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Community Showcase Series: Dunkirk-Fredonia

Volume 2 • Issue 39 | Week of October 13, 2025

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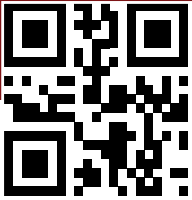
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Photo Credit: Sandra Sisler

FROM VINYL TO VINO: NORTHERN CHAUTAUQUA NEVER MISSES A BEAT

Editor-in-Chief
Katrina Fuller

Walk down the streets of Fredonia and Dunkirk and each area's engaging character is apparent. Each business, from a bustling record shop to a quiet barber's chair, adds its own rhythm to life in northern Chautauqua County. Together, they form a portrait of

a strong community that has so much to offer visitors and residents alike.

Fredonia's Heartbeat

At **Rhythm & Grooves Record Store**, located at 65 W. Main St., the air hums with nostalgia. Vinyl enthusiasts flip through crates while the latest generation of music

lovers discovers that sometimes the old ways sound the best. Customers come for the music and memories, but keep coming back for the excellent atmosphere and incredible service.

A few doors down, **Pucci's Carpet One Furniture and Bedding**, 112 W. Main St., stands as a longtime

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



Photo Credits: Sandra Sisler



WE CHOOSE CHQ

Featured Writer
Will Lively

At 37, having just finished law school and with a toddler and an infant in tow, my wife and I cast a wide net when looking for a place to raise our young boys and put down roots. I spent more than a few hours' worth of class time in my final semester combing local real estate listings and visitor guides, scouring the country for the right mix of affordable housing, cultural amenities, natural

beauty and small-town charm. We viewed homes in the Midwest from the Dakotas to a dozen small towns around Pittsburgh. We even put offers on houses in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. However, having grown up on Long Island and spending three years in the military in the North Country hamlet of Watertown, New York, Western New York, from the Finger Lakes to the Lake Erie shoreline, kept popping back to the top of our list. Still, with family who had moved south to higher temperatures and

lower taxes, I kept being warned off. You know the arguments: The snow! Well, that's basically it. When it came to Western New York, aside from those who consider seventy degrees "sweater weather" and have some mild snow trauma, I couldn't find anyone to challenge what locals know and what we have grown to love about this region. After a few months of searching, we settled on Chautauqua County and moved

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

**Live CHQ. Love CHQ.
Read CHQ.**

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This Week
Around Town

MONDAY, OCTOBER 13

October Camp (Children 4-12)
9 AM-3 PM

Audubon Community Nature Center
Jamestown
For Info: auduboncnc.org

PBS Documentary Screening:
American Creed | 7 PM

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

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14

Memory Cafe: Watercolors | 12 PM

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

**Cinema Series: Downton Abbey -
The Grand Finale | 7:30 PM**

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

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15

“Mammogrammy” Event | 9 AM-3 PM
The Chautauqua Center | Jamestown
For Info: tcchealth.org

**Business Builder Workshop | 9 AM-
10:30 AM**

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

**Movies at The Reg: Clemente
7 PM**

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

**Presentation by NASA’s Principal
Architect Lee Feinberg | 7:30 PM**

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

Copper Bracelet | 5 PM-7 PM

For Info: grapediscoverycenter.com

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16

Wine on The Trail | 5:30 PM

Healing for Heroes | Bemus
For Info: chautauquawatershed.org/
events

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17

**Movies at The Reg: Clue: The
Movie | 7 PM**

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

**Traveling Thru Time Concert
7 PM**

St. Luke’s Episcopal Church
Jamestown
For Info: stlukesjamestown.org

**The Billy Joel Tribute Experience
7:30 PM**

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

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17 &
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18

**Harvest Moon Cemetery Tours
7 PM**

The White Inn | Fredonia
For Info: festivalsfredoniany.org/
harvest-moon-festival-tours

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18

Walk to End Alzheimer’s | 9 AM

Point Gratiot Park | Dunkirk
For Info: act.alz.org/chautauqua

Yeti Dash 5K | 10 AM

Ellery Town Park | Greenhurst
For Info: chqstriders.org/event/yeti-
dash-5k

**Live at the Met: La Sonnambula
1 PM**

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

**Family Fun Halloween Party
4 PM-8 PM**

The Village Casino | Bemus Point
For Info: Village Casino Facebook Page

**Harvest Moon Festival: Spirits Pub
Crawl | 6 PM-10 PM**

Raven & Thorn | Fredonia
For Info: Rave & Thorn Facebook Page

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18
& SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19

**Fall Foliage Walks
10:30 AM & 2:30 PM**

Johnson Estate Winery | Westfield
For Info: johnsonwinery.com

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19

Mindful Birding Outing | 9:30 AM

Cassadaga Lakes Nature Park
Cassadaga
For Info: chautauquawatershed.org/
events

**“The Function of a Citizen” Speech
by Robert H. Jackson Center
President Kristan McMahon
10:30 AM**

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

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23

**A Woman Making News: Guest
Speaker Chautauqua Gazette
Owner & Publisher Lori Cornell
12 PM**

The Marvin House | Jamestown
For Info: 716-488-6206

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25

Site & Sound Moses Movie| 6 PM

East Randolph Methodist Church
Randolph
For Info: erm.church

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716-679-2302 • villageclerk@villageoffredoniany.gov
Treasurer: Erlyssa LeBeau
716-679-2314 • treasurer@villageoffredoniany.gov
Village Justice: Michael Cerrie
716-679-2312 • CDecker@nycourts.gov
Chief Inspection Officer : Charles LaBarbera
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Police Chief: Christopher Witkowski
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716-366-9835 • rwoodbury@cityofdunkirk.com
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City Attorney : Elliot Raimondo
716-366-9866 • eramondo@cityofdunkirk.com

Editorial with Lori Cornell

THANK YOU,
DUNKIRK & FREDONIA



Owner & Publisher
Lori Cornell

For years, the Chautauqua Gazette has been a proud part of Jamestown and the surrounding areas through community news, local stories, and small business highlights. As our readership and partnerships have grown, so too has our reach. We are now thrilled to deliver en masse across all of Chautauqua County, touching 36 total zip codes and reaching residents and visitors alike both in-print and online. With your help, we look forward to building upon our strong 15-year foundation toward a bright future that appreciates and unites our entire county.

This community showcase edition is extra special to me as we officially launch the Gazette into my hometown community! Beginning this week, we will add more than fifty new locations, delivering our free,

weekly community newspaper each Monday into Dunkirk and Fredonia, in addition to our existent "blue box" newsstands at Dunkirk City Hall and Fredonia Village Hall.

New readers: you will find us at all your favorite local coffee shops, restaurants, gas stations, grocers, hotels, service stations, waiting rooms, and atop many a counter of some of our most cherished small business partners. And if you see a location we are missing, let us know! We will soon publish a complete list on our website: chqgazette.com, so you'll know just where to find us each and every Monday.

We offer a huge thank you to the dedicated small businesses in Dunkirk and Fredonia that helped support our publication this week and make our expansion possible, and we invite any additional businesses or organizations to come on board with us today. We offer low advertising rates in a theme-based feature newspaper that keeps community focus at its core. We pride ourselves on original content and our diverse compilation of community events and news. We will continue working hard to grow and strengthen as a countywide asset for a long time to come.

Thank you.

CHAUTAUQUA
GAZETTE

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Featured Writer.....Pastor Nettie Puleff
Featured Writer.....Fr. Bob Owczarczak
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Featured Writer.....Lillian Pacos

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SUBMISSION DEADLINES
Thursdays at 5:00 pm

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

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

What I Love About
Dunkirk - Fredonia...

Sherri McCall: "Upper Crust is so yummy."

Judi Lutz Woods: "Community."

Mari Ellen Szwejbka: "My office view of the daily sunrises."

Jennifer Ingrao McPherson:
"The Next Chapter Bookstore in Fredonia!"

Hillary Nobbs Elleman: "Tuscany!! Great meals, salads (especially the tortellini salad), and sandwiches!"

Katrina Fuller: "Pomfret in the fall - the sweet smell of Concord on the vines."

Rita Mrowka: "Being by Lake Erie!"

Lorenzo Tarnowski: "The bike trails at Point Gratiot and the beautiful beach sunsets you can see there."

Dave Wilson: "The Chautauqua County Fair."

Amy Pease: "Mary's Deli & our fabulous summers."

Chris Piede:
"A bunch of things, but especially taking the convertible through The Point, The Pier, and The Rails. Where else can you do that??"

Laura Lynn: "Campi's!!!"

Megan Keir: "Hidden treasures, cultural gems and great local shopping in the village."

Jacob Purol: "Fredonia is the quintessential college town - more bars & restaurants within four blocks than any other spot in the county."

Gary Mrowka: "Ample pickleball courts."

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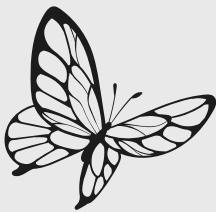
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In Loving Memory



October 4
James A. Hartson, 64
Jamestown
Falconer Funeral Home

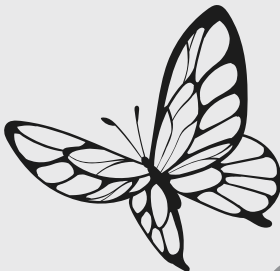
Joan L. Dickinson, 91
Falconer
Falconer Funeral Home

James Crofoot, 76
Jamestown
Lind Funeral Home

October 6
Russell Swanson, 85
Ashville
Lind Funeral Home

October 7
Rodney A. Vik, 85
Edinboro, PA & Gerry, NY
Lind Funeral Home

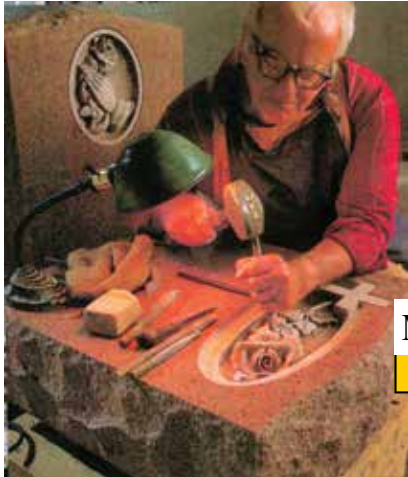
October 8
Thomas D. Johnson, 80
Lakewood
Lind Funeral Home



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Faith Matters

“COME TO ME, YOU WHO ARE WEARY”



Featured Writer
Pastor Nettie Puleff
Fredonia First Methodist Church

“Come to me, you who are weary, and I will give you rest” Matthew 11:28-30.

I don’t know about you, but the last several years have made me somewhat weary. We as a people have had a lot of hard things come our way and the things in the world can still feel quite heavy today. How can we navigate it without getting discouraged and overwhelmed? How can we find love and peace in the midst of what can feel like despair? How do we keep our hearts open to loving our neighbor as ourselves? There is a way: Jesus gave us a beautiful way!

Did you know that Jesus and his disciples lived through one of the most tumultuous and despairing times in history? People struggled financially, there was violence all around them, taxes were high, food was scarce and they lived their everyday lives under Roman oppression. How did they do it? How did they survive? They survived by living in community, with the love and assurance of the Good Shepherd, Jesus, guiding them. Not only did they make it through each day with a deeper sense of peace and less anxiety, but they also helped to make the world around them a better place to live in for one another. The loving way of Jesus, the

great love of One, changed their lives, the lives of their families and their communities. The same love of Jesus has the power to change our lives, our families and our communities today! I’ve seen the difference God’s love makes when it has a chance to work through a community and its people. It’s powerful enough to get a whole community through a hard time.

How did it work? Faith in Jesus transformed the hearts of the people, giving them a sincere heart of love for one another. Following the teachings of Jesus taught them a new way to live in peaceful community together. Living in a loving community equipped them to experience peace in a difficult world.

Jesus said, “Come to me, you who are weary and I will give you rest,” which is rest for your souls. Remember, Jesus didn’t take the disciples out of the world; Jesus gave them a new way of living in it and a way to make the world around them better. We can’t always change the bigger picture, but we can effect change in the circles that we live in. Finding a loving church community is a great place to start!

If you don’t already have a church family, here are some of the ways that The Fredonia First Methodist Church might be of help to you: “Come as you are” worship (live-streamed on Facebook too!) on Sundays at 10 a.m., Adult Study and Children’s Sunday School, Sundays at 9 a.m. Adult Study on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m., Friday Youth Group (2:30- 5 p.m.), Knitting class, Watercolor classes, Prayer Group on Tuesdays, Tai Chi Class and Senior Dining site “Dining Out Program” on Wednesdays and Fridays at noon and many everyday support services! We are a church that believes that Jesus is for ALL and ALL are welcomed.

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Wanda Clark, Longtime Assistant to Lucille Ball, Dies at 87



Wanda Lou Stamataovich Clark

Contributed by
National Comedy Center

Wanda Lou Stamataovich Clark, who worked as Lucille Ball’s trusted assistant for nearly three decades and remained a cherished member of the extended Desilu family, passed away peacefully on October 5, 2025, at her home in Langley, Oklahoma. She was 87.

Born in Arkansas and raised in Oklahoma, Wanda’s life changed course after moving to Los Angeles in the early 1960s. While working at Look magazine, she befriended Cleo Smith — cousin to Lucille Ball — who recommended her for a position at Desilu Productions. Ball hired her without an interview, beginning a 28-year partnership that lasted until Ball’s passing in 1989.

Wanda became a constant presence in Lucille Ball’s life, managing correspondence, coordinating travel and schedules, and serving as a trusted confidante throughout the production of The Lucy Show, Here’s Lucy, and other projects. She remained close to Ball’s children, Lucie Arnaz and Desi Arnaz Jr., long after their mother’s death.

