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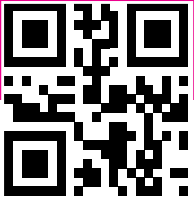
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Leri Cornell

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October is
National
**Breast
Cancer
Awareness
Month**

EVERY STORY IS UNIQUE, EVERY JOURNEY MATTERS



Featured Writer
Dr. Lynn Dunham

Traveling is one of the joys in my life, but the journey I was forced to embark on during the global pandemic was not one I was expecting. Born and raised in Jamestown, I chose to dedicate my

adult life to medicine, working as a pediatrician in the very community that raised me. For over twenty-five years, I have counseled families during their most difficult moments, offering care, reassurance and hope. As a physician, I cannot emphasize how critical the role of prevention is to your health. I never missed my

annual mammogram. That diligence saved my life.

In June of 2020, after returning from one of my trips, I went in for my routine mammogram. An abnormality was noted, and an

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19

Breast Cancer in Western New York: Progress, Disparities, and Vital Resources

Featured Writer
Rob Jones
Breast Cancer Network of WNY

Breast cancer, a diagnosis that touches countless lives, remains one of the most common cancers among women in New York State. In Western New York (WNY), while regional trends show encouraging progress in the fight against cancer overall, local health advocates and leading medical institutions continue to focus intensely on prevention, early detection and addressing persistent disparities related to breast cancer.

While New York State sees thousands of new breast cancer diagnoses each year, data specific to WNY highlights both successes and ongoing challenges:

- The National Cancer Institute

- statistics show that over 1,450 women are diagnosed with breast cancer in WNY annually, 121 of those are in Chautauqua County.
- The region has seen a decline in breast cancer death rates. Between 2010 and 2019, the breast cancer death rate in WNY decreased, an indication of effective screening and advanced treatment protocols.
- Despite overall improvements, a concerning gap remains. Black Western New Yorkers are disproportionately more likely to die from breast cancer, mirroring disparities seen in other common cancers. Addressing these racial and ethnic disparities in access to screening, timely diagnosis and care is a major public health priority for the region.
- Overall cancer incidence, including breast cancer, has historically been



slightly higher in Western New York than the state and nationwide averages, emphasizing the critical need for continued vigilance and screening programs.

Experts consistently stress that early detection through regular screening is the most powerful tool against breast

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

This Week Around Town

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5 -
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11

Potters Alley Week

Labyrinth Press Co. & Pearl City Clay House
For Info: pearlcityclayhouse.org

MONDAY, OCTOBER 6

Memory Cafe | 10 AM

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

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8

The Chautauqua Region Quilt Guild Monthly Meeting | 1 PM

Busti 5 Corners Community Church | Busti
For Info: Chautauqua Region Quilt Guild Facebook Group

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9

Cardio Drumming | 9 AM

Dunkirk Senior Center | Dunkirk
For Info: 716-467-5306

United Way of Chautauqua County's "Salute to Labor" Dinner | 6 PM

Athenaeum Hotel | Chautauqua Institution
For Info: 716-483-1561

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10

Movies at The Reg: Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale | 7 PM

The Reg Lenna Center for The Arts Jamestown

For Info: reglenna.com

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11

Little Explorers | 10 AM-11:30 AM
Audubon Community Nature Center | Jamestown
For Info: auduboncnc.org

Saints & Sinners Carriage Tours | 10 AM-4 PM

Lake View Cemetery | Jamestown
For Info: fentonhistorycenter.org

Fall Wreath-Making Workshop 2 PM-4 PM

Busti Historical Society Jamestown
For Info: 716-483-3670

Saints & Sinners Walking Tours 5 PM-8 PM

Lake View Cemetery | Jamestown
For Info: fentonhistorycenter.org

Puppy Pals Live | 7 PM

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

MONDAY, OCTOBER 13

American Creed Screening 7 PM

Robert H. Jackson Center Jamestown
For Info: newneighborswny.org



Breast Cancer in Western New York: Progress, Disparities, and Vital Resources

Continued from Front Page

cancer. The National Cancer Institute and American Cancer Society cite that when diagnosed at an early stage, the five-year survival rate is over 99 percent. Fortunately, Western New York is home to robust programs dedicated to making screening accessible:

- The New York State Department of Health's Cancer Services Program (CSP) plays a vital role in WNY. These county-based programs offer free breast and diagnostic services to eligible uninsured and underinsured residents across counties like Erie, Niagara, Genesee, Orleans, Steuben, Allegany, Cattaraugus and Chautauqua. New York State law states that women over 40 are entitled to free annual mammograms without copays, and the local CSP can help make those arrangements.
- Leading health systems like Kaleida Health and UPMC and local radiology groups like Windsong Radiology and Southtowns Radiology offer advanced screening technologies, including 3D mammography, which provides superior image clarity for earlier and more accurate detection, particularly beneficial for women with dense breast tissue.
- Transportation remains a significant barrier to regular screenings. In the past, mobile mammography units operated by Windsong Radiology and Erie County Medical Center provided breast screenings remotely, but they have recently retired those units. Roswell Park is expected to have their own mobile unit available soon. Alternatively, The Breast Cancer Network of WNY provides free Uber Health rides to women who face transportation challenges.

