesses and events, keep people informed, and to manage community-based promotions that help to drive traffic into local businesses.

Our direct email marketing showed a strong boost this year, with our average email open rate now at 46%, up from 34% in 2024. The average open rate across all industries is 42.35%, with most nonprofits at 25.2%. A renewed effort to keep our email list up to date was instrumental in this increase.

Also in 2025, the CHQ Chamber maintained its ranking as the third largest business advocacy group in Western New York. Each year Business First of Buffalo surveys regional business associations on a variety of issues including budget and membership. The fact that we are in the top three is worthy of note, since we are in the mix with the more urban areas in the immediate Buffalo vicinity.

We like to spend just enough time looking back to help us move forward.

These numbers create some guidelines for us as we move into the new year, helping to evaluate our successes and to see where we can improve in the coming year.

Join Us for CHQ Chamber Events in 2026

The CHQ Chamber is proud to be starting a new year with a nearly complete calendar of events for 2026. Just a few venues are still being pinned down, but over 95% of the calendar has been locked in for the year ahead.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15



CHQgazette.com

Tips to stay the course with a New Year's resolution

Courtesy of
Metro Creative

The holiday season is steeped in tradition. Many of those traditions are rooted in celebrants' faith, but one of the last customs people embrace each year is largely secular.

The tradition of making New Year's resolutions is older than many people may realize. According to History.com, the ancient Babylonians are believed to be the first people to make New Year's resolutions when they began doing so roughly 4,000 years ago during a 12-day festival known as Akitu. That festival was religious in nature, but many people now make resolutions with a goal toward self-improvement unrelated to their faith. As people ponder their resolutions for the year ahead, the following strategies might help them stay the course over the next 12 months.

- **Give serious thought to a prospective resolution.** Statistics regarding New Year's resolutions vary, but a 2024 survey from the Pew Research Center found that 13 percent of adults polled indicated they kept none of their resolutions. Numerous variables can affect whether or not a person keeps a resolution, but giving a potential resolution little thought ahead of time can make achieving a goal unlikely. Give any potential change ample thought before committing to a resolution. If you aspire to lose weight, identify the ways you're going to go about that. Find a local gym to join, identify ways to eat a more nutritious diet and, perhaps most importantly, study how you can make time to stay the course. A little legwork in advance of declaring a resolution can pay off in the long run.

- **Set periodic goals.** Small goals along the way to the larger goal can serve as motivation to keep going. If you aspire to watch less television and read more, resolve to read 100 pages per week and then gradually increase that total if you so desire. Small goals can provide a great means to measure incremental progress that will ultimately make achieving a larger goal more likely.

- **Be realistic.** Realistic goals are more likely to be achieved than ones that seem good on the surface but are too difficult to keep. For example, if you aspire to exercise for an hour each day but obligations to work and family leave little time for physical activity, then you may need to reduce those expectations in favor of a more realistic, achievable goal. Taking on too much will only discourage you when hurdles inevitably appear, and that is likely to compel you to abandon the resolution entirely. If your initial goal is realistic, then any challenges that arise are less likely to derail your efforts.

- **Don't go it alone.** Many people employ the buddy system as a means to stay motivated with fitness-related resolutions, and that approach can be applied to any goal you set at the beginning of the year. Having someone there to hold you accountable, and doing the same for a partner, increases the chances you'll stay the course.

New Year's resolutions are an ancient tradition, even if the majority tend to be abandoned rather quickly. But anyone can buck that trend and stay the course by employing a few simple, yet effective strategies.

Beautiful Lianne Edborg Memorial Cancer Fund Established at WCA Foundation to Support Local Cancer Care

Contributed by
WCA Foundation

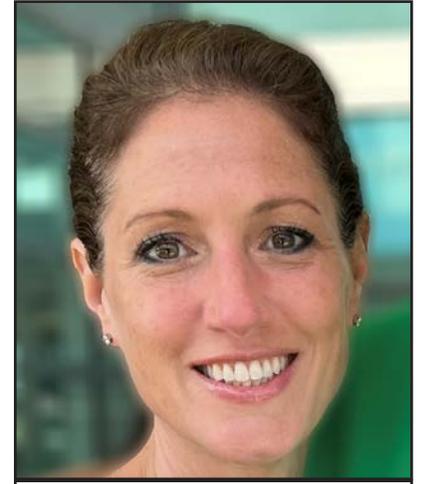
The WCA Foundation is honored to announce the establishment of the Beautiful Lianne Edborg Memorial Cancer Fund, a new endowment created by Lianne's family to support cancer care at the UPMC Chautauqua Hillman Cancer Center.