A frequent and very popular special guest at the annual Lucille Ball Comedy Festival in

Jamestown for decades, Wanda delighted audiences with her warmth, humor, and firsthand stories of working alongside one of comedy’s most beloved icons.

“Wanda cared deeply about preserving my parents’ legacy — serving as a founding board member of the Lucille Ball Desi Arnaz Museum. Jamestown meant so much to her, and she loved returning for the annual comedy festival, where she shared stories, reconnected with old friends, and brought her unique perspective to those who gathered there,” stated Lucie Arnaz

“Wanda was an extraordinary link to the history we celebrate every day... Her deep affection for Jamestown reminded us that comedy’s impact – and Lucy and Desi’s enduring story – is, at its heart, about people and connection,” said Journey Gunderson, Executive Director of the National Comedy Center and Lucy Desi Museum.

After Ball’s passing, Wanda continued working in entertainment and remained devoted to preserving Lucille Ball’s legacy. She is survived by her sisters Marian Mushtare and Beverly Boultinghouse, and many nieces, nephews, and extended family.

Faith Matters

JOY



Featured Writer

Fr. Bob Owczarczak

Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Dunkirk

Last week I was approached by Lori from the Chautauqua Gazette and she asked me to write a faith based motivational piece for their paper. I was a little apprehensive about this as when I have written pieces in the past there has always been a critic who no matter what I write they find something wrong with it, so I decided to take it to prayer. When praying over what to write on in this article, I debated on the words of wisdom that I could give to motivate people to be the best version of themselves. I thought of the people of Dunkirk, and thought about all the things that would make them happy: lower taxes, a Buffalo Bills Superbowl win, a mild winter, all things that I have no control over, so what can I give? So, it came to me, I can give some advice that could bring JOY into your life. This is my advice. You can take it or leave it, but watching and observing people not only as a priest, but as a former mental health therapist these are some conclusions I have come to realize.

In order to receive joy, we first have to define what joy is. It is not just happiness, as happiness is a fleeting emotional state, but joy is a deeper state of being that endures through trials and tribulations. Joy is more of an attitude and a way of living and an internal feeling compared to happiness which is due to external events that comes and goes.

So, how does one attain joy?

One may think it is about what we have: the big house, the fancy car, eating at the expensive restaurants, exotic vacations, the list can go on. But I am here to tell you, these might bring happiness, but not joy. In order to attain true joy, one has to sacrifice. The happiest people that I know are people that sacrifice their time, talent and treasures for others. These are the people that: are going to daily mass, working at the animal shelter, feeding people at the food pantry, volunteering to teach religious education, baking a casserole for the elderly neighbor, and so much more.

Just recently my mother bought a shirt for me that reads “Can’t throw stones while washing feet.” So often in our lives we are so worried about how other people have it better (hate to admit it, but I do this too all the time). But when we wash each other’s feet and help our neighbor it is then that we realize how great we have it. Everyone has their aches and pains, everyone has their family drama and their times of desolation, but when we give our struggles and offer them to God, He walks the journey with us and gives us the strength to get through these challenges.

My brothers and sisters we are more interconnected to each other than we will ever realize. Science has shown us that we are linked with each other and what we do affects the greater world around us. In the bible, in the book of Genesis after Cain killed Abel, God asks Cain: “Where is your brother Abel? I don’t know he replied. Am I my brother keeper?” (Genesis 4:9) The answer to Cain’s question is YES! We are wired to be our brother’s keeper and we need be the change we want to see. The more we are connected to others, the more peace and joy we will feel.

So, if you are depressed and feel empty inside, wash feet, help the poor, and allow God to bring JOY into your heart.

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From Vinyl to Vino: Dunkirk and Fredonia Never Miss a Beat

Continued from Front Cover

anchor, outfitting homes with comfort and style while keeping its deep family roots in Fredonia. The well-known shop opened in 1972 as Pucci's World of Carpet and later expanded to offer furniture, leading to the name change. The store covers a plethora of home needs, including living room, bedroom, dining room and office furniture, as well as mattresses and home decor items.

Visitors to Fredonia don't have to go far to find good eats and good times. **Raven & Thorn**, located at 26 Water St., this classy new pub serving wine, beer, cocktails and food, offers a variety of fun events and happenings, such as a Dark Romance Book Club and E.A. Poe specials on Thursdays. The **Angry Squirrel**, located at 36 W. Main St., has been featured on America's Best Restaurants for their creative offerings, but most importantly, their fried chicken. The inventive eatery offers patrons various choices to build their own sandwich, wrap, salad or poutine creation with fried chicken, grilled chicken, gluten-free fried cauliflower, or hand-breaded fried shrimp and more. Pop down a few doors at 40 W. Main St. to exchange your gold, silver and jewelry at one of Chautauqua County's most reputable buyers, **Great Lakes Gold & Silver**. Also downtown at 30 Water St., **Taqueria Mexicana** serves up authentic flavor with a side of warmth. Visitors' taste buds are wowed by the authentic cuisine. The menu includes favorites like tacos, enchiladas and burritos.

Tuscany Market & Deli, located at 450 E. Main Road, is a north county classic, offering old-world flavors with hometown hospitality. The locally owned Italian deli and specialty grocer is a veritable smorgasbord of homemade specialties, delectable subs and sandwiches, as well as fresh produce, Italian imports and more. A visit to Tuscany Market & Deli is sure to be a hit, whether to stock up the cupboards or grab a bite to eat.

Fredonia is also home to businesses that keep life moving and connected. **DFT Communications**, located at 38-40 Temple St., has linked residents to the wider world for years. DFT Communications offers a variety of business and residential services, including internet, voice and network capabilities. **Can Kings**, is a family-owned and operated redemption center. Located at 112-114 E. Main Road, the full-service center accepts all NYS 5-cent deposit glass, plastic and aluminum beverage containers. The center recently celebrated its 10-year anniversary in September and is proud to continue offering its services to the public.

Mancuso Service Center, located at 242 E. Main Road, is an auto repair facility that offers a variety of auto services such as car washes, detailing, auto repair, towing and gasoline. This one-stop shop has been in business for more than 70 years, and is proud to offer the same excellent, hometown service.

Tommy's Barber Shop, located at

25 Water St., offers not just a trim but a welcoming atmosphere. It's a place where time pauses, where fathers and sons, students and old-timers alike, trade stories in the chair and walk out sharper and lighter. The shop, with its striped pole and retro storefront, aids in the nostalgia, continues a tradition each day that feels less like business and more like home.

Dunkirk's Shoreline

Down by the lake, Dunkirk's businesses shine with their own character. Built on a proud tradition, **Deborah Ferrer Design Studio**, 423 Central Ave., comes with 24 years of experience and follows a prestigious line of Dunkirk small business owners. Her great-grandfather ran MJ Panowicz Grocery on Lakeshore Drive from 1921-1959 and her great, great Uncle Alan Panowicz was a custom home builder during that same time period. Contact Deb for creative solutions to your next custom interior.

Central Station Restaurant, 332 Central Ave., hums with conversation over plates that taste like comfort itself; while Ginger Pokoj has been synonymous with Dunkirk deli deliciousness for decades now. She now operates **Lil' Gingers** out of downtown Dunkirk, conveniently located just one block up from the Lake Erie waterfront. A shopping trip at **A2Z Custom Signs & Apparel**, 61-63 Lakeshore Dr. W., is a dream come true for any Buffalo Bills fan. You'll be right at home with the Mafia as you peruse their aisles and aisles of fan swag of every shape and size.

Just a short distance away, the **Dunkirk Antique Co-op**, located at 212 Lake Shore Drive E., invites treasure hunters to lose themselves among artifacts, each with a story to tell. Just up the road, **Main Wine & Spirits**, 159 E. Fourth St., provides the perfect pairings for a celebration or a quiet evening at home.

Meanwhile, **Tier One Tire**, located at 10798 Bennett Road, and **Zambotti Collision**, 10810 Bennett Road, carry forward the tradition of service and hard work that keeps vehicles and their owners rolling forward. The **Shults Resale Center of Dunkirk**, 3979 Vineyard Drive, offers reliable vehicles with a smile.

A Shared Spirit

Together, the shops and services of Fredonia and Dunkirk, rooted in tradition and brimming with individuality, remind us why this area is close to the hearts of Chautauqua County residents. They are more than businesses; they are gathering places, livelihoods and testaments to a community that endures and evolves with pride.

As autumn colors start to fade with the promise of winter chill, the lights of Main Street and Central Avenue shine on. They tell us what every local knows: Fredonia and Dunkirk are not just pinpoints on a map, but enriching, vibrant communities filled with people who care, create and share their skills and passions with the world.

EMBRACE FREDONIA



Contributed by Embrace Fredonia

Embrace Fredonia is a volunteer-driven community organization dedicated to enhancing the beauty, pride and vibrancy of the Village of Fredonia. Founded with the belief that small acts of care can create lasting impact, Embrace Fredonia focuses on projects that bring people together to improve shared spaces, celebrate local identity and foster civic pride. From seasonal plantings and decorative displays to downtown beautification efforts, the organization's work reflects the heart and character of the community it serves.

Founded in 2023, Embrace Fredonia leads a variety of initiatives designed to make Fredonia more welcoming and visually appealing. Volunteers come together each spring for Community Planting Day, brightening downtown with flowers and greenery that last through the summer. The group also decorates the village for the holidays, purchasing lights for the trees along Main Street and adding festive touches

that bring warmth and charm to the winter season. In addition, Embrace Fredonia has purchased new banners for the village's light poles—both for spring and summer, and for the holiday season—creating a consistent, colorful look that celebrates Fredonia year-round.

To help fund these ongoing efforts, Embrace Fredonia hosts a variety of creative and community-oriented events, including Holiday Trivia Night, Alleyway Bingo, Trivia Bar Crawl and its popular Designer Purse Bingo. These fundraisers not only support beautification projects but also bring neighbors together in the same spirit of fun and connection that defines the organization's mission.

Embrace Fredonia is more than a beautification group—it's a movement built on hometown pride, volunteerism, and the belief that when a community works together, it can transform its surroundings and uplift everyone who calls it home. To learn more, get involved or make a donation, visit www.embracefredonia.com or follow Embrace Fredonia on Facebook.



Deborah Ferrer

DESIGN STUDIO

- Lifelong resident of Dunkirk / Fredonia
- Dunkirk High School Graduate
- Villa Maria Graduate with High Honors - Major: Interior Design
- 24+ years industry experience
- 16+ years specifically designing kitchens and bathrooms
- Advocate for revitalizing Downtown Dunkirk

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Trivia

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2. It's fiesta time with tasty taco treats at this premier ethnic restaurant?
3. Proudly featuring local wines and a sophisticated flair for upscale fun, this new bar/restaurant in downtown Fredonia is where it's at.
4. "Proudly connecting the community since 1898."
5. This "King" helps you do your part to recycle with two convenient locations in Fredonia and Irving.
6. Northern Chautauqua's longest serving, locally owned liquor store still offering a large selection at the lowest price.
7. What carpet/furniture/flooring company is now in its third generation of trusted ownership in Fredonia?
8. Take a trip down Route 60 for your complete tire service with this expert Dunkirk professional.
9. Whether you're having breakfast or lunch, this Central Avenue classic is a beloved Dunkirk staple.
10. Think "orange" and superior, full-service auto body and collision repair on Route 60.
11. Question for our south county friends: Arguably the "Brigiotta's" counterpart of the north county?
12. Hailing from Dunkirk's First Ward with precious commodities and historic treasures.
13. The longtime Fredonia go-to for your old-fashioned/new-age gentleman's cut.
14. This family-owned automotive business has been on Main Street for decades and now boasts a car wash too.
15. A "fine" choice for your next automotive purchase at a great price with friendly service.
16. This animal is angry, but the eats at this downtown Fredonia grill are not.
17. This Dunkirk native is as committed to downtown development as she is your home design.
18. Chautauqua County's largest shopping destination for Buffalo Bills' swag.
19. Known for decades in Dunkirk for her famous deli delights and convenience locations.
20. The shop has been keeping Chuck Cornell's ancient car alive on the D&F line for years.
21. Where can you take advantage of this year's unusually high silver exchange rates in downtown Fredonia?

1. Rhythm and Grooves Record Store 2. Taqueria Mexicana 3. Raven & Thorn 4. DFT Communications 5. Can Kings 6. Main Wine & Spirits 7. Pucci's Carpet One 8. Tier One Tire 9. Central Station 10. Zambotti Collision 11. Tuscany Market & Deli 12. Dunkirk Antique Co-op 13. Tommy's Barber Shop 14. Mancuso's Automotive Center 15. Shultz's Resale Dunkirk 16. Angry Squirrel 17. Deborah Ferrer Design Studio 18. A2Z 19. Lil' Gingers Deli 20. D&F Complete Auto Care 21. Great Lakes Gold & Silver



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SUNY FREDONIA STUDENTS GAIN OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH PUBLIC SERVICE

Contributed by
SUNY Fredonia

Students are enhancing their State University of New York at Fredonia education through Empire State Service Corps paid public service opportunities.

They are a part of a SUNY-wide cohort of some 500 students across 43 campuses who are participating in these experiences, performing at least 300 hours a year in community service in 2025-2026. They also collaborate and learn from each other's experiences.

"So far, they really like the experience. Most of what the Empire State Service Corps program offers is a way for students to engage in community service activities, while enhancing leadership skills," said Deborah Dibble, a program site supervisor and director of Student Health at the Health Center.

"What I am excited about is that it provides our students with a meaningful opportunity for community service, so they get a real-life experience that any internship opportunities will provide," added David M. White, director of the Office of Multicultural Support Services and also a site supervisor.