WNY is home to some of the nation's leading cancer centers, offering comprehensive, cutting-edge care for all stages of breast cancer.

regional providers—including surgeons, medical oncologists, and radiation oncologists—to ensure patients receive a coordinated and individualized treatment plan using state-of-the-art technology.

- UPMC Hillman Cancer Center offers a full range of breast cancer services including screenings, surgery, oncology, breast reconstruction and radiation.
- ECMC Center for Cancer Care offers a multi-specialty team approach to breast oncology, providing comprehensive services from screening and diagnostics to surgery, chemotherapy and advanced reconstructive surgery options.

The journey through a breast cancer diagnosis is multifaceted, requiring emotional and practical support in addition to medical treatment. Western New York boasts strong community organizations that fill this crucial need:

- Breast Cancer Network of WNY (BCN) is an independent non-profit serving all counties of WNY. A key resource, BCN provides education, advocacy, and peer support for patients, survivors, and families. They offer programs like the "TLC Tote" for newly diagnosed women, various support groups (including groups for women of color and those with metastatic disease), restorative health classes like yoga, a peer mentoring program and lay navigation.
- The Witness Project: This program is specifically dedicated to providing outreach and post-treatment support for breast cancer survivors in the community, with a focus on addressing racial disparities.
- Hope Chest offers fitness and nutrition programs to breast cancer survivors, including dragon boat training and competitions.

Western New York's fight against breast cancer is a story of medical excellence combined with deep community commitment. While the region celebrates declining mortality rates, the continued efforts to dismantle health disparities and ensure every eligible person utilizes free or low-cost screening options remain paramount to achieving true equity in breast health outcomes for all residents.

Call to Action: If you are due for a mammogram, or are uninsured and concerned about your eligibility for screening, contact the **Cancer Services Program** for your county to learn about free and low-cost options.

- Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center is the only National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center in New York State outside of New York City. Roswell Park provides the latest personalized approaches, including breast-conserving surgery, reconstruction, genetic testing, and a wide array of clinical trials. Their care is available at their main Buffalo campus and various satellite locations throughout the region.
- Great Lakes Integrative Network is a collaborative network that brings together expertise from top

Breast Cancer Network of WNY
Help for today with Hope for tomorrow

Upcoming

Free support to WNY Breast Cancer Survivors

OCTOBER 15

Chautauqua Center, Jamestown

OCTOBER 21

Chautauqua Center, Dunkirk

OCTOBER 24

Open House, Buffalo, NY

TLC Totes for Newly Diagnosed

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Editorial with Lori Cornell

PINK OUT



Owner & Publisher
Lori Cornell

In this edition, we pay tribute to all those who have fought Breast Cancer so bravely; we remember and honor those whose lives have been lost; and we champion bolstered research and prevention with our partners in health care.

October's "Pink Out" might also serve as a call to all women to remember and recommit ourselves to the universal and impactful tenants of this advocacy movement: self-care and strength.

In our busy, multitasking lives of family, jobs and community, we women put our healthcare on the backburner more often than not. Physical health, mental health and just plain taking a moment to relax with no agenda is too often lost. If you know me well, I'm throwing major stones while living in a glass house here! However, even for "relaxation" hypocrites like me, the "Pink Out" does at least give us pause.

The breast cancer movement teaches us that self-care, whether we have time for it or not, truly is imperative. The "prevention" and "plan ahead" argument may apply to nearly every facet of any woman's happy and healthy life.

Secondly, strength. The strength of women can surely be seen in every day life; but it is certainly on display for those that face breast cancer. These courageous souls have wills of iron and incredible fortitude. They face a challenge many have not known and most could not understand, and yet, they greet the day and take on burdens that many would shudder at. Many people view strength as something that is seen on a battlefield or in a gym when one is lifting weights, but this strength lives in us all. Pink out and remember that, ladies. Your strength whether quiet or loud all at once, seen or unseen, may be felt by many and admired by all.

In closing, I offer the hopefully thoughtful, caveat: Yes, I know that men get breast cancer too. According to the American Cancer Society, one percent of men do unfortunately also develop this horrific disease. We honor all women and men who have fought so bravely, but appreciate your indulgence in my special shout out to so many deserving women in this edition.