This meaningful endowment serves as a lasting tribute to Lianne's life, spirit, and the love she shared with her family and community. Inspired by her love for bees, the fund's name reflects qualities that defined Lianne—strength, courage, resilience, teamwork, and the power of community.

The Beautiful Lianne Edborg Memorial Cancer Fund will provide long-term support for patients receiving cancer treatment locally, ensuring access to compassionate, high-quality care for generations to come. Through this gift, Lianne's family is transforming their grief into a powerful source of comfort and hope for others facing cancer.

During her journey, Lianne received care close to home through UPMC Chautauqua, while also benefiting from specialized treatment at the UPMC Hillman Cancer Center and UPMC Hamot. The ability to remain near family while accessing advanced cancer care made a profound difference during an incredibly difficult time.

"This endowment is a beautiful expression of love and belief in the importance of exceptional local cancer



Lianne Edborg

care," said Kristin Melville, Executive Director of the WCA Foundation. "Lianne's legacy will live on through every patient supported and every life touched by this fund."

The WCA Foundation is deeply grateful to Lianne's family for their extraordinary generosity and for entrusting the Foundation to steward this meaningful legacy. The Beautiful Lianne Edborg Memorial Cancer Fund will stand as a permanent symbol of remembrance, compassion, and hope within the community.

To make a donation to Beautiful Lianne Edborg Memorial Cancer Fund or to learn how to support cancer care through the WCA Foundation at the Hillman Center UPMC Chautauqua, please visit wcafoundationjamestown.org or contact, Kristin Melville, Executive Director, at melvillek@upmc.edu or call the WCA Foundation at 716-664-8665. All funds donated to the WCA Foundation support Chautauqua County residents.

LIKE/FOLLOW US

@chautauquagazette

@chautauquagazette

www.CHQgazette.com



Live CHQ. Love CHQ. Read CHQ

LOVE CHAUTAUQUA? GET THE GAZETTE DELIVERED TO YOUR DOOR!

Sign up to receive your weekly Gazette in the Mail!
\$16.95 per month

Attention all seasonal residents, snowbirds, college students, homebound individuals, and all those out-of-towners who will always have a place in their heart for Chautauqua County...

Never miss the latest news, events, and community stories from home.

Subscribe now at:
www.chqgazette.com/Subscriptions



Live CHQ. Love CHQ. Read CHQ...ANYWHERE!!!



**Chautauqua County Office for Aging Services
2025 Santa for Seniors delivery day in Mayville, NY**

Left to right: Dana Corwin, Director Chautauqua County Office for Aging Services, Justin Gould, Media Information Officer, Chautauqua County, Debbie Perry & Kelly Prewitt, Co-Coordinator Santa for Seniors.

Chamber Corner

Continued from page 19

This includes nine upcoming Business After Hours events throughout the county. These networking opportunities are designed to provide quick, but meaningful business connections among people from all economic sectors. The first Business After Hours will be at UpTwnKix, 117 West 4th Street in Jamestown on January 15, with others set for March at Audubon Community Nature Center, April at Sensory Smokehouse in Ripley, May in Westfield, June at She Sings Café in Mayville, July at Steelbound in Dunkirk, September at Roger Tory Peterson Institute in Jamestown, October at Raven & Thorn in Fredonia, and a November venue to be announced.

Business Builder Workshops will increase to five this year on a variety of topics including Corporate Culture, AI for Business, Tax Preparation, Scaling Your Business, and Marketing. Dates and locations can be found in our online calendar. Advocacy events will include our State of Business Breakfast in January, a State of the County Event in April, State of the State Event in June, and Official Introductions in September. These, and more, CHQ Chamber

events for 2026 are posted in our online calendar at www.chqchamber.org. Sponsorship opportunities are also available for this year. Contact Director of Membership Development, Bob Lingle, for more at rlingle@chqchamber.org.