Students are interviewed and hired based on qualifications and availability. Accepted students serve up to 10 hours per week at either an on-campus or community-based host site.

Evan Wolitzer, Meghan Kruszka and Molly Bowers have been assigned to Freddy's Locker, the campus food pantry in the Williams Center that addresses student food insecurity by offering food, toiletries and other essential items. Keeping track of orders, bagging items and ensuring that food is kept at the proper temperature are among their primary duties, according to all three students.

A key takeaway from the experience for Mr. Wolitzer, a sophomore Music Education major from Stony Point, NY, is recognizing that students experiencing food insecurity deserve compassion, not pity.

"Treating every client with dignity

reinforces their worth and builds trust. Another takeaway is realizing just how many people are food insecure and need pantries such as Freddy's Locker to have basic food sources," Wolitzer said.

Moreover, working at a food pantry cultivates empathy, adaptability and a deep understanding of social challenges and skills that are invaluable in any career involving people, leadership or service.

"It also sharpens your ability to communicate clearly, manage resources efficiently, and respond to real-world needs with compassion and strategy," Wolitzer added.

"Being kind and willing to help others" is a key takeaway that Ms. Kruszka, a junior Criminal Justice major from Hamburg, NY, has discovered from pantry service. Some students pick up food at the pantry because they cannot afford the high prices of food, she said.

"I can use this skill in my future career, gaining the skill of being more understanding and thoughtful of what others are going through," Kruszka added.

For Ms. Bowers, being open to new experiences and challenges has been a key takeaway. She's also developed soft skills, such as communication, flexibility and attention to detail.

"At Freddy's Locker, I have learned to be flexible, especially if we unexpectedly run out of an item in someone's order, we can always work to help someone find something else they would want," said Bowers, a first-year student majoring in Biology with a minor in Visual Arts, from Gowanda, NY.

There are currently 11 SUNY Fredonia students enrolled in the program, now in its second year. Assigned locations also include the Veterans Affairs office, Office of Multicultural Affairs, the Counseling Center and Thrift Room.

The Empire State Service Corp program encompasses nine categories: civic engagement/civil discourse, early childhood, FAFSA completion, food insecurity and SNAP basic needs, K-12 education, peer mental health, student success coaching, sustainability and veterans affairs outreach.



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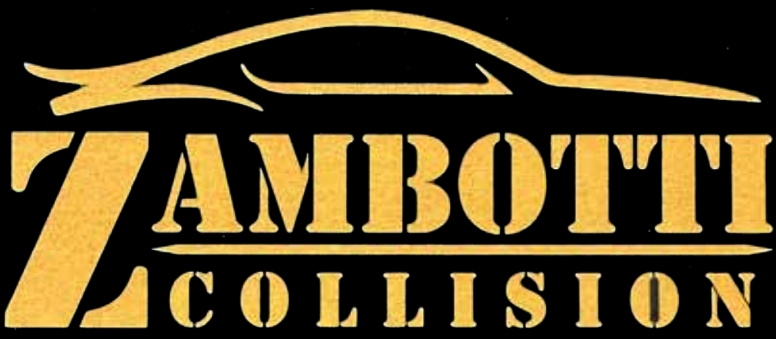
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Festivals Fredonia: Celebrating Community All Year Long

Contributed by
Festivals Fredonia

Nestled in the heart of Western New York's vibrant village of Fredonia, Festivals Fredonia, Inc. has long been dedicated to enriching the region's cultural life through seasonal celebrations and special events. As a nonprofit, volunteer-driven organization, its mission is simple yet powerful: to foster community pride, support local businesses and artisans, and celebrate the unique heritage and spirit of Fredonia all year round.

A Mission Rooted in Community

Since its founding, Festivals Fredonia has strived to bring residents and visitors together by hosting events that spotlight local traditions, encourage economic growth, and create lasting memories. The organization's vision is to ensure that Fredonia remains a lively, welcoming destination where arts, culture, and community flourish.

"Festivals Fredonia exists to build connections — between neighbors, families, and visitors," says Larry Fiorella, President and Chairman of the Board of Directors. "Our events are designed to inspire joy, highlight local talent, and make Fredonia a place people are proud to call home."

Signature Year-Round Events

While many people associate Festivals Fredonia with summer and fall time celebrations, the organization's calendar spans all four seasons, featuring beloved traditions and new attractions that keep the community engaged throughout the year:

- **Fredonia Easter Festival** (March/April) – A lighthearted event providing a family fun event welcoming spring and showcasing some of our local craft vendors as well as seeing Peter Cottontail



- **Festival Italia** aka Fredonia Italian Heritage Festival (June) – Summer kick-off family fun event celebrating the community and region's rich Italian heritage, history and cuisine, while showcasing some of our local craft and wine vendors,



- **Red, White & Blues Festival**

(September) – A signature Fall tradition featuring vendors, artisans,



food trucks, blues music entertainment throughout the village, and celebrates the Fredonia region's grape and wine heritage agricultural roots.

- **Harvest Moon Cemetery Tours**

(October) – A seasonal showcase to celebrate the history of the Village of Fredonia through cemetery tours and historical programming; to celebrate Halloween and the fall season; and to provide thematic, seasonal, cultural enrichment for the community.

- **Miracle on Main Street** (December)

– A festive holiday event that brings the village to life with lights, seasonal treats, music, and visits from Sant



(Event line-up may vary each year based on community needs, resources, and volunteer participation.)

Beyond the Festivals

Festivals Fredonia doesn't just host events — it also supports local businesses, provides opportunities for artists and makers, and collaborates with other organizations to boost Fredonia's appeal as a destination. By reinvesting event proceeds into future programs and maintaining low-cost or free admission for most activities, the organization ensures that the entire community benefits.

Looking Ahead

As Festivals Fredonia continues its mission, it welcomes volunteers, sponsors, and community partners to help keep these beloved traditions alive and thriving. With every celebration, the organization strengthens the ties that make Fredonia unique — a small village with a big heart for festivities.

For more information about upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, or sponsorships, visit www.festivalsfredoniany.org, email at festivalsfredoniany@gmail.com or follow on social media at <https://www.facebook.com/FestivalsFredoniaOfficial>, <https://www.instagram.com/festivalsfredonia/> and <https://x.com/FredoniaFest>

We Choose CHQ

Continued from Front Cover

our family to a rental overlooking Lake Erie within the neighboring communities of Dunkirk and Fredonia, intending to buy as we got to know the area.

With the entire nation in our field of view, why did we choose this small, relatively unknown community? What do I tell those for whom “the city” means only one thing and “Upstate” is south of the Catskills? Well, honestly, I’d rather not tell them anything until we buy! The wine country, the nightly spectacle of sunsets over the lake, the communities geared towards families and the cultural amenities throughout Chautauqua County are all within the same travel time as my former commute to work. We have found more to love than even we expected as we narrowed our list of towns.

We arrived in late summer in time to enjoy the Dunkirk wharf and boardwalk. We were surprised and delighted with the cuisine we discovered on the boardwalk and off. We searched for preschools and found the excellent Northern Chautauqua Catholic School, where Principal Paul Pinto offered a personal tour of the town and made himself available by cell as we settled into the area.

In Fredonia, we enjoyed events in Barker Commons, took our son to his first ice skating lessons at the SUNY Fredonia rink and played and learned with other children at the very active homeschool group run by two local mothers. We’ve been to harvest festivals, concerts, plays and readings at the public library.

In truth, between Dunkirk and Fredonia, we’ve had little need to go to Buffalo outside of ferrying visiting family members to the airport. A trend has emerged as they come, skeptically, and leave enamored with this municipal pair. Our Oregonian relatives were shocked as they viewed pictures from last year’s steelhead run and learned that world-class fishing extended from the lake to inland creeks and streams. Used to towns hours apart out west, they marveled at the quaint and quirky villages that



The Lively Son

popped up every fifteen minutes between vineyards, farmstands and parks. Our Southern relatives showed up in late September, packed for frigid weather, and ended up swimming in Lake Erie with our son into October.

After months of indecision and worry, we’ve been nothing but happy with our choice of home and community. Reading this, I can’t help but reflect on how much of it focuses on our son and the community of friends and activities this area offers him and his little brother. Even our one-day trip to Buffalo was family-oriented, watching him as he got over his shyness and danced away in the children’s foam rave at the Buffalo Museum of Science’s annual Bubble Fest.

We’ve yet to meet a local who wasn’t friendly, welcoming and helpful. We moved into a home with a three-page list of neighborhood parks and amenities, and we have a landlord to whom we send pictures of the home decorated for Halloween. Though we may just be incredibly lucky, even visiting family members remark on how friendly everyone is.

Yes, ominously, winter is coming, but having lived in several different states, I can say that there is a word for that: seasons. The region has them, all four, and the community has events and activities for each. To family members who have moved south, we understand, and there is always a place next to our fireplace for you when you begin to miss those snowy winters you’ve traded for palm tree Christmases.



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Jackson Center President Speaks on “The Function of a Citizen” This Sunday

Robert H. Jackson Center President Kristan McMahon will describe “The Function of a Citizen” when she speaks at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Jamestown this Sunday, October 19 at 10:30 a.m. McMahon says, “Each of us has a role to play to make and keep our community strong and vibrant. Robert H. Jackson believed strongly in civic engagement, community participation, and accountability – to ourselves and our neighbors.” McMahon received her Juris Doctor from The Catholic University of America and her Bachelor of Arts degrees in Journalism/Mass Communication and Political Science from St. Bonaventure University. She serves as a Trustee, Chair of the Audit & Compliance Committee, and Vice Chair of the Student Success Committee for St. Bonaventure and as Board Secretary for Youth For Understanding, a student exchange nonprofit. In April 2019 she became president of the organization that advances the legacy of the Jamestown attorney who became Attorney General, Supreme Court Justice, and Chief U.S. Prosecutor at the post-World War II Nuremberg Trials. All are welcome at 1255 Prendergast Avenue, Jamestown, N.Y. To participate virtually, use the link at UUJamestown.org/calendar



Submitted Photo

Zonta Club of Jamestown Joins 28th Annual Walk Against Domestic Violence



Submitted Photo

Pictured L to R: Michelle Tambascio, Sherry Osborne, Kathy Stedman, Deb Piotrowski, Sarah Goebel, Wendy Burns, Mary Rappole, and Cheryl Grey

Contributed by Zonta Club of Jamestown

Members of the Zonta Club of Jamestown joined community organizations, advocates, and local residents in the 28th Annual Walk Against Domestic Violence, hosted by the Chautauqua County Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. The event, starting at Jamestown City Hall and ending at Baker Park, raised awareness and promoted action to end domestic violence and support survivors across Chautauqua County.

The walk serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of standing together as a community to speak out against abuse and support those affected by violence. Participants carried signs, wore

purple—the color symbolizing domestic violence awareness—and walked in solidarity to honor survivors and remember those lost to domestic violence.

The Zonta Club of Jamestown is committed to building a world where women and girls can live free from violence. By joining this walk, the club reaffirms its dedication to advocacy, education, and community partnerships that help break the cycle of abuse.

For more information about the Zonta Club of Jamestown and its mission to build a better world for women and girls, go to www.zontajamestown.org or like their Facebook page, Zonta Club of Jamestown.

A Woman Making News: Marvin House October Luncheon to Feature Chautauqua Gazette Publisher Lori Cornell

Contributed by
Marvin House

The Marvin House will welcome Chautauqua Gazette owner and publisher Lori Cornell as guest speaker for its October Luncheon on Thursday, October 23, at noon. The event, themed “A Woman Making News,” invites members and guests alike to enjoy an afternoon of conversation, community, and a delicious fall-inspired meal.

Cornell brings more than 25 years of experience in public service, marketing, and communications to her leadership role at the Gazette. A Dunkirk native, she began her career in Washington, D.C., and has since served as both an elected official and in several appointed positions at the city, county, and state levels. She holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of Notre Dame and a master’s in Strategic Leadership from St. Bonaventure University’s School of Business. Cornell now lives in Bemus Point with her husband, Chuck, and their four sons, Benjamin, Nathaniel, Zachary, and Nicholas.

The luncheon will also feature catering by Allison Evans, the new owner of Studio D Catering. Evans, a longtime employee of former owner Diana Scott, continues the beloved local business’s legacy with her own creative touch.

The menu includes slow-cooked beef short ribs over mashed potatoes, a fall salad, and berry parfait, along with coffee and tea. Guests are asked to share any dietary restrictions in advance.

Reservations are required by October 21 and can be made by calling 716-488-6206 or emailing marvinhouse@marvinhouse.com. The cost is \$21 for members and \$25 for guests. Cancellations after October 21 will be charged. Venmo and credit card payments are accepted at check-in.

The Marvin House Luncheon Series is open to the public, and organizers encourage the community to join in celebrating local women making a difference.

UPCOMING MOVIES AT THE REG INCLUDE:

- **Clemente** (documentary about the legendary Pittsburgh Pirate and humanitarian) October 15 at 7 p.m.
- **Clue: The Movie** (40th anniversary of the 1985 murder-mystery/comedy) October 17 at 7 p.m.
- **The Conjuring: Last Rites** (supernatural horror film) October 22 at 7 p.m.
- **The Long Walk** (Stephen King's dystopian thriller) October 29 at 7 p.m.
- **The Rocky Horror Picture Show** (50th anniversary audience-participation showing of the 1975 cult classic musical) October 31 at 10 p.m.