You go girls.



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Thursdays at 5:00 pm

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Breast cancer is the most common cancer in women worldwide.
When breast cancer is detected early in the localized stage, the five-year relative survival rate is 99 percent.

Source: American Cancer Society



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In Loving Memory

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September 30

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Frewsburg
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Gary R. Olson, 80
Lakewood
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September 28

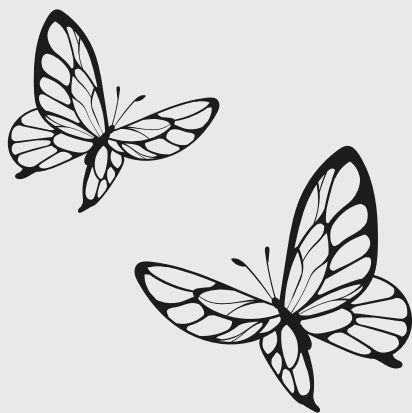
Marlene J. Roth, 86
Warren, PA
Lind Funeral Home

October 1

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September 29

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Faith Matters

PINK RIBBONS



Featured Writer

Pastor Sherry Mahar
Christ First UMC, Jamestown

Pink ribbons. Pink is seen everywhere at this time of year, with glimmers that remind us that October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. For many of us, those flashes of pink point to faces and names- to people we love who have battled breast cancer. Both my aunt and my mom walked that difficult road. My mom, though well now, still bears the scars of the disease.

For so many, pink reminds us to not only be aware, but to live that awareness through supporting survivors, honoring those we've lost, and walking beside all those in the struggle.

I believe faith plays a vital role in that journey. For the person who is battling the disease, faith in Jesus Christ gives a "peace that passeth understanding" (Philippians 4:7), strength for today and hope for tomorrow. The pink ribbon reminds us to be aware, but the cross reminds us not to despair. Our faith tells us that we are not alone- not in sickness, not in fear, not even in death.

As Psalm 34 promises, "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." Psalm 46 declares, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present

help in trouble." We cling to God's faithfulness with whispered prayers and find assurance in Scripture and in God who walks with us through every valley.

Breast cancer doesn't just affect individuals, but families and entire communities. Scripture teaches us, "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2). That's one of the reasons why the church exists- not just for Sunday morning worship, but also for the daily work of encouragement, prayer, and support. God's love is also expressed in meals brought, cards written, hugs given, and in countless acts of care. Cancer may leave scars, but faith leaves hope, and faith shares love.

That's one of the many reasons to be not only a believer in Jesus Christ but also an active member of a church

community. Being a part of a faith family offers support, encouragement, and a body of believers who lift one another in prayer and walk together through life's struggles. We hear stories of hope and strength, and

we grow to know more and more the compassion of Christ and the promises of eternity.

Church reminds us of God's closeness and eternal love that knows no bounds. We worship together, but we also walk with one another through the valleys of life. That is the gift of being part of a church: faith, hope, and love. If you do not yet have a church, I encourage you to find one and become part of a faith community.

This month, when you see pink ribbons, may they remind you not only of awareness, but of God who holds us, scars and all, and who offers healing, strength, and eternal hope through Jesus Christ.



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Chautauqua Striders will host an SAT Prep Workshop to help students prepare for the November 8th SAT exam.

The workshop runs over eight sessions

Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning October 14

Striders' main office • 301 E. 2nd Street • Suite 102, Jamestown

Sessions will be split by subject:

English 5:30-6:30 p.m. • Math 6:30-7:30 p.m.

The cost is \$160 and includes an SAT Prep book and all materials.

For more information or to register

Contact Andrew Gritters, Academic Coordinator
(716) 489-3487 • andrew@chqstriders.org

Registration Deadline: October 10



DON'T LET COLD AND FLU SEASON CATCH YOU OFF GUARD

Chautauqua County Health Department Shares How to Stay Healthy



Contributed by
Chautauqua County Health Department

With respiratory illness season approaching, the Chautauqua County Health Department (CCHD) reminds residents to take proactive steps to protect themselves, their families, and the community from the spread of viruses such as influenza or flu, COVID-19, and RSV.

Why It Matters: Last year, the CDC estimated that over 1 million people in the U.S. were hospitalized, and more than 70,000 died from respiratory illnesses. Additionally, the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) reported a record 541,496 positive influenza cases and over 33,000 hospitalizations. Even healthy individuals can become seriously ill. Prevention is key.