Business After Hours at UpTwnKix is January 15

Join us as we kick off Business After Hours for the new year at UpTwnKix, a unique shoe store in Jamestown. UpTwnKix is focused on “Bringing the Big City to a Small Town” featuring specialty and custom athletic shoes and apparel.

This Business After Hours will include complimentary appetizers and beverages. Advance registration is not required but is appreciated for planning purposes. This event is free for two people from each Chamber member organization, and \$10 per person for anyone above the two-person limit or for non-members. It will be held from 5-6:30, Thursday, January 15. UpTwnKix is at 117 West Fourth Street, Jamestown. Register online now through the Chamber calendar at www.chqchamber.org.

Tomorrow is the first blank page of a 365-page book. Write a good one.

- Brad Paisley

Senior Scene with Dana Corwin

**Welcome 2026,
Chautauqua County!**



*Contributed by
Dana Corwin*

Director of Chautauqua County Office for Aging Services

As I begin my second year as Director of the Chautauqua County Office for Aging Services, I want to sincerely thank you for your continued support, guidance, and feedback. It has been just over a year since I stepped into this role, and I am proud of the progress our staff made together in 2025 to better serve older adults across our county. Our team is energized, committed, and eager to connect with even more of you in 2026.

Over the past 16 months, we have asked a simple but important question: What do you need to age successfully here in Chautauqua County, New York? Your responses were clear. You told us you need increased transportation options, improved communication from our office, expanded home care services, and stronger support for caregivers. We listened—and we acted.

Throughout 2025, the Office for Aging Services was active in the community every month. We offered Car Fit safe driving classes, legal forums, energy education programs, flu clinics, Memory Cafés for caregivers and their loved ones, Medicare and health insurance information and counseling, in-person and online caregiver support groups, and brain health education in partnership with the Alzheimer’s Association, caregiver support groups, farmers market coupons,

we distributed Ring Doorbells and cameras to make you feel safer in your homes and neighborhoods! June saw us combating against elder abuse with many community partners. In October, we proudly walked together to End Alzheimer’s, and during the holiday season, we shared joy with nearly 200 older adults through our 2025 Santa for Seniors campaign.

Looking ahead to 2026, we are ready to do even more. We are working to expand transportation options, enhance caregiver supports—including respite services—and assist caregivers in navigating new and emerging resources. We will continue to innovate in home care services and plan to launch a monthly newsletter to keep you informed and connected.

Planning is already underway, and we are excited to announce that the Second Annual CHQ Aging Expo and Conference will take place on May 21, 2026, in celebration of Older Americans Month, at SUNY Fredonia. We have so much to share—please save the date and join us.

We look forward to continuing this journey with you—listening, learning, and working together to ensure Chautauqua County remains a great place to age.

Here’s to a healthy, connected, and vibrant 2026.

If you have questions about services, programs, or benefits for older adults and caregivers, you can contact NY Connects Helpline: 716-753-4582. Or ccnyc@chqgov.com.

The Chautauqua County Office for Aging Services is here to guide, connect, and advocate for long-term services and supports so older adults can remain in our community.

LIKE/FOLLOW US

@chautauquagazette

@chautauquagazette

www.CHQgazette.com



Live CHQ. Love CHQ. Read CHQ

Foster Parents Needed in Chautauqua County

Contributed by

**Chautauqua County
Department of Mental
Hygiene**

The Chautauqua County Department of Mental Hygiene and Social Services is seeking compassionate individuals and families to become foster parents and help provide safe, supportive homes for children in our community.

Through the Department's Home Finding team, prospective foster parents receive guidance and support as they explore opening their hearts and homes to children who may not have their basic needs met or a safe place to call home. Foster parents play a critical role by providing temporary, stable, and nurturing care for children who are placed in foster care and remain in the custody of the Department.