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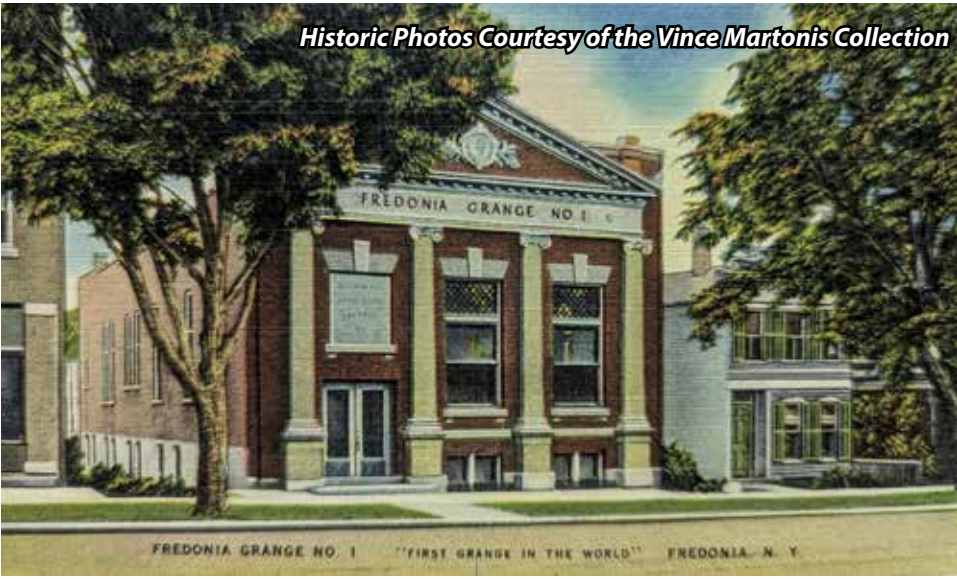
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Dunkirk High School 1908



Fredonia Grange 1925

Two Dates in Dunkirk

Featured Writer

Diane Andrasik

Dunkirk City Historian

What can a City Historian contribute to our progress as a city? Of great importance is our greater understanding of what elements in our city have worked in the past. To know what these are, I have been thinking of two dates in Dunkirk history.

One date occurred in 1805, a day in February 220 years ago. Seth Cole, his wife Celia and their nine children arrived on the shore of Dunkirk near Canadaway Creek by ox-drawn sleigh, having crossed the distance from Buffalo to the creek over the frozen Lake Erie. They came to a land occupied only by the native Americans and for better and for worse they stayed. They are considered Dunkirk's first settlers. There was nothing here—not a village, not a store, not a house. Not even a road. Shortly after arriving, Celia gave birth to their tenth child. Within 5 years Seth would be dead, leaving Celia to raise their 10 children alone. But they had helped start a community at the edge of the lake, knowing nothing of the future of the area, nor their own future in it. Individual effort would be paramount, but from every “nothing” they faced, they and other newcomers found a way to build something. We, too, must build.

A mere forty six years after Seth's arrival there would be a vastly different kind of arrival. The date was May 15, 1851, possibly the most crucial turning point



Diane Andrasik served 34 years as a teacher in her Dunkirk School System, as well as 34 years instructing photo classiest Chautauqua Institution. She currently serves as City Historian for Dunkirk. She has written two books on Dunkirk's history, "Dunkirk," published by Arcadia Publishing, and Dunkirk, Then and Now: Three Critical Streets. for the Dunkirk Historical Museum, where she served as president for 9 years and currently as volunteer.

in Dunkirk's history, but one which most Dunkirk residents have long forgotten. The people in charge of our community at the time knew how important that date was, including Walter Smith, a man of great consequence as he was the one person most responsible for Dunkirk becoming the terminus of the New York and Erie Railroad, a 4 mile stretch of rail from Piermont, NY, to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19

From Canadaway Creek to College Town

Featured Writer

Lillian Pacos

Town of Pomfret Historian

This feature was compiled using historical records, local government archives, writings of Dr. Douglas Shepard and SUNY Fredonia resources. For more local history, visit the Darwin R. Barker Historical Museum in Fredonia or reach out to the Town historian at historian@townofpomfretny.gov

POMFRET & FREDONIA, NY — Nestled amid the vineyards, creeks, and rolling hills of Western New York, the Town of Pomfret and its village jewel, Fredonia, tell a story of pioneers, innovation and education. From a frontier outpost to a thriving college town, this corner of Chautauqua County has long been a place where progress meets tradition.

Long before settlers arrived, the area was known to the Seneca people as Ganadawao—"among the hemlocks." When early surveyors mapped the region, they called it Canadaway. It was along Canadaway Creek that the first European settlers built homes, drawn by fertile soil and abundant water.

The first contract for land in Pomfret was recorded in 1803 for Thomas McClintock. Early settlers David Eason, Low Miniger, and McClintock soon sold their holdings to newcomers such as Zattu Cushing and Hezekiah Barker.



Originally from Williamsville, New York, Lillian Pacos came to SUNY Fredonia to pursue her studies in biology—and quickly fell in love with the area. After earning both a B.S. and an M.S. in Biology, she spent a year living in Cleveland, Ohio, before returning to Fredonia with her husband, a Fredonia native. The couple recently welcomed a baby boy into their lives this summer. Lily is proud to now serve as the Town of Pomfret Historian, bringing a scientist's curiosity and a deep appreciation for local heritage to the role.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19



Masonic Temple 1906



Fountain with post office in background 1906



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Dunkirk Bank 1906



Historic Photos Courtesy of the Vince Martonis Collection

Russo Building 1920

Two Dates

Continued from page 17

Dunkirk, that would make it the longest trunk line in the world. High ranking officials and businessmen had fought to make Dunkirk the terminus and they persuaded others to agree that the city deserved that day, and as a group they each contributed their part to put together all the components needed to make that day a reality. The Erie Railroad had begun building its railroad westward from Piermont, and in 1838, the eastbound section of track began from Dunkirk. The first train arrived that day, the 13 car train arriving in Dunkirk where a large celebration had been arranged. On the train came dignitaries of all levels of government, federal and state. President Fillmore was on the train along with most of his cabinet, military leaders and more. The governor of New York, Washington Hunt, was there. Benjamin Loder, president of the railroad was there. In fact 15,000 people from in and out of the county were there that day, a remarkable number considering difficulty traveling then.

It all marked a turning point for Dunkirk, which was probably until then destined to remain a fishing village, its then simple dock allowing for ships to stop as they traveled further west from the Buffalo area. Canon Leslie Chard, a City Historian noted in his book “Out of the Wilderness” that once the party was over, “Now it was time to go to work.” In time, five railroad lines would pass through Dunkirk . In time thousands of people would pass through the city staying a day or more, some settling in the village, helping it to grow and expand. Many of them were immigrants put on the train in New York City to get them away from

a thronging overcrowded city. Irish, and then Germans, then the Polish, and finally the Italians all came, finding their own role of the city. So in the time between 1850 and 1860, Dunkirk’s population would grow from 2980 to 4000. In time it would be over 19,000. In time industry would grow. In time. All due to that event on that date in our history.

We don’t study our own history enough, so we fail to recognize not just what the next important date might be but how to create circumstance that will cause that date to occur. In these 220 years of our presence on Lake Erie our city has faced elation and despair—and so I remind them so we can once recognize our duty to make another turning point occur. As present elements create a catalyst for more growth, city, county, and state leaders are now working to create another day in the city’s history. City officials, the Planning and Development officials, the Dunkirk Economic Development office, Chautauqua County Partnership for Economic Growth (CCPEG), the Chautauqua County Department of Planning and Development, businessmen and grant writers and leaders in development need inspiration and support and cooperation. Any aspect of progress must be supported.

In Dunkirk’s City Hall a panting hangs on the wall of the meeting room. William Burt painted it. It depicts that moment in Dunkirk history when a 13 car train carrying the president of the United States arrived in Dunkirk, a village of little consequence .

Now it is time to work.

From Canadaway Creek to College Town

Continued from page 17

Cushing, a man of energy and vision, arrived from Massachusetts around 1805. He became Pomfret’s first permanent settler and later the first judge of Chautauqua County—a pillar of the region’s civic life.

Pomfret itself was officially established in 1808, carved from the larger Town of Chautauqua. The first town meeting that year elected Philo Orton as supervisor and confirmed Cushing among its early leaders. As more settlers arrived, Pomfret expanded—eventually giving rise to towns like Ellicott (1812), Arkwright (1830), and Dunkirk (1859). Yet Pomfret remained the heart from which the region’s growth began.

The settlement that would become Fredonia began around 1803–1804. For its first decade, it was known as Canadaway, but in 1817, the community adopted a new name: Fredonia. The term was coined by U.S. Senator and scholar Dr. Samuel Latham Mitchill, who combined “freedom” with the Latin suffix “-onia.” While Mitchill once proposed “Fredonia” as a name for the entire United States, it found its home here instead. Fredonia was officially incorporated on May 2, 1829. By then, the village had already made its mark on history.

Along Canadaway Creek in 1821, settlers discovered natural gas seeping from the ground. William A. Hart, described as a practical and energetic man, gets the credit for drilling that

first well and establishing Fredonia’s claim as the first community to be lighted by natural gas. By 1825, gas lamps illuminated shops and homes—making Fredonia one of the first communities in the nation to use natural gas for lighting. That discovery led to the founding of the Fredonia Gas Light Company in 1858—the first natural gas company in the United States.

Among Fredonia’s notable 19th-century citizens was Elijah Risley Jr, a visionary farmer, merchant, and public servant whose work left a lasting mark on the region.

Born in 1787, Risley moved to Fredonia as a young man and quickly became known for his entrepreneurial spirit. He established the Risley Seed Gardens, which grew into one of the nation’s earliest and most respected seed companies. His operation introduced scientific methods to agriculture, producing and distributing quality vegetable and flower seeds long before commercial seed houses became common.

Beyond his agricultural achievements, Risley served as sheriff of Chautauqua County, postmaster of Fredonia, and later as a U.S. Congressman (1849–1851). His leadership reflected the industrious character of early Fredonia—combining business acumen with civic duty. The legacy of Risley’s enterprise lives on in the town’s

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20



Hotel Francis 1935



Columbia Hotel 1908

From Canadaway Creek to College Town

Continued from page 19

ongoing connection to agriculture, innovation, and self-reliance—values that continue to shape Pomfret and Fredonia today.

Fredonia’s ambition extended far beyond agriculture and energy. In 1824, local leaders founded the Fredonia Academy, the first institution of higher learning in Chautauqua County. It opened in 1826, welcoming students from across Western New York.

With the support of Governor Reuben E. Fenton, the Academy became one of New York’s first State Normal Schools in 1867—a teacher training institution under Principal

Joseph A. Allen. That same school evolved into the State University of New York at Fredonia (SUNY Fredonia), a vibrant campus known for education, music and the arts.

Fredonia also became a hub for reform. In 1868, it organized the first Grange chapter in the nation, promoting agricultural cooperation which is still operational. Around the same time, local activists helped establish early chapters of the Woman’s Christian Temperance Union (WCTU), marking Fredonia’s leadership in social progress.

Reform was not a new concept for this area. During the mid-19th century, Fredonia and Pomfret quietly served as stops on the Underground Railroad, offering shelter and passage to freedom seekers escaping slavery through Western New York.

Local abolitionists—including educators, ministers, and merchants—provided safe houses and coordinated routes leading north toward Lake Erie and Canada. Though secrecy kept many names unrecorded, oral histories and church archives suggest that homes near Canadaway Creek and along Main Street played key roles

in these efforts.

At the heart of the village stands the Fredonia Commons, a green square originally laid out by Revolutionary War veteran Hezekiah Barker, who donated land for public use. The Commons became the center for markets, parades and civic gatherings—and remains so today. Its surrounding 19th-century buildings form the Fredonia Commons Historic District, preserving the charm and craftsmanship of the early village.

Meanwhile, Pomfret’s countryside thrived with vineyards and farms nourished by the Lake Erie climate. The tradition continues today through local wineries and agricultural innovation—a legacy seeded by early figures like Risley and nurtured by generations since.

Today, Fredonia remains the only incorporated village within Pomfret’s borders. Together they form a community of about 13,000 residents, where vineyards meet lecture halls and heritage meets innovation.

SUNY Fredonia continues the mission that began two centuries ago at the Academy. The Darwin R. Barker Historical Museum preserves local stories, while annual festivals and markets on the Commons celebrate the enduring spirit of this historic town. From its early pioneers to modern scholars, Pomfret and Fredonia stand as living examples of New York’s frontier determination and shared pride.

This feature was compiled using historical records, local government archives, writings of Dr. Douglas Shepard and SUNY Fredonia resources. For more local history, visit the Darwin R. Barker Historical Museum in Fredonia or reach out to the Town historian at historian@townofpomfretny.gov



Submitted Photo

The theater of the Robert H. Jackson Center in Jamestown was briefly turned into courtroom of the US District Court of Western New York Thursday morning as The Honorable Mark Pedersen presided over a naturalization ceremony for 56 new American citizens who have come from 21 different countries; as close as Canada and distant as Malaysia.

Judge Pedersen heard a motion from an officer of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services announcing each of the candidates are eligible and ready to take the oath of citizenship. “I gleefully accept the motion,” said Judge Pedersen.

After the Clerk of the Court read administered the oath, one of the new citizens led the Pledge of Allegiance, and each were called to accept their official citizenship certificate.

Jackson Center President, Kristan McMahon, says this is the third naturalization ceremony to be held at the Center, whose mission is to advance U.S. Supreme Court Justice Robert H. Jackson’s vision of a global society where the universal principles of equality, fairness, and justice prevail.

“For me it is one of the most visible, and certainly most joyous, ways to live our mission and showcase how Jackson’s legacy of civic engagement shows up in the world today,” she said.



Jamestown Harmony Express Presents its 39th Annual Show

“Music for America”

Saturday, October 25, 2025, at 7:00 PM

Robert H. Jackson Theater,
305 E. Fourth Street, Jamestown, NY.

Join us for a musical journey across the United States as we celebrate the beauty and spirit of our nation through song. The evening will also feature raffles with items generously donated by local businesses and community members.

Presale tickets are \$15 each or 2 for \$25, or \$20 at the door.

Proceeds from this concert will help support the group’s upcoming performance in Washington, D.C., on July 4, 2026, where Jamestown Harmony Express has been invited to represent Jamestown and Western New York by singing the National Anthem to open the nation’s 250th anniversary parade.

Following the concert, guests are invited to an Afterglow Party at the First Presbyterian Church on Prendergast Street, featuring food, refreshments, fellowship, and more music.

For more information, contact Ned Langham
nedlangham@hotmail.com



Fountain 1906



Dunkirk Festivals & Special Events: Celebrating The Little City on the Lake

*Contributed by
City of Dunkirk*

Situated on the southeastern shore of breath-taking Lake Erie, the waterfront city of Dunkirk, NY, has embodied a sense of community and hometown pride since its inception in 1880. With Dunkirk Marauders as its school's motto, the city has a strong focus on its residents, tourism, waterfront parks, marinas and businesses both large and small.

Who We Are

Dunkirk Festivals & Special Events, a 501c3 not-for-profit program of the Dunkirk Local Development Corporation (DLDC), is dedicated to its mission of fostering community spirit and pride by creating memorable and fun events for the residents and visitors of Dunkirk. These events enhance quality of life, showcase local attractions, support businesses and bring people together through shared experiences, music, food and family-friendly activities.

2025 - 2026 Events at a Glance

Dunkirk's tightknit community is evident in their dedicated support and attendance at several year-round events (open to the public) that have been a staple in the Dunkirk area for several years. A special shout out to all of our valued local sponsors and city departments who support Dunkirk's events year after year to make Dunkirk shine. Other smaller events will be added to the jammed-packed schedule and announced soon, but here's a summary of their reoccurring ones:

- **Christmas on Central Holiday Spectacular & Parade (Saturday, December 6)** – A kickoff to the holiday season, this indoor and outdoor strolling event held in downtown Dunkirk consists of over 75 craft, gift and food vendors, Santa and Mrs. Claus, Rudolph, horse-drawn carriage rides, live music, family events, holiday dancers and more. It culminates with the annual tree lighting and the Dunkirk Holiday Parade with floats, bands and community vehicles.
- **Memorial Day Parade (Monday, May 25)** – A historical and iconic event honoring our fallen heroes that celebrates being an American and cherishes all that our flying flag represents.
- **Dunkirk Walleye Festival (Friday through Sunday, June 5 - 7)** – Three-day fishing event that highlights the best walleye fishing in the county with the Primitive Patriot Outdoors' 6th Annual WNY Walleye Classic, weigh-in shows, vendors, music, kids' fishing tournament and more!
- **Music on the Pier Summer Concert Series (Thursdays, June 11 - August 20)** – One of the most popular, longstanding and award-winning music events in the county featuring beautiful venues, great bands, Dunkirk Boardwalk Marketplace, food

trucks and more.

- **Fourth of July Celebration (Thursday through Saturday, July 2 - 4)** – A spectacular three-day holiday celebration featuring fantastic music, well-known food, drink and craft vendors and the talked about largest fireworks display in Chautauqua County.
- **Music at the Point Sunset Series (Wednesdays, July 8 - August 26)** – Every Wednesday for eight weeks guests can enjoy music for two hours at beautiful Point Gratiot's music pavilion.
- **Dunkirk Beach Bash (Saturday, July 18)** – Wright Park is the highlight of this event featuring a day at the beach, sports tournaments, music, family activities and contests with food and drinks available at the Beach Dog Grill.
- **Back to School Bash (Monday, August 24)** – Sponsored by the City of Dunkirk, Dunkirk City School District and the United Way of Chautauqua County, students and families are invited to receive school supplies, food, drinks and ice cream, as well as a visit to the agency tent with educational information and giveaways, listen to music and enjoy the bounce houses during this back to school kickoff event.

The Dunkirk Youth & Recreation Department also hosts several events throughout the year including their youth and adult sports programming, recreation center at the Chautauqua County Fairgrounds, Easter Carnival in April and Halloween Boo Bash in October.

Dunkirk Festivals is also honored to collaborate with other local events in Dunkirk throughout the year including the Dunkirk Flea Market, Matthew Hazelton Memorial 5k Run/Walk, Dunkirk Farmers Market, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Chautauqua County Great Strides, City of Dunkirk vs. Dunkirk City School District Charity Softball Game, Juneteenth Celebration, Marauder Trotter 5k Run/Walk, Harbor Cruise, BGC of NCC and City of Dunkirk Summer Recreation Program, Chautauqua County Fair, Dunkirk 1st Ward Falcons Fastpitch Softball Tournament, Rotary Fly-In Breakfast, Highmark BlueCross BlueShield Governments Program Dunkirk Community & Wellness Day, America's Grape Country Craft Beverage Festival, Annual Night Out, Randall Cooper Memorial Mush Ball Tournament and others.

Contact Us

For more information about upcoming events, volunteer or sponsorship opportunities, please contact Scott Mekus, event specialist, at www.cityofdunkirkny.gov, email at smekus@cityofdunkirk.com or follow on Facebook at Dunkirk Festivals & Special Events.

The Fredonia Farm Festival



*Contributed by
Fredonia Farm Festival*

The Fredonia Farm Festival is a cherished summer tradition held annually on the fourth weekend of August in Fredonia's historic Barker Commons. What began decades ago as a small celebration of the region's agricultural roots has grown into a vibrant three-day event that draws thousands of visitors each year. The festival typically kicks off Friday evening and continues through Sunday afternoon, filling the park and surrounding downtown streets with the sights, sounds and flavors of a community in full bloom.

Visitors can expect a lively mix of craft, food and farm-themed vendors alongside local wineries, breweries and distilleries. The event showcases everything from handmade goods and fresh produce to baked treats and specialty beverages. Throughout the weekend, live musical performances set the tone, complemented by cooking demonstrations and presentations from local farmers, artisans and small business owners. In 2025, organizers introduced a Young Entrepreneurs' Tent, giving area youth the opportunity to sell their own products and gain firsthand experience running a booth.

A highlight of the weekend is the Grand Parade on Sunday afternoon, bringing together local organizations, fire departments, marching bands and community groups in a colorful show of hometown pride. The festival has also featured a free family movie night and the Fredonia Farmers Market on Saturday and Sunday mornings. Another fan favorite is the cornhole tournament, which adds a friendly dose of competition to the festivities and draws both seasoned players and casual participants. Each year, organizers refine the layout and schedule to make the festival more accessible and enjoyable for everyone—balancing the agricultural heritage that started it all with new attractions that appeal to today's audiences.

Having just celebrated its 57th year, the Fredonia Farm Festival remains one of the region's most beloved gatherings—a vibrant, family-friendly celebration that honors local agriculture, showcases small businesses and reflects the welcoming, community-driven spirit that defines Fredonia. To learn more, visit www.farmfestivalfredonia.com or follow the festival on Facebook (@FredoniaFarmFestival). Those interested in volunteering or sponsoring the event can reach organizers at farmfestivalfredonia@gmail.com



Fredonia's Danza Performing Arts Academy enjoys the afternoon in Barker Commons. From left to right: Artistic Directors Krista Taylor & McKenna Taylor; Students: Morgan Kuras, Savannah Stein, Zuley Marie Torres & Hannah Kuras.

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Rotary Club of Jamestown Continues Laundromat Literacy Project



Rotary Club of Jamestown literacy committee members David Troxell and Patricia Graves are shown near the bookshelf at the Third Street laundromat, holding books donated as part of the Laundromat Literacy Project.

Contributed by

Rotary Club of Jamestown

Tired and bored with being in the laundromat watching things go round and round? Why not grab a free book, sit down and spend some time reading.

Laundromat Literacy, a pilot project begun by the Rotary Club of Jamestown, New York just four years ago, is located in three different city laundromats. To date, more than 1800 books have been gifted to people who are customers at the local laundromats and who are looking for something better to do than scrolling their phones or watching the blue jeans go round and round in the dryer.

Using local contacts, the club got permission from three city laundromats to begin a pilot program. The idea was simple: build a bookshelf, get permission from the owner to locate the bookshelf in an attractive space, and set up a system of volunteers to service the bookshelves during the week, replacing the books that go out with new books. Each book has a label on it letting readers know they are free to take the book home with them and that it is a gift from the Rotary

Club of Jamestown.

"Rotary Club is an international organization of more than 31,000 clubs around the world, providing various volunteer-driven services for more than 100 years, and one of the Club's highest global priorities is education and literacy," said David Troxell, Rotary Club of Jamestown literacy committee member. "A main focus of the Laundromat Literacy Project is to involve as many children reading with parents as possible. With many parents spending time at the laundromat and bringing children along, this gives them the opportunity to read while waiting for their clothes to wash and dry."

The participating laundromats are located near the Southside Plaza, Northside Love School, and centrally located downtown across from the Northwest Arena.

"Never underestimate the power of reading, writing and imagination that comes from literacy," Troxell said.

For more information about the Rotary Club of Jamestown and joining members with their work, please visit JamestownRotary.org.

Mentoring Changes Lives Make A Difference and Join Chautauqua Striders

Contributed by
Chautauqua Striders

Sometimes, the smallest investment of time can make the biggest difference. For students across Chautauqua County, a few hours spent with a caring adult can change the course of their lives. Through Chautauqua Striders' Mentoring Program, volunteers are helping local youth build confidence, find direction, and feel connected - to school, to their community, and to themselves.

One parent shared, "She has had a lot of fun going out and doing some things she normally wouldn't do and has built a good bond with her mentor. This program has been great for her to be a part of." Another added, "I'm glad my daughter has a friend and mentor who is another person to listen."

The benefits for students are clear: increased self-esteem, better relationships, and a stronger sense of purpose. One mentee reflected, "My mentor has made my life more fun and helps me see the bright side of life." Another shared a powerful statement: "I'm pretty sure that having a mentor saved my life."

Mentoring isn't just life-changing for the youth, it deeply impacts the mentors as well. "Mentoring has reminded me of the power of consistent support in a young person's life," said one volunteer. Another noted, "It feels good to be a positive influence on a child. I feel

that I am making a difference in the future of a youth."

For many mentors, the experience brings joy, perspective, and a renewed sense of connection to the community. "My mentee brings a smile to my heart. I truly look forward to my days with her," one shared. Another reflected, "I love gaining the perspective of someone who is experiencing a different life than I am. I'm always impressed with my mentee's resilience."

Mentoring doesn't require any special skills, just the willingness to show up, listen, and care. Striders staff provide training, guidance, and ongoing support to ensure each match is successful and meaningful. Mentors meet with their mentees a few hours a month, often sharing meals, working on goals, or simply spending time together.

Every new mentor means another young person who feels seen, supported, and valued. As one mentee beautifully put it, "I like how the mentors treat me and I love how they are very supportive and will care about you no matter what."

If you have a few hours a month and want to make a lasting impact, consider becoming a mentor. Your time, attention, and encouragement could change a young person's life... and maybe your own!

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



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The Chautauqua Center Hosts "Mammogrammy" Events with Free Spa Day Activities



Submitted Photo

Contributed by
The Chautauqua Center

The Chautauqua Center (TCC) is partnering with Brooks Hospital TLC Dunkirk, UPMC Chautauqua Jamestown, and other supporters to offer its annual Mammogrammy events as part of Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October. These events are about empowering through prevention and encouraging everyone to "Be bold, get screened!"

The events aim to provide expedited mammogram screenings for current patients at TCC, while also offering a relaxing and supportive atmosphere to the entire community. While mammogram appointments are for current TCC Health patients, everyone is encouraged to attend the free community and support activities.

Event Dates and Locations:

- Jamestown: Wednesday, October 15th, from 9AM-3PM at The Chautauqua Center, 107 Institute Street.
- Dunkirk: Tuesday, October 21st, from 9AM-3PM at The Chautauqua Center, 75 E. Third Street.

Attendees can enjoy a variety of activities focused on relaxation and well-being:

- Beauty & Health Care Demos.
- Seasonal Snacks & Beverages.
- Fitness Classes and demos.
- Health and beauty Information and cancer prevention resources.
- A Chance Auction (basket auction/giveaways).
- A quiet discussion space.

TCC emphasizes the importance of regular mammograms for early detection of breast cancer.

"We understand that various

factors can prevent individuals from getting a mammogram, including inconvenience, waiting times, and fear," said Michael Pease, The Chautauqua Center CEO. "We want to make this process as easy and comfortable as possible for our patients. At the same time, these spa-day events are a way to give back to the community as its health center."

The American Cancer Society provides the following guidelines for women at average risk:

- Women between 40 and 44 - Have the option to start screening with a mammogram every year.
- Women 45 to 54 - Should get mammograms every year.
- Women 55 and older - Can switch to a mammogram every other year or continue yearly mammograms.

Preventative screenings are covered by most insurance plans. This year, the Northern Chautauqua Community Foundation awarded TCC \$2,000 to help patients cover costs associated with mammograms and other preventative diagnostics related to the events. TCC also partners with Cancer Services of Western New York to provide financial assistance for those who qualify. TCC can assist patients with establishing contact with Cancer Services.

The TCC Mammogrammys are supported by The Waterfront Foundation, aiding in the mission of TCC by providing support services to TCC.

Special thank you to our cherished sponsor Highmark Western New York.

Thank you to our partners Brooks-TLC Hospital System and UPMC Chautauqua for partnering to provide the 3D mammography services as part of Mammogrammys.

MAMMOGRAMMYS

empowering through prevention

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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FITNESS CLASSES - INFORMATION - ★ CHANCE AUCTION ★

JAMESTOWN

Wed., October 15th
107 Institute Street
9AM-3PM

DUNKIRK

Tues., October 21st
75 E. Third Street
9AM-3PM

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

TCCHealth

Falconer Girls Volleyball Supports Lily's Hope

The Falconer High School Girls volleyball team supported Lily's Hope, a service program of Zonta Club of Jamestown, with a fundraising event at a recent home game. A basket raffle was held, and pizza, soft drinks and snacks were sold during the game with the proceeds going to Lily's Hope. Lily's Hope provides complimentary wigs and accessories to women who have lost their hair due to medical conditions. Call 716-450-1675 to schedule a free and confidential appointment.

Pictured: The Falconer Girls volleyball team and Lily Olson, representing Lily's Hope.

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St. Luke's Presents: Traveling Thru Time



Submitted Photos

Top: St. Luke's Choir, left: St. Luke's Director of Music Ministry, Karen Hewes Suber, Right: organist Sonya Subbayya Sutton

Contributed by St. Luke's Episcopal Church

An Evening of Hymns and Organ Music in the Anglican Tradition Jamestown, NY — St. Luke's Episcopal Church will host a special concert, Traveling Thru Time, on Friday, October 17th at 7:00 p.m. at 410 N. Main Street, Jamestown. This free concert will feature distinguished organist Sonya Subbayya Sutton (Washington, D.C. & Chautauqua) as well as a special Jamestown Concert Choir comprised of Jamestown area choristers. St. Luke's Director of Music Ministry, Karen Hewes Suber, will also be performing on piano.

The program will span centuries of sacred music, including works by Bach, Widor, Martinson, and Howells, and will feature a rare piano/organ duet by composer Gerald Near. In addition to the music, Sutton will share stories about hymns and organ music in the Anglican tradition, offering audiences both inspiration and insight.

"Music has the power to connect us to our past while inspiring our future," said Karen Hewes Suber, Director of Music Ministry at St. Luke's. "Hymn singing brings expansive connection, and this program is both a celebration of the Anglican musical tradition and a hope for continued renewal of choral collaboration in our community." Organist Sonya Sutton adds, "The true heart of music in church for me is singing the hymns, and I've chose a few (of oh so many!) hymns that I think represent the glory of Anglican hymnody. It will be a joyful exploration of the music that makes our hearts sing."

About Sonya Subbayya Sutton

Pianist, organist, and conductor Sonya Subbayya Sutton has enjoyed a 40+ year career as a musician in the Episcopal Church. She currently serves as Music Director of the World Bank/IMF Chorus and frequently collaborates with instrumentalists as an accompanist and chamber musician. Sutton has directed choirs on eight European tours and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 29



CHAMBER CORNER

Nominations Open for Pam Lydic Coalition Builder Award

Article Contributed by

Daniel J. Heitzenrater

Chautauqua County Chamber of Commerce
President and CEO

The Chautauqua County Chamber of Commerce developed the Pam Lydic Coalition Builder Award in 2012 as a way to honor the memory of its first executive director. Pam Lydic was instrumental in bringing together the Northern Chautauqua Chamber of Commerce and the Jamestown Area Chamber of Commerce to form the Chautauqua County Chamber of Commerce in 2000. The award honors her work and her efforts to build a stronger community through collaborations and partnerships.

Since Pam's passing, the Chamber has presented this award at its Annual Meeting in December, paying tribute to those who carry on her legacy of bringing people together. The award recognizes an individual in the region who has worked hard to bring groups of people together around a common goal or objective. The award is presented to an individual that has helped move the region forward in a positive direction through collaboration and by building partnerships. It is particularly focused on those who have done their work consistently and often times in the background.

Nominations are being accepted now for the 2025 Pam Lydic Coalition Builder Award. The submission form is available online at www.chqchamber.org/award-nomination-form. The deadline for submission is October 24.

The CHQ Chamber Board of Directors will review nominations and select this year's recipient. The award will be presented at the Chamber's Annual Meeting, to be held December 12 at Wicked Warren's in Jamestown.

Recent past recipients of the Pam Lydic Coalition Builder Award have included Amy Rohler, Executive Director of United Way of Chautauqua County; Bishop Leecroft Clark of the I.D.E.A. Coalition; Larry Fiorella for leadership in Fredonia coalitions including Festivals Fredonia and more; the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation, Northern Chautauqua Community Foundation, and

United Way for development of The Capacity Lab; and Mike Abbate for leadership in developing food provider programming in Chautauqua County.

If you know of someone in Chautauqua County who is doing the challenging work of coalition building, we encourage you to submit a nomination.

Save the date or register now for our Annual Meeting, December 12 at noon at Wicked Warren's in Jamestown. The CHQ Chamber Annual Meeting is sponsored this year by Brooks-TLC Hospital System, County of Chautauqua Industrial Development Agency, Jamestown Community College, Media One Radio Group, State University of New York at Fredonia, and Wicked Warren's.

Business Builder Workshop October 15: Inventory Insights

The CHQ Chamber will present our next Business Builder Workshop on October 15 with a focus on inventory. Topics will include buying and sourcing products and supplies, stocking and tracking your sales, and a general overview of inventory.

This workshop will be held from 9-10:30 am at the Robert H. Jackson Center, 305 East Fourth Street, Jamestown. Our panelists are Melissa Baideme, owner of CK Natural Fruit Juice in Westfield and Jon Davis, owner of Asheville General Store. Each has a different perspective on various aspects of inventory management – from stocking and tracking to distribution.

Business Builder Workshops are free for all local businesspeople, but we do ask that you register in advance. Registration is open now through our Chamber web calendar at www.chqchamber.org.

Business After Hours at Full Strength Coffee is October 30

Join us for Business After Hours at Full Strength Coffee Company, 55 East Main Street, Westfield, from 5:30-7pm Thursday, October 30. This special event will feature Ghostfish Brewing Company.

Chamber member businesses

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25



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Chautauqua Coffee Crawl



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Learn more and find the participating coffee shops at chqchamber.org/experiences.



Chamber Corner

Continued from Page 24

can send two people free of charge. Non-members or anyone above the two-person limit will be \$10. Advanced registration is encouraged, as space is limited for this event. Register now through our Chamber web calendar at www.chqchamber.org.

Business After Hours at Full Strength Coffee is sponsored by Full Strength Coffee Company, AHN Westfield Memorial Hospital, DFT Communications, LaBella Associates, National Grid, Southern Chautauqua Federal Credit Union, Jamestown Community College, Media One Radio Group, and the State University of New York at Fredonia.

Play Along with the Chautauqua Coffee Crawl

Explore, sip and win! Join this adventure that takes you to the best local coffee spots across Chautauqua

County. There's a unique pin number check-in for each participating Chamber member coffee shop. Participating coffee shops are: 3 Lakes Cafe, Cassadaga; Central Station Restaurant, Dunkirk; Crown Street Roasting Company, Jamestown; Domus Fare, Fredonia; Full Strength Coffee Company, Westfield; Jenna's 4th Street Cafe, Dunkirk; Labyrinth Press Company, Jamestown; Music For Your Mouth, Mayville;

PersNikkity Pies, Falconer; Sacred Grounds Coffee House, Lily Dale; She Sings Cafe, Restaurant and Bar, Mayville; The Parkview Restaurant, Westfield.

Use our virtual passport to play along and when you have enough points, you can redeem them for this special travel mug: copper-lined to keep your coffee hot with a cork bottom for great stability. Check in every 12 hours to participate. Learn more at www.chqchamber.org/experiences.

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County Court Judge



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Voter Questions?

Contact the Chautauqua County
Board of Elections (BOE)

[https://chqgov.com/board-of-elections/
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chqdem@gmail.com

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Nacole L. Ellis, Chair
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ellisnacole@yahoo.com

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY CONSERVATIVE COMMITTEE

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annamwilcox@att.net

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY WORKING FAMILIES COMMITTEE

Robert Dando, Chair
8631 Fredonia Stockton Rd Fredonia, NY 14063
robedi127@gmail.com

Let's Improve County Government and Our County - Together!

Contributed by

Tom Carle

Candidate, County Executive

My name is Tom Carle, and I am running for the Chautauqua County Executive seat. The reasons to run for office are many, and like most of you, my first concerns with the government are how much my taxes are, and how my taxes are spent! All else stems from those functions being performed effectively. I have managed numerous businesses to profitability through improved performance, and I will bring that world of experience to our government for you.

We need to address the needs and dreams of every one of our residents. We need to focus on building a future that allows everyone of us to become the best versions of ourselves. With the right leadership, our county government can set the stage for all of that!

Though the counties to our north and south are growing and thriving, and the state of New York has made gains, Chautauqua County is shrinking in population, and with that go many opportunities, as well. In the past 20 years, we have lost 14,000 residents. When asked, "Why do people leave?" The answer is "There is nothing here for them," because as we shrink, so does our ability to resolve it, making it even harder to retain the next generation. And, we need them.

In every local election, population and business decline have been issues. Nothing has ever been done to reverse the trend. When you elect me as your County Executive, you will be hiring a leader who can determine the root cause of a problem, who can work with teams to improve processes by creating efficiencies and eliminating waste. With my assistance, you and I can do what others could not!

With your support, we can reduce costs, thereby reducing taxes, sparking the economy and sending the signal that we are genuinely "Open for Business!" We will

foster our existing businesses and will always keep our finger on the pulse of the local economy, always seeking improvements to the way things are, and never stop!

Following successful examples, we will work with planning, zoning and code enforcement to be 'growth and expansion positive'.

We will develop heightened, two-way communications with businesses, and we will know when a company is struggling. Unlike the recent announcements by Serta-Simmons and Absolut, business surprises will be positive ones!

We will invest in our existing businesses that have already invested their heart and soul into Chautauqua County. We will actively target companies that would be a great fit for us! We will seek to align with the investments being made across New York. We will make certain that everyone knows of our untapped potential and truly, a business-friendly shift!

We will plant the seeds of trees whose shade we may never sit under—by investing in programs for our youth, by supporting families, by empowering those seeking job skills, and by providing a 'hand-up' to individuals rebranding themselves for a new future. Additionally, we will find ways to bolster municipalities, trade schools, traditional schools and colleges.

We will protect the programs that serve our seniors and our veterans, enhancing them as much as we can! We will work to ensure that our hospitals and medical infrastructure remain viable and improve access to everything seniors and veterans require.

We will do more than what's been done. Together, we will reach new levels of leadership and performance from those elected to serve us. All it takes to move our community forward is you—choosing a fresh start, focusing on your future and well-being when you cast your ballot. Choose change. Choose opportunity. Choose a fresh start.

CARLE FOR COUNTY EXECUTIVE = LOWER TAXES



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BOB DANDO FOR COUNTY LEGISLATOR DISTRICT 3 FREDONIA & POMFRET



"As a longtime labor activist, I have spent my life fighting for good, fair-paying jobs in our county. We need to make our county a place where our children and grandchildren can live. I'm running because I believe my experience will bring a fresh perspective & valuable new ideas to the County Legislature."

Paid for by Dando for Progressive Change

I'LL FIGHT TO DELIVER:

- REDUCTION OF COUNTY SALES TAX
- EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF COUNTY SALES TAX TO POMFRET AND FREDONIA
- REDUCTION TO THE SIZE OF THE COUNTY LEGISLATURE
- TERM LIMITS FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS
- IMPROVING AND DEVELOPING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES ACROSS OUR COUNTY

VOTE NOVEMBER 4TH

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ELECTION DAY

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EARLY VOTING OCT. 25 - NOV. 2

Available at the Dunkirk Fairgrounds or Board of Elections in Mayville. Scan the QR code for dates & times.



ELECT

Greg

KRAUZA

COUNTY CLERK



Improve DMV service delivery through automation updates, flex hours, training & culture.

Increase revenues through expanded hours and new processes in both DMV and the Clerk's office

Advocate and support structural change throughout the County to increase efficiency and lower taxes

EXPERIENCE COUNTS

Krauza successfully manages private sector businesses that depend on customer service, creativity and inclusive management. He has served in the public sector as councilman and Mayor of Dunkirk. Krauza has shown leadership and commitment to the community as Chairperson of the Fredonia Farm Festival, Co-chair of the Jamestown Gus Macker, past President of the Fredonia Chamber, captain of an 11 Day PowerPlay team and more!

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Greg Krauza

CARLE FOR COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Tom Carle VS PJ Wendel Debate

6:30 PM 10/16 on WRFA

Meet & Greets

Labyrinth Press Co. in Jamestown • 1-3 PM 10/18

Downtown Brew in Fredonia • 1-3 PM 10/19



LARSON GAINS CSEA ENDORSEMENT

Contributed by
Legislator Fred Larson

Chautauqua County Legislator Fred Larson has once again received the endorsement of the Civil Service Employees Association (CSEA).

Bonnie Peters, Chautauqua County CSEA Local president said: “CSEA is proud to once again stand with Legislator Fred Larson, who has consistently demonstrated his respect and commitment to the public employees who keep Chautauqua County running. He understands the vital role our members play in providing essential services, and we know he will continue to be a strong advocate for working families.”

“It is an honor to receive the endorsement of the representatives of our county employees who provide critical services to us every

day.”
“The CSEA knows how highly I value the work done by its members,” Larson stated. “During my 8 years as a City Court Judge, for example, I saw the great work county employees were doing as Mental Health counselors and Drug and Alcohol counselors working with inmates in the jail, as well as the important work these employees do out of the county offices in City Hall.”

“As another example, every winter I marvel at the job our Department of Public Facilities (DPF) workers do to keep our county roads safe to travel,” Larson added.

Legislator Larson served as Chautauqua County Attorney from 1998-2005. He served on the County Legislature from 1985-1993, and again in 2014 before becoming a City Court Judge that year. He was elected most recently in 2023.

Carlson Brings Record of Success in County Government to Clerk's Race

Contributed by
Greg Carlson
Candidate, County Clerk

I’m new to local politics, but not to county government. I’ve spent the last nine-years as the Director of Veterans services for Chautauqua County. During my tenure we’ve faced some big challenges, most notably a declining veteran population and COVID. Despite these challenges the Chautauqua County Veterans Service Agency has consistently been one of the top counties in New York State in delivering direct VA benefits to veterans and eligible beneficiaries, and has been verifiably successful in our primary mission.

The most important thing we do as an agency is facilitating direct VA benefits to eligible recipients. When we assist a veteran or surviving spouse in filing a claim for VA benefits, and they start receiving payments it is often life changing. But this also has a secondary effect of bringing significant money into the local economy. How significant? In Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 VA expenditures for direct payments to eligible beneficiaries in Chautauqua County was \$60,165,000. And this number doesn’t include indirect expenditures like VA healthcare. This is direct payments to county residents for VA Disability Compensation, Non-Service-Connected Pension, Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC), Survivors Pension, and Burial Benefits. There are four other counties in New York State that have a veteran population within plus or minus 1,000 of Chautauqua County’s veteran population of 8,094 (Rensselaer, Oswego, Rockland, and Schenectady). Chautauqua County ranks first in direct VA payments, with the next closest similarly populated

county of Rensselaer nearly \$17 million behind us at \$43,238,000. If you look at the data for all 62 counties in New York State and calculate the amount of direct VA expenditure per veteran for each county we consistently rank in the top 10%. This success is not by accident, it’s a direct result of setting the right priorities, and the expertise and execution of my staff.

When I took over the Veterans Service Agency in October of 2016 it was at the very beginning of FY 2017 for the VA. At the end of my first year our county’s veteran population was 10,027 with direct VA payments totaling \$45,581,000. Between FY 2017 and FY 2023 we lost nearly 19% of our veteran population (8,094 in FY 2023 down from 10,027 in FY 2017). Despite this loss of 1,933 in veteran population, direct payments to county beneficiaries increased in five out of six years, and was \$14,584,000 higher in FY 2023 than in my first year FY 2017. That is a 24% increase in VA dollars coming into the county over my tenure despite a 19% loss of veteran population during that same period. Direct VA expenditure per county veteran has increased by 40% since FY 2017, outpacing the 24% cumulative cost of living increases over the same period. As an agency we were able to facilitate higher direct payments to a smaller pool of veterans, with the increases exceeding cost of living adjustments during an unusually high period of inflation.

This record is relevant to my campaign because I plan on bringing the same data driven, result oriented mindset to the Chautauqua County Clerk’s office. All of the data for this column came directly from VA’s National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics (<https://www.va.gov/vetdata/Expenditures.asp>)



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Kiwanis Celebrates 105th Anniversary



Left to right, President, Wendy Wilcox, Past Presidents, Fred Larson, Chuck Nazzaro, Sam Teresi

Contributed by
Jamestown Kiwanis Club

The Jamestown Kiwanis Club celebrated its 105th Anniversary with a dinner at the Landmark attended by over 40 Kiwanians and guests.

Master of ceremonies, Past President Fred Larson described the history of the Jamestown Kiwanis Club and its service to youth.

Larson pointed to decades of Kiwanis support for youth baseball and soccer, youth programs at the Audubon, the Salvation Army and Jamestown Boys and Girls Club, the JHS Madrigal singers and much more.

The Jamestown Kiwanis Club has sponsored a JHS Key Club going back at least to the 1960s.

Past President Chuck Nazzaro spoke of the impact of Kiwanis on his whole family. He pointed

out that his children and now a grandchild learned about community service by working side by side with him on Kiwanis projects including Salvation Army bell ringing and the Kiwanis Club’s “Breakfast with Santa” each December at the Salvation Army.

The Silver Creek, Westfield/ Ripley and Falconer Kiwanis Clubs all sent representatives to join in the celebration of Jamestown’s 105th Anniversary.

Five Jamestown Kiwanis alumni also attended to join in the Anniversary celebration.

Jamestown Kiwanis could not celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2020 due to the Pandemic.

Past Presidents, Larson, Nazzaro and Teresi, organized the 105th Anniversary celebration to finally celebrate a Century of service to the Jamestown community by the Jamestown Kiwanis Club.



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Opera House to Present Billy Joel Tribute Band in Concert

Contributed by
The 1891 Fredonia Opera House Performing Arts Center

The 1891 Fredonia Opera House Performing Arts Center will present The Billy Joel Tribute Experience with Pat Farrell and the Cold Spring Harbor Band in concert on Fri., Oct. 17, at 7:30 p.m. The concert celebrates 50 years since Billy Joel performed in Fredonia in Dods Hall on the State University of New York at Fredonia campus.

The Billy Joel Tribute Experience is an immersive concert-style theater show chronicling the amazing journey of Billy Joel from his humble beginnings to his incredible success as one of the best-selling artists of the 1970s and 80s. Using photo projections and original film footage, and featuring a full band performing hits including “You May Be Right,” “Scenes From An Italian Restaurant,” “New York State Of Mind,” and more, it culminates with an audience participation rendition of Joel’s signature song “Piano Man.”

Named after Joel’s first solo album, The Cold Spring Harbor Band is headed by Pat Farrell, a SUNY Fredonia graduate whose daughter, Sara, is currently enrolled as a music education student. Pat performed at the 2014 NFL Super Bowl Pre Game party at the Meadowlands and the 2015 NY Mets World Series VIP Pre-

Game party at Citifield. He has shared the stage with John Legend, Southside Johnny & the Asbury Jukes, and Dave Mason.

With more than 140 million album sales since 1971, Billy Joel’s memorable lyrics and timeless melodies that poignantly captured the times made him one of the most successful artists of all time. Nominated for 23 Grammy Awards and winning six, he was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1999.

Tickets to the show are \$25 (Adults), \$23 (Opera House Members), and \$10 (Students) and can be purchased in person at the Opera House Box Office or by phone at 716-679-1891, Tuesday-Friday, 12-4:30 p.m. They can be purchased online anytime at www.fredopera.org. The show is presented as part of the Opera House Spotlight Series, sponsored by DFT Communications.

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

SUDOKU

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

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									69		
	70							71					

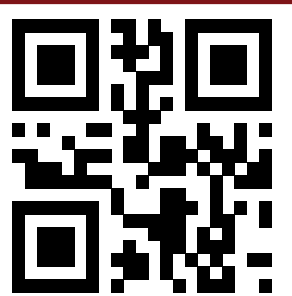
CLUES ACROSS

1. Martial arts in China
6. The butt of jokes
12. Nevertheless
16. Sportscaster Michaels
17. A firm believer
18. Atomic #18
19. One’s bestie
20. Of I
21. Hamburger accessory
22. Thus
23. Partner to Pa
24. Scottish tax
26. Cuts away
28. Require
30. Government lawyer
31. Own (Scottish)
32. Body cavity
34. Brew
35. Young woman (French)
37. Platforms
39. Pair of points in mathematics
40. Attack suddenly
41. Aviators
43. Make perfect
44. Yearly tonnage (abbr.)
45. Neither
47. The center of a city
48. Sacrifice hit in baseball
50. Singer Redding
52. Dragged forcibly
54. Puncture with a knife
56. Belonging to me
57. Expresses surprise
59. Haul
60. The Golden State
61. Biblical Sumerian city
62. Integrated circuit
63. Opposed to certain principles
66. Sodium
67. Qualities
70. Walk
71. It awaits us all

CLUES DOWN

1. Ate quickly
2. Peyton Manning’s alma mater
3. Moves through water
4. Run away from
5. Utah resident
6. Natural objects
7. Children’s game
8. Obligation to prove
9. Ancient Greek building for performances
10. Soldier
11. Decorated
12. Catches
13. Russell __, author
14. Speak indistinctly
15. Students get them
25. Japanese warrior
26. Dessert
27. Doleful
29. Most cushy
31. Moon crater
33. Small evergreen Arabian tree
36. Something fugitives are “on”
38. 007’s creator
39. Paintings on hinged panels
41. Type of bomb
42. Japanese classical theater
43. U.S. gov’t department
46. Flightless bird
47. One who cuts wood or stone
49. Buttock and thigh together
51. A way to gather
53. Body part
54. Argentinian city
55. Undergarments
58. Jai __, sport
60. Container for shipping
64. Type of screen
65. Get free of
68. Indicates position
69. Business department

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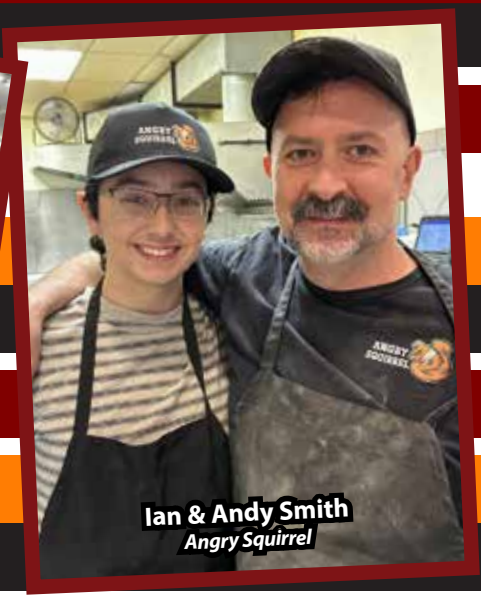
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Alzheimer's Association Invites Chautauqua County Residents to Join 2025 Walk to End Alzheimer's on October 18

Contributed by
Alzheimer's Association

The Alzheimer's Association is inviting Chautauqua County residents to join the fight to end Alzheimer's by participating in the Alzheimer's Association Southern Tier Walk to End Alzheimer's on October 18 at Point Gratiot Park in Dunkirk. Check-in begins at 9 a.m., with opening ceremonies at 10 a.m. and the Walk commencing at 10:15 a.m.

Shannon Rozner is a Chautauqua resident and chair of this year's Walk to End Alzheimer's in Chautauqua County. She has seen first-hand the effect Alzheimer's and dementia has had on her friends and family.

"Within weeks of a friend's retirement, his wife was diagnosed with Alzheimer's, and every plan, every dream had to change," she says. "My beautiful mother-in-law, Judy, progressed to the point where she stopped eating in the later days of her life. Alzheimer's and other dementias have taken too many lives and stolen too many dreams, and I won't stop until we have cure."

On Walk day, participants honor those affected by Alzheimer's with the poignant Promise Garden ceremony — a mission-focused experience that signifies solidarity in the fight against the disease. During the ceremony, walkers carry flowers of various

colors, each color representing their personal connection to the disease.

"This is a pivotal moment in the fight against Alzheimer's. There are now treatments that change the course of the disease," says Kaitlyn Less, director of development for the Western New York Chapter. "We hope that everyone in the community can join us to help the Alzheimer's Association raise awareness and funds for families facing the disease today, take more steps toward treatments and finally end this disease."

Nearly 7 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's disease — a leading cause of death in the United States. Additionally, more than 11 million family members and friends provide care to people living with Alzheimer's and other dementias. In New York State, there are more than 426,500 people living with the disease and 543,000 caregivers.

The funds raised through the Walk to End Alzheimer's ensure the programs and services provided by the Alzheimer's Association are free to all who need them, in addition to funding the research and advocacy efforts which have resulted in new treatments for people living in the early stage.

Anyone interested in participating in this year's Walk can visit act.alz.org/Chautauqua to register and learn more.



2024 Walk Co-Chairs: Dana Corwin, Director, Chautauqua County Office for Aging Services and Zac Hnatyszn, Vice President of Community Outreach, Culture Care Senior Living at Dunkirk's Point Gratiot.

NOW IS OUR MOMENT

October 18 | 9am
Point Gratiot Park, Dunkirk

Register at act.alz.org/chautauqua

WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S

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Submitted Photos

Stacey Hannon, the founder of our beloved paper, has long been a source of inspiration in our community. Even as she lives with Alzheimer's, her legacy of dedication, creativity and service shines brightly. Stacey not only built this publication from the ground up but also created a space where stories could be shared and voices uplifted. Many of us remember her warm presence at last year's Walk to End Alzheimer's, where her spirit of hope and resilience was felt by all. Stacey's courage and contributions remind us why we walk: for those who have given so much, and for a future free of Alzheimer's.

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Watercolors at the next Memory Café at Reg Lenna Center for The Arts October 14 at 12 p.m.

*Contributed by
Reg Lenna Center
for The Arts*

Memory Café at Reg Lenna Center for The Arts is a FREE respite and arts program for people with forgetfulness or other changes in their thinking (including cognitive decline, dementia or Alzheimer's) as well as their care partner, family, or friends. Participants are welcome to enjoy music performances, crafts and easy, appropriate activities to spark friendly social interaction. Light refreshments will be provided. All attendees can choose to participate or simply observe.

Join Sarah Brown-Millspaw for a fun exploration of watercolor! She'll bring an assortment of fall themed flowers, pumpkins, etc... to paint. All supplies provided. All skill levels welcome! Born in a log cabin in rural Pennsylvania, self taught artist, Sarah has been fascinated by nature and art since day one. Sarah now resides on a small farm outside of Westfield, New York where she spends her days painting, gardening, and planting over 600 trees to restore the balance of nature on her 8 acres of former pastured farm land.

Passionate about nature, animals, and the joys of childhood, these themes often surface in her work. In recent years, illustrating children's books and turning her watercolor paintings into surface patterns for fabric designs has become an integral part of her creative process.

Memory Cafés are accepting and welcoming environments to engage people living with any stage of dementia (diagnosed or not) in enjoyable, non-clinical interventions designed to enhance the quality of life for them and their care partners. It is a gathering place offering social support and connection, socialization opportunities, better health, and wellbeing to older adult participants

and their care partners in an accessible environment. Occurring in a wide range of settings with a wide range of programming, memory cafés provide essential support to caregivers and their loved ones. Cafés help build social connections and friendships and bring joy, meaning, purpose and belonging to participants.

The program focuses on engagement in activities to improve memory and brain health, keeping older adult attendees mentally and socially active while at the same time providing a positive, supportive, bonding, and rejuvenating experience for caregivers of all ages. Memory cafés also provide caregivers with information, resources, referrals, and a network of support. Memory Cafés are expanding across the United States, mirroring the dramatic increase in Americans who have or are expected to have Alzheimer's disease and related dementias in the coming years.

Patrons are asked to register for the Reg Lenna Memory Café ahead of time by emailing rsvp@reglenna.com or calling The Reg Box Office at (716) 484-7070 with the names and number of attendees. A suggested (but not required) donation of your choosing would support the Reg Lenna Memory Café, payable by cash, check and credit card. Enter the building through the Reg Lenna awning entrance (108 E. 3rd St.) next to Art Cloth+Craft. The Media Arts Studio is elevator-accessible.

The Memory Café program at The Reg is made possible by Exhale and its funders: Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation and Health Foundation for Western and Central New York.



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Medicare Open Enrollment

What you need to know....

Why to Help, How to Help, Who to Help – A Guide to Caring



Featured Writer

Katie Smith

Previous Director, Office for Aging Services-1999-2006

That time has finally come – you’ve noticed family or friends having more and more difficulty managing their day-to-day life. It could be something as simple as keeping the

yardwork or the house work done to more serious health, safety and money issues. It’s human nature to be self sufficient, to not rely on anyone and to "suck it up" and do it ourselves.

Chautauqua County offers a wealth of solutions for the older population – The Office for Aging Services, Department of Social Services, Department of Health, Veterans Service Agency, Chautauqua Adult Day Services, home care agencies, churches, Visiting Nursing Association, Meals on Wheels, Housing Units, senior citizen clubs, city, town and village offices, doctors, churches, delivery services and more. An overall caring

CONTINUED ON PAGE 39

Senior Scene with Dana Corwin

OPEN ENROLLMENT



Contributed by

Dana Corwin

Director of Chautauqua County Office for Aging Services

Medicare’s Annual Open Enrollment is upon us. Each year individuals who have Medicare Advantage Plans, standalone Part D plans (Prescription plans) and Original Medicare A & B with a supplemental (Medigap) plan, have the opportunity to review their plans from October 15th through December 7th. This is an important time of year since many plans have changed or have been discontinued in the upcoming year. Even those of you whose plan is continuing into the new year have a limited chance of it staying exactly the same. Some plans feel they are making changes that will better suit you, but sometimes that is not always the case. Medicare Open enrollment is the time of year to ensure your coverage works for your health and financial situation. Even small plan changes can impact your access to care or out of pocket costs. Reviewing your available options is well worth the effort.

The Chautauqua County Office for Aging Services (OFAS) offers a Health Insurance Information Counseling and Assistance Program (HIICAP) through a

certified program provided by NY State Office for the Aging. This specific certification allows the OFAS HIICAP Counselors to offer assistance in helping you with an unbiased review of the various insurance plans that will be available for 2026. In addition to reviewing the plans, our counselors assist in screening for other benefits that you may need or be eligible for. Some of these include applying for the Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage Program (EPIC), Extra help or the Medicare Savings Program (MSP). The Counselors can also help Caregivers and family members with reviewing the coverage for a loved one that they may be providing care to and who may not be able to review the plans themselves. This can be an overwhelming task for a Caregiver which OFAS can help navigate.

Along with Open Enrollment insurance reviews, OFAS wants to encourage individuals to reach out throughout the year with Health insurance issues and Medicare Preventative Services that they may be entitled to through their health insurance plans. Prevention is a key component in making the most of your health insurance. Be sure to ask your doctor about these services during your annual appointments. If you need further assistance please reach out to the Office for Aging Services and NY Connects either by stopping at one of our office locations, via email at ccnyc@chqgov.com or by phone at 716-753-4582.

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Medicare Open Enrollment
BEGINS OCTOBER 15th

What should I know:

Major updates are anticipated for the 2026 Medicare plans, particularly regarding drug coverage.

- ❗ Insurance Companies eliminating certain plans starting January 1, 2026
- ❗ Increase in Medicare Supplement Premiums
- ❗ Increased drug prescription plans, premiums and deductibles
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- ❗ Reduced extra benefits

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Local Teachers Meet Beloved Author Mitch Albom at Cleveland Book Tour Launch



Contributed by
Office of Mitch Albom

Johnny and Keely Burlett, local educators from Silver Creek Central School and Westfield Academy and Central School respectively, had the unforgettable experience of meeting renowned author Mitch Albom at a Cleveland library on the opening night of the tour for his latest book, Twice.

Mrs. Burlett, who teaches Tuesdays with Morrie each year to her junior English students, brought along a special sign her class had made for the occasion. To the couple's surprise, Albom not only admired the students' work but was so impressed that he signed the sign himself and praised the Burletts for their dedication to shaping young minds through literature.

Mr. Burlett, who helps teach intensive reading and provides academic intervention services at the middle school level, has long been inspired by Albom's writing. His connection to teaching runs deep — he himself went through the foster care system at a young age and was fortunate to be adopted by two loving teachers

from the Fredonia Central School District. "That alone impacted me enough to want to give back to the youth one day and dedicate my life to impacting young people," Mr. Burlett shared. Outside the classroom, he continues to make a difference by coaching soccer, basketball, and track and field, as well as running the middle school art club.

Mrs. Burlett, who teaches both 9th and 11th grade English, shared that the encounter left the couple feeling uplifted and re-energized in their calling as educators. "Meeting the man whose words I have read to hundreds of students was truly an honor. They say you shouldn't meet your heroes, but ours exceeded every expectation."

"The experience brought joy and a renewed enthusiasm to our careers," the Burletts said, reflecting on the evening that blended their passion for teaching with their admiration for one of America's most beloved authors. As Albom wrote on Mrs. Burlett's sign: "Giving is living!"



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BENEFIT CONCERT EVENT TO FEATURE POPULAR CINEMATIC SCORES



Submitted Photo

The Fredonia Pops! Orchestra rehearses for its Oct. 21 concert "A Night at the Movies!"

Contributed by
SUNY Fredonia

The abundant musical talent on the State University of New York at Fredonia campus will be highlighted in the next Fredonia Pops! Orchestra concert event.

Almost 100 performers will take part in "A Night at the Movies!" on Tuesday, Oct. 21 at 8 p.m. in King Concert Hall at SUNY Fredonia. The event is free.

Billed as "an evening of cinematic scores, featuring music from your favorite films like 'La La Land,' 'Harry Potter,' and 'Star Wars,'" the concert will also feature Fredonia a cappella groups Much More Chill and Some Like It Hot.

Choir Director Brody Brown, a senior Music Education major with a minor in Arts Administration, noted this will be a large-scale event with about 90 performers on stage.

"There are approximately 70 performers in the orchestra. This includes students and community members," he said. "There are

approximately 20 performers in the chorus."

The concert is free but serves as a benefit event for the Northern Chautauqua Community Foundation. Brown said the audience is encouraged to make an at-will donation to the Northern Chautauqua Community Foundation via a QR code in the event program.

"I, and the rest of the artistic team, hope that the audience gets an ear worm from listening to some very familiar pieces," Brown said. "We also hope that it broadens their idea of what a traditional orchestra and chorus can do."

The Fredonia Pops! Orchestra is an ensemble of the Media Music Collective, a Student Association organization. Aidan Carney is the music and arts director, Alexandria Schuck is the executive director, and Dan Raczka is the assistant director.



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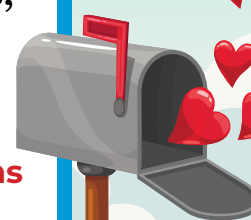
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Why to Help, How to Help, Who to Help
A Guide to Caring

Continued from Page 36

community can be accessed to allow a senior to remain at home and retain the quality of life they deserve.

The senior in question needs to be on board accepting help, so your role – as a caring friend – could start with doing the research and knowing what’s available. Finding the right resources, knowing the guidelines, understanding the regulations and asking the right questions is not easy. It takes time, computer and technology skills, the willingness to ask more questions, the patience to wait in a call queue and the confidence to understand eligibility.

You may find doing some chores with your aging friend or family member will create a bridge and make accepting outside help more palatable. Just seeing what’s needed and getting it accomplished – lawn mowing, leaf raking, taking the garbage out, delivering a meal, driving them to appointments and being a friend who listens and understands can establish trust and a comfort level. Once the lines of communication are open, you can begin talking about maintaining quality of life, using help for the major chores and allowing the senior citizen a sense of control, independence and belonging.

The initial steps: Determine if the problem is life threatening – authorities may need to be involved if that’s the case. Be honest in your conversations, offer concrete help and follow through. Don’t take rejection personally, don’t stop being a friend and supporter. Aging is a new phenomenon for individuals – there is no road map, the process differs dramatically from person to person and from day to day.

Most agencies have a robust website and you can discover a variety of information – The Chautauqua County Office for Aging Services has an on line handbook that covers A – Z of services; this is a great reference tool to start with: chqgov.com/office-aging/Office-for-the-Aging. Other agencies’ websites can give you an overview of their services, the eligibility guidelines and idea if a phone call or appointment might be appropriate. Establish communication with the family members. You have heard one side of the story from your friend – learn the other side so you offer the best help and support. We’re all going to be there one day – aging happens across the social, political, economic, gender scale – helping one another just makes sense.

St. Luke’s Presents: Traveling Thru Time

Continued from Page 24

cathedral residencies, enriching the global presence of Episcopal music.

Beyond performance, Sutton is a writer and storyteller who explores the intersection of life and the arts. She has published two audiobooks on Audible: *Difficult Women...Legends Revised*, featuring music and stories about French composer Mel Bonis, and *Symphonic Preludes*, a collection of 24 short stories inspired by the music of John Hausserman. Sutton earned degrees in piano, organ, and arts administration from the College-Conservatory of Music in Cincinnati. She lives in Washington, D.C. with her husband, the Rt. Rev. Eugene Sutton, retired Bishop of Maryland.

They divide their time between Washington, D.C. and Chautauqua.

Supporting Young Musicians
While admission to the concert is free, donations will be accepted to benefit the Ron McEntire Scholarship Fund, which helps nurture the next generation of musicians.

- Event Details**
- Traveling Thru Time Concert
 - Friday, October 17, 2025 | 7:00 p.m.
 - St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, 410 N. Main Street, Jamestown, NY
 - Free admission | Donations benefit the Ron McEntire Scholarship Fund

Lakewood Community Development Corporation Honors Local Partners for Support During Inaugural Rock the Lake Concert Series

Contributed by
The Lakewood Community Development Corporation

The Lakewood Community Development Corporation (LCDC) proudly recognized three key community partners for their exceptional support and service during the inaugural Rock the Lake Summer Concert Series at Hartley Park. The Lakewood Volunteer Fire Department, the Lakewood-Busti Police Department’s Canine Unit, and the Southwestern/Frewsburg Football Team each received a \$1,000 donation in appreciation of their contributions to the event’s success.

Held across multiple summer weekends, Rock the Lake drew hundreds of residents and visitors to enjoy live music, local vendors, and a celebration of Lakewood’s vibrant community spirit. The series marked a new initiative by the LCDC to foster engagement and economic growth through free, family-friendly programming.

“The presence and support of our local police, fire department, and student athletes gave our community peace of mind and helped create a safe, welcoming environment for everyone,” said Billy Evans, LCDC Board President. “Their professionalism, dedication, and community spirit were instrumental in the success of this event. We are honored to show our gratitude through these donations.”

The Lakewood Volunteer Fire Department played a vital role in ensuring safety throughout the summer events. “The Lakewood Fire Department would like to congratulate the LCDC for a successful experience with this year’s Rock the Lake events,” said Fire Chief Kurt Hallberg. “We were happy to contribute to its success and thank you for the donation, which will help us

continue providing fire protection and quality medical care to our residents.”

The Lakewood-Busti Police Department, including its Canine Unit, maintained a reassuring presence throughout the series. “We are grateful to the LCDC for their donation to our K-9 Fund,” said department representatives. “This contribution will help us continue to provide this valuable service to the Village of Lakewood and Town of Busti for years to come.”

The Southwestern/Frewsburg Football Team also lent their hands and hearts to the effort, volunteering to assist with event logistics, set-up, and tear-down. “This team went above and beyond,” Evans added. “Their willingness to step up and serve our community helped make Rock the Lake a success from start to finish.”

“It was great to be part of something that brought the community together,” said Head Coach Jake Burkholder. “We’re proud to support our Village beyond the field.”

Through initiatives like Rock the Lake, the LCDC continues to invest in partnerships that uplift youth, celebrate service, and strengthen the local community.

For more information about the Lakewood Community Development Corporation and upcoming community initiatives, visit lcdcny.org.



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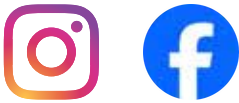
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