"As we enter the colder months, it's more important than ever to take steps to protect ourselves and our loved ones from serious illness. Vaccines, good hygiene, and staying home when sick are simple but powerful tools to keep our community safe," states Chautauqua County's Public Health Director, Lacey Wilson. "We've seen the impact respiratory illnesses can have — especially on our most vulnerable — and prevention is our best defense. I encourage everyone to talk with their healthcare provider about how to stay healthy this season."

Stay Ahead of the Flu

Influenza (commonly known as the flu) is a contagious respiratory illness that returns every year during the colder months. While many recover in a couple of weeks, the flu can lead to severe complications—especially for:

- Older adults
- Infants and young children
- Pregnant women
- People with chronic health conditions such as asthma, heart disease, or diabetes
- Residents of nursing homes

The most effective way to prevent the flu? Get vaccinated. Annual flu shots are recommended for everyone aged 6 months and older.

Understanding RSV

Respiratory syncytial virus, or RSV, is a common respiratory virus that infects the nose, throat, and lungs. RSV symptoms make it difficult to distinguish it from the common cold or other respiratory viruses (like the flu or COVID-19). RSV spreads in the fall and winter along with other respiratory viruses. It usually peaks in December and January. Infants and older adults with certain risk factors are more likely to develop severe RSV and need hospitalization. Vaccines may not prevent every infection, but they dramatically reduce the risk of severe illness and hospitalization.

Core Prevention Strategies

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

ZONTA CLUB OF JAMESTOWN ON THE MOVE



Pictured L-R: Rosie Papalia (D4 Lt. Governor elect), Jill Colburn (D4 Treasurer elect), Bethany O'Hagan (Presenter), Eileen Healy (Area 5 Director elect), Deb Piotrowski (Zontian), Beth Jermain (Delegate), and Mary Cook (Delegate)



Pictured L-R: Mentor Mary Ann Spanos, new member Joan Mistrrough, and Sylvia Stenander, who led the induction.

Contributed by
Zonta Club of Jamestown

Members of the Zonta Club of Jamestown recently attended the Zonta International District 4 Conference in Thorold, St. Catharines, Ontario. The biennial event brought together Zontians from Western New York, Pennsylvania, and Ontario to share ideas, strengthen leadership, and collaborate on initiatives advancing Zonta's mission of building a better world for women and girls.

Highlights included keynote speaker Dr. Samra Zafar, workshops on mentoring, empowerment, sustainability, and club growth, as well as networking opportunities that inspired members to expand their community impact. Jamestown members joined in celebrating

achievements, exchanging best practices, and reaffirming their commitment to service and advocacy. The Zonta Club of Jamestown, serving the community since 1921, is part of Zonta International, a leading global organization of professionals dedicated to empowering women worldwide.

At its October business meeting, the club also proudly welcomed its newest member during a special induction ceremony.

For more information, visit www.zontajamestown.org or write to P.O. Box 913, Jamestown, NY 14702.



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Tiger

Chautauqua County Humane Society Pets of the Week

Tiger does well in a feline-friendly environment. He's a gentle soul who's still warming up to the idea of being the center of attention, but with patience and love, he'll be a loyal friend for life. Tiger knows his own name! He's looking for a patient and loving family who understands that he may need a little time to feel comfortable. Once he settles in, Tiger will be your quiet, loving companion, ready to share moments of peace and affection. Shelter No. RR179.

Ely is a fun-loving pup who's always ready to bring a smile to your face! With her bouncy energy and happy spirit, she turns every day into playtime. Whether she's chasing toys, zooming around the yard, or making new friends, Ely's joy is contagious. With her big heart and playful personality, she's the perfect mix of silly and sweet. Shelter No. RR179.



Ely

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Don't Let Cold and Flu Season Catch You Off Guard

Continued from page 5

CCHD supports the CDC's guidance on the following everyday precautions to reduce the spread of respiratory viruses:

- **Stay up-to-date on vaccinations** – Talk to your healthcare provider about recommended vaccines for flu, COVID-19, and RSV.
- **Practice good hygiene** – Wash hands often and disinfect high-touch surfaces.
- **Improve air quality** – Let in fresh air, use air purifiers, or meet outdoors when possible.
- **Stay home when sick** – Use precautions to avoid spreading illness, and seek prompt care if you're at high risk.

What to Do If You've Been Exposed

If you've been around someone who is sick with a respiratory illness, here's what you should do:

- **Monitor for Symptoms.** Common symptoms include fever or chills, fatigue, cough, runny or stuffy nose, loss of appetite, sore throat, headache or muscle aches.
- **Take Extra Care If You're High-Risk.** Certain groups should act quickly at the first sign of illness: Adults 65 and older, children under 2, those with weakened immune systems or chronic conditions, people with disabilities and pregnant or recently pregnant women.

- **Know Emergency Warning Signs.** Seek emergency care if you or your child experience difficulty breathing, bluish lips or face, chest pain, seizures or confusion, sudden changes in mental state

Final Message

Take the time now to protect yourself and those around you. Stay informed, stay prepared, and don't hesitate to talk to your healthcare provider about the best steps for your situation.

For more information on respiratory illness and prevention, visit the CDC's website <https://www.cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/index.html>. If you would like to receive a flu or other respiratory illness vaccine, talk to your doctor, or contact the Chautauqua County Health Department at 716-753-4491.

About Chautauqua County Health Department - The Chautauqua County Health Department is the leading Public Health organization in Chautauqua County dedicated to the support of the community's health. The Health Department takes innovative approaches to provide technical assistance to partner organizations, and offers various programs and services in order to help prevent disease, protect the public's health and promote our community's overall health and wellness. For more information visit www.HealthyCHQ.com.

Trivia

1. Which organization introduced the pink ribbon as the international symbol for breast cancer awareness?
2. Who was the first U.S. First Lady to publicly share her breast cancer diagnosis, inspiring awareness and openness?
3. Which famous U.S. landmark in Washington, D.C. was illuminated in pink to honor Breast Cancer Awareness Month?
4. Which U.S. law requires most health insurance plans to cover screening mammograms for women over 40?
5. What is the 5-year relative survival rate for breast cancer when it's caught early and localized?
6. Which global beauty company has distributed millions of pink ribbons and free informational cards about breast health since the early 1990s?
7. Which U.S. president proclaimed October as "National Breast Cancer Awareness Month"?
8. Which major league sport was the first to allow players to wear pink uniforms and equipment in games during October to support breast cancer awareness?
9. What iconic New York City landmark has been lit pink in October to support breast cancer awareness?
10. In what decade did mammography become widely used as a screening tool, leading to earlier detection and higher survival rates?

1. Susan G. Komen for the Cure 2. Betty Ford 3. The White House 4. The Affordable Care Act 5. About 99% 6. Estée Lauder 7. President George H. W. Bush 8. National Football League 9. The Empire State Building 10. The 1970s

MHA Grateful To Cummins For AED



The Mental Health Association in Chautauqua County is very grateful to Cummins for their grant to purchase an AED, a medical device that can restore a normal rhythm to the heart during a sudden cardiac arrest. All MHA staff and volunteers recently received instruction in CPR and the use of the AED. Pictured from left are trainer Bob Goold, staffers Brandon Griggs, Michael Nordin, and Jill Marsh, and volunteer Tina Morgan. The MHA is a peer recovery center offering support groups and individual coaching for people looking to improve their lives, deepen wellness, thrive in recovery, or support those on a recovery path. To learn more, call (716) 661-9044 or visit MHACHautauqua.org or facebook.com/MHACHautauqua.



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SOCKTOBER Sock Drive to Warm Hearts and Toes in October

Contributed by
Northern Chautauqua Community Foundation

Northern Chautauqua Community Foundation has announced its annual SOCKTOBER drive during the month of October. SOCKTOBER is a community-wide effort to collect warm socks for individuals and families in need. This year, the need is greater than ever, as rising costs and increased homelessness have left many without this basic necessity.

As the days grow shorter and the temperatures drop, many members of our community face the harsh reality of winter without the warmth and comfort of proper footwear. Socks are often overlooked but are essential for staying warm and healthy during the colder months. Through SOCKTOBER, NCCF and its partners seek to meet this need and make a meaningful difference. Throughout October, NCCF, together with Agricultural Logistics, Cattaraugus County Bank (Dunkirk and South Dayton locations), Chautauqua Health and Fitness Center, James Prendergast Library, and Lake Shore Savings Bank (Dunkirk, Fredonia, and Westfield branches), will be accepting sock donations. In addition to these official drop-off points, classrooms, clubs, businesses, and congregations across the county are also hosting their own SOCKTOBER collections. New socks of all sizes and types, from cozy winter socks to athletic and everyday wear, are encouraged to help meet the diverse needs of those we aim to assist.

SOCKTOBER partners believe everyone deserves the dignity of warm, dry feet. This annual drive offers the community an opportunity to come together and provide comfort during the most challenging months of the year.

How You Can Help

- **Donate New Socks:** Drop off socks at designated collection sites throughout Chautauqua County. Look for SOCKTOBER bins at participating businesses and organizations.

- **Host a Sock Drive:** Encourage your workplace, school, book club, or organization to run a collection and add to the impact.
- **Make a Financial Contribution:** Prefer to give monetarily? All funds will be used to purchase additional socks for distribution. Checks can be made out to NCCF (note SCOKTOBER on the memo line) and mailed or dropped off to 212 Lake Shore Drive West, Dunkirk, NY 14048.
- **Spread the Word:** Share SOCKTOBER on social media using the hashtag #SOCKTOBER and encourage friends and family to join in.

In 2024, thousands of socks were distributed through local partners including Chautauqua County Rural Ministry, the Homeless Coalition, Meals on Wheels, Jamestown YWCA, Boys and Girls Club, St. Gianna Molla, St. Susan's Center, and others. Join us in making SOCKTOBER a season of hope, compassion, and warmth. Together, we can bring comfort to those who need it most. Let's warm hearts and toes this October!

For more information, contact Eileen Ardillo at 716-366-4892 or eardillo@nccfoundation.org. Since its incorporation in 1986, the NCCF has invested nearly \$23 million in northern Chautauqua County through strategic grantmaking, targeted scholarships, and leadership and community collaborations. The NCCF is a tax-exempt charitable organization inherently committed to enhancing the northern Chautauqua community and encouraging local philanthropy. As a nationally accredited community foundation, the NCCF has proven compliance with the National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations, demonstrating integrity, equity, accountability, transparency, and effectiveness in meeting the needs of its community. For more information on the NCCF, visit www.nccfoundation.org or call 716-366-4892.



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The Chautauqua Region Quilt Guild will be having their monthly meeting on **Wednesday, October 8** at the Busti 5 Corners Community Church, the former Busti Federated Church, at the 5 corners in Busti. This month our community sew time will begin at 1:00. Faith Swanson will be showing us how to use our hunks and chunks of scrap material to make a wallhanging/quilt at 1:30. Feel free to bring some of your scraps



for this. You'll need both a color family and neutrals. Faith will provide the pattern. Refreshments will be available from 6-6:30 and the meeting will begin at 6:30. Jan Shoup from Quilters' Haven will be presenting our hands-on Christmas activity and showing new items from her shop that will be available for purchase. At October and November meetings we will continue collecting pillowcases for the Boys and Girls Club as well as items for the Blue Star Mothers Care boxes. A list of suggested items is available at the meeting or on the Blue Star Mothers website: <https://www.bluestarmotherswny.com/donation-list/>.

Annual dues of \$25 can be paid at our October or November meeting or can be mailed to our treasurer by December 31. Visitors and new members are always welcome.

The attached photo is of the quilt that Faith will be showing us how to make at 1:30 during our community sew time.

Little Explorers Saturday Free Admission Next Monday, Indigenous Peoples' Day



Bring your 3 to 8-year-old(s) to Audubon Community Nature Center's Little Explorers this Saturday, 10-11:30 a.m., to learn about squirrels and chipmunks. After a short indoor lesson and a hike, a snack is provided and a craft if there is time. To learn more and make reservations by Thursday, visit AudubonCNC.org/Events. The indoor fish pond is just one of many fun activities to enjoy when building admission is free next Monday, October 13, in celebration of Indigenous People's Day. The Nature Center is at 1600 Riverside Road, one-quarter mile east of Route 62 between Jamestown and Warren.



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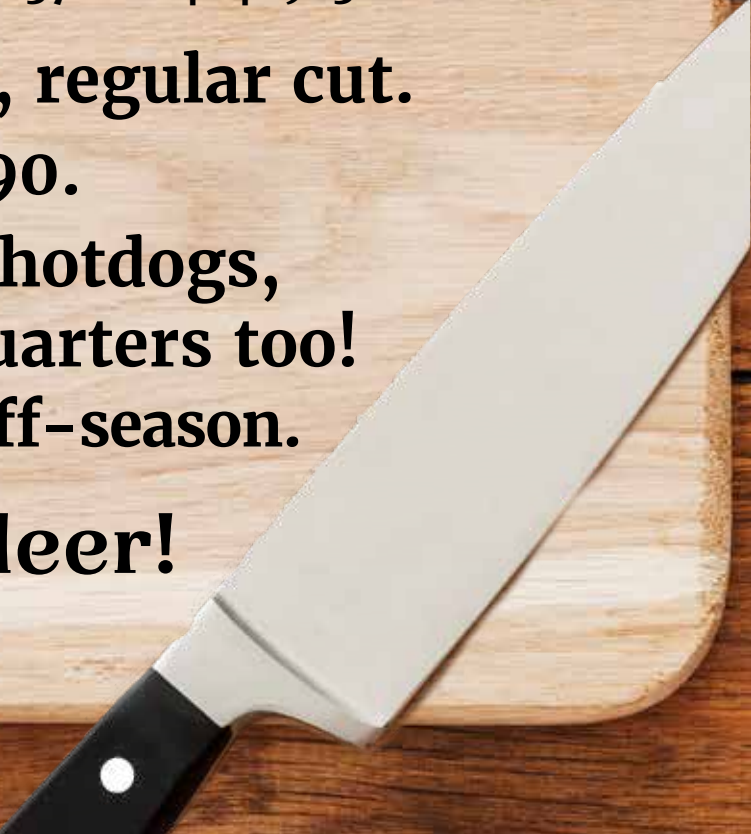
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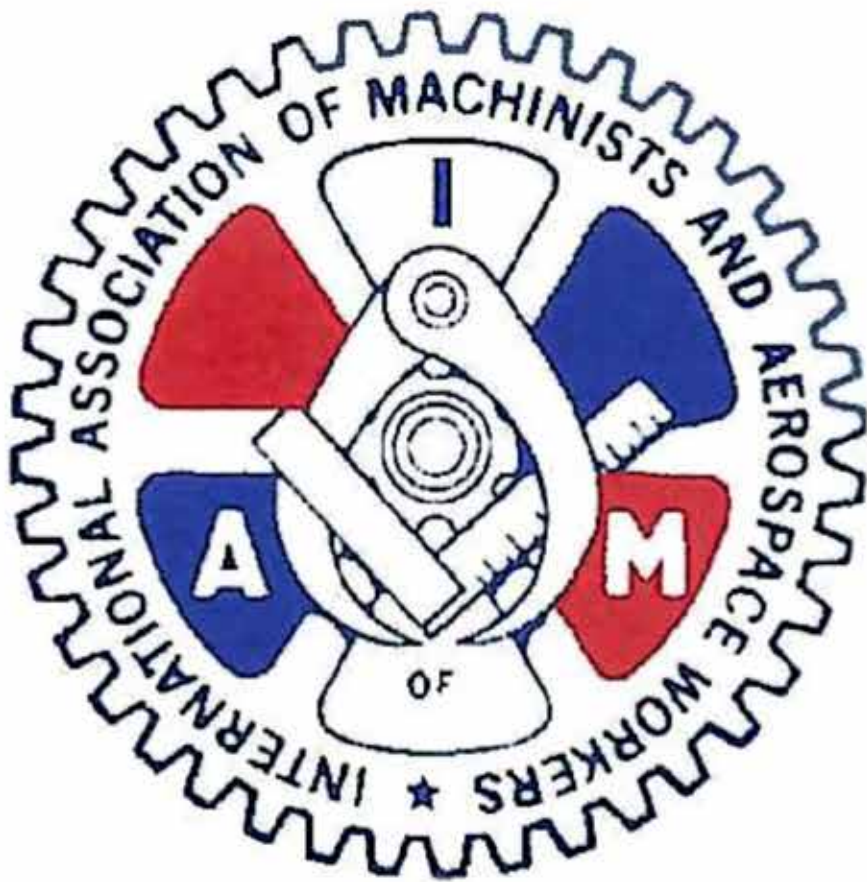
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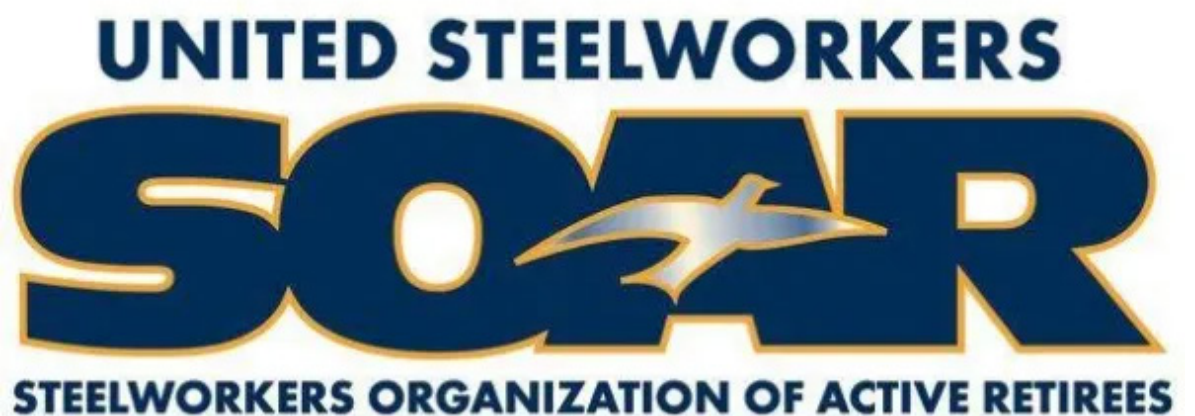


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United Way of Chautauqua County's Salute to Labor

Contributed by
United Way of Chautauqua County

United Way of Chautauqua County is proud to announce that the late James S. “Jim” Bickhart of Dunkirk has been selected as the 2025 recipient of the Joseph H. Mason Award.

Presented annually by United Way, the Joseph H. Mason Award is a recognition of the exceptional community involvement and volunteerism of local labor members. Though in its 44th year, the award had previously been exclusive to southern Chautauqua County union members — which changed to a countywide award with last year’s merger.

This year’s posthumous award in memory of Jim Bickhart marks the first time the award has been given to a northern Chautauqua County resident as well as a United Steelworkers of America labor union member.

Jim will be recognized at United Way’s annual “Salute To Labor” gala dinner which will be held at 6pm on October 9 at the Athenaeum Hotel on the grounds of Chautauqua Institution. His wife Theresa will accept the award on his behalf. Tickets for that event can be purchased by calling United Way at (716) 483-1561.

A towering figure in labor and civic leadership, Jim Bickhart’s involvement stretched from the



shop floor to the halls of labor governance, while his extensive record of community service reflected the same commitment to improving the lives of others.

He joined Allegheny Ludlum Corporation in 1967 as a rolling mill operator in Dunkirk and shortly after starting his union career there, he swiftly rose through the ranks—serving as shop steward, then trustee, recording secretary, vice president, and ultimately President of USWA Local 2693. He was the International Staff Representative for USWA District 4 for 18 years. His skills as a negotiator and arbitrator were highly respected, and he rarely backed down from a fight when it came to protecting workers’ rights. His union tenure spanned 57 years, during which he chaired key committees and launched many initiatives.

He served on the Dunkirk Area Labor Council AFL-CIO for 33 years including as president for 30 years. He held positions such as Vice President of New York State AFL-CIO. He served as a delegate to the Western New York Area Labor Federation for a number of years.

Upon retirement in 2003 Jim was appointed by the USW to the Alliance for American Manufacturing Committee. Even after retiring in 2003, he remained deeply engaged, leading the Steelworkers Organization of Active Retirees (SOAR) as District 4 Coordinator and president of Chapter 4-1.

Jim left a lasting impact. He and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20



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In the Western Southern Tier (Chautauqua, Allegany, Cattaraugus Counties), contact Bob Dando at robedi127@gmail.com

The Working Families Party of the Western Southern Tier (Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Allegany Counties) wish to Congratulate Jim Bickhart, 2025 Mason Awardee!

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American Creed Screening on Indigenous Peoples’ Day at Robert H. Jackson Center

Community partners invite public to explore national identity, democracy, and shared values

Contributed by
St. Luke’s Episcopal Church

In a time of deep political polarization, three local organizations are inviting the community to come together around a shared story of what it means to be American. On Monday, October 13 at 7:00 p.m., St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, the New Neighbors Coalition, and the Robert H. Jackson Center will co-host a screening of the PBS documentary American Creed at the Jackson Center.

The film brings together diverse voices—veterans, artists, educators, community organizers, and leaders—who wrestle with the meaning of American identity. From local neighborhoods to the national stage, American Creed highlights the ways in which our country’s story is both complex and unifying.

Following the screening, attendees will have the opportunity to participate in a Sworn-Again America Oath, inspired by the oath immigrants take at naturalization, which the Jackson Center routinely hosts. This interactive experience invites participants to renew their commitment to citizenship, democracy, and one another.

“Democracy works only when enough of us believe democracy works,” organizers note. “This is a chance to not only watch a film, but to actively engage in the responsibility and joy of choosing citizenship.”

The evening will conclude with short breakout sessions highlighting local initiatives for civic and community engagement.

St. Luke’s Sacred Ground group, which explores the history of race and ethnicity in the U.S. through films and readings.

New Neighbors Coalition, which supports immigrant neighbors in Chautauqua County.

Chautauqua County’s IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access) Coalition, working to strengthen equity and inclusion locally.

The event is free and open to the public.

For more information on consult the various websites: New Neighbors <https://newneighborswny.org>; the Robert H. Jackson Center, <https://www.roberthjackson.org> and St. Luke’s at: www.stlukesjamestown.org.

CCIDA and Viewpoint with Dennis Quaid Team Up to Highlight Chautauqua County, NY

Public Television Program to be distributed to 170+ Stations in Mid-October



Chautauqua County will be featured on an upcoming segment of “Viewpoint with Dennis Quaid,” a program distributed to more than 170 public television stations across the country. The program, produced in conjunction with the County of Chautauqua Industrial Development Agency and the Chautauqua County Partnership for Economic Growth