Currently, Chautauqua County has



approximately 45 traditional (non-kinship) foster homes. Many of these homes are full, and the need continues to grow as nearly 100 children are presently in the County's care. Children in foster care range from infancy through age 18 and may have medical, physical, or emotional needs. They come from all racial and ethnic backgrounds and may be placed individually or as part of a

sibling group.

To help community members learn more about becoming a foster parent, the Department will host an informational session on Thursday, January 15, 2026, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the South County Office Building, 110 East Fourth Street, Jamestown (please use the front employee entrance

on East Fourth Street and proceed up the stairs). A virtual option will also be available.

To receive the virtual meeting link or for more information, please contact Audra Moeller at moellera@chqgov.com or 716-581-2080.

Following the informational session, the next round of pre-service foster parent classes will begin on Thursday, February 12, 2026, and will be held from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Classes will be offered both in person in Jamestown and virtually, and will continue through April 23, 2026 (no class will be held on April 9 during Spring Break).

Those unable to attend the informational session but interested in learning more about foster care in Chautauqua County are encouraged to visit www.fosterlovechq.com or contact Audra Moeller using the information above.

WE ARE SOLICITING BIDS FOR ALL TRADES!

Kulback's, Inc. is soliciting bids for an upcoming NYSHCR project, The Homesteads at Dunkirk. The project consists of (2) three-story new construction apartment buildings, each on a separate site located in Dunkirk, NY.

M/WBE, SDVOB, and Section 3 participation is strongly encouraged.

Bids are currently due Friday, 2/6/2026, at 2 PM

Outreach meeting will be held on January 14th from 11:00 AM to 12:00PM, at the Clarion Hotel Conference Center on Lake Erie, located at 30 Lake Shore Dr E, Dunkirk, NY 14048.

**Please reach out to Camryn England
(camryn@kulbacks.com) for more details.**



www.kulbacks.com
camryn@kulbacks.com
(716) 681-1600

Packaged inside of every mistake there lays a great lesson. And while I don't want to take the mistake into the New Year, I most certainly want to take the lesson that's packaged inside of it.

- Craig D. Lounsborough

FRIENDS AROUND TOWN

AUTO DETAILING



PROFESSIONAL DETAILING

731 East 2nd Street • Jamestown, NY

716-484-6246

* * * * *

Each week, we are extremely proud and grateful to feature these "Friends Around Town". Please renew your "Friends Around Town" membership for 2026 this month. Thank you for your kind and generous support of our community's weekly newspaper. Only \$25/week, full year commitment required.

CALL US TODAY! 716-720-1845

* * * * *

DRYWALL

DONAHUE DRYWALL

Michael Donahue, Drywall Contractor

**Interior Demolition
Insulation • Drywall
Priming**

CALL 1-814-706-7226

Facebook: Donahue Drywall
donahuedrywall42@gmail.com

Scan to set up an appointment
www.donahuedrywallandcompanies.com



Proudly Serving Warren & Chautauqua Counties

STORAGE

STORENLOCK

• SELF STORAGE •

- 5'X5' TO 10'X30' UNITS AVAILABLE
- OUTSIDE STORAGE AVAILABLE
- CARS, BOATS, RV'S, CAMPERS
- CLIMATE CONTROLLED UNITS
- SECURITY ENTRY SYSTEM
- 24 HR ACCESS & SURVEILLANCE

716-664-7396
ryan@selfstoragejamestownny.com
378 Livingston Ave Jamestown, NY



FURNITURE



215 W 4th St | Jamestown, NY
(716) 664-3333
lafayettcornersjamestown.com

LIVE CHQ

Discover the Benefits of Living in Chautauqua County

LIVE CHQ

LiveCHQ.org

DOCKS • WELDING

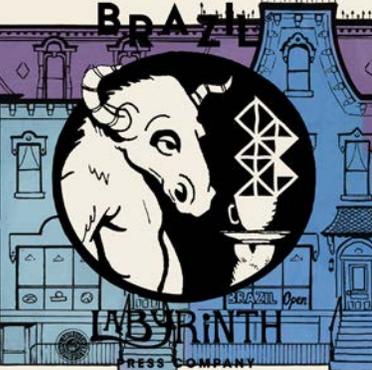


CHAUTAUQUA IRONWORKS

Docks and Boat lifts
In-shop & Mobile welding services

5239 West Lake Rd, Mayville, NY
Office: 716-753-3163

RESTAURANT & BAR



12 EAST 4TH STREET, JAMESTOWN, NY

BAKERY



7 AM-4:30 PM Monday-Saturday
832 Foote Ave, Jamestown, NY

GLASS SERVICES

D&S GLASS SERVICE
333 FLUVANNA AVE • JAMESTOWN
(Across from Arby's)
716-664-9321

AUTO GLASS • MIRRORS
CUSTOM SHOWER DOORS
SEAWAY
REPLACEMENT WINDOWS

APPLIANCES



1286 E 2nd St • Jamestown, NY
(716) 665-2317

INSURANCE

24-Hour Customer Service • AUTO, HOME, BUSINESS, LIFE



Allstate
You're in good hands.

William R Farr, LUTCF
Exclusive Agent

ALLSTATE INSURANCE COMPANY
812 Foote Ave • Jamestown, NY 14701 • 483-2732
After Hours 664-3091 • Fax 483-6952
a090225@allstate.com
www.allstateagencies.com/WilliamFarr/Welcome
NY Insurance License #690357

MOVING RENTALS



CALL FOR DETAILS

731 East 2nd Street • Jamestown, NY

716-708-1708

CATERING

3C's Catering
The Falcon's Nest Banquet Hall

Let us help make your next event Simple & above all...DELICIOUS!

Now booking events for summertime & group outings at Diethrick Park.

Check out our facebook page or website for weekly food truck locations!
@3CsCateringNY

267-4403 | www.3cscatering.com

SECURITY & ALARMS

ALLIED ALARM SERVICES, INC

An Integration Company • Since 1984

Security Systems • Access Control
Fire Alarms • Video Surveillance

Locally Owned & Operated

(716) 665-6700
www.allied-alarm.com
Licensed by the NYS Department of State #1200013380

ROOFING



520 W 8th St, Jamestown, NY
www.exteriorrescuewny.com

CAR CARE

Total Car Care



Repair Maintenance Inspections Auto, Truck & Farm Tires

6624 Route 60
Cassadaga
962-9315 • 595-3408
gaymarktireandwheel.com



CAR CARE



QUALITY TIRES & WHEELS AT AFFORDABLE PRICES!

120 CENTRAL AVE.
SILVER CREEK
716-951-TIRE (8473)

OPEN MON - WED - FRI 9 am - 5 pm
TUE & THU 9 am - 6 pm • SAT BY APPT.
Financing options Available



Join Our Friends Around Town

ONLY \$25 Per Week

Call 716-720-1845 for more info

Happy New Year

FROM ALL OF US AT THE CHAUTAUQUA GAZETTE!



Live CHQ. Love CHQ. Read CHQ

CHAUTAUQUA GAZETTE

The Chautauqua Gazette is a vital link between our readers, the communities we serve, and our advertisers who remain ready to serve you.

Reaching an estimated 20,000 readers at over 350 newsstands in 35 zip codes across Chautauqua, Cattaraugus & Warren Counties PLUS online!

TYPE	SIZES (WxH)	COLOR
1/16 Page Ad	4.875"x1.75"	\$50
1/8 Page Ad	4.875" x 3.666"	\$95
1/4 Page Vertical Ad	4.875"x7.5"	\$145
1/4 Page Horizontal Ad	9.96"x3.66"	\$145
1/2 Page Vertical Ad	4.88" x 15.15"	\$275
1/2 Page Horizontal Ad	9.9166" x 7.5"	\$275
Full Page Ad	9.9166" x 15.166"	\$495

Don't Miss Out on this Opportunity! CALL TODAY

WEBSITE ADS

Get an ad on the homepage of
CHQgazette.com
bargain rate of just

\$25 A WEEK

(full year commitment required)

Lori Cornell

Cell (716) 720-1845

Cornell@CHQgazette.com

LIKE/FOLLOW US



www.CHQgazette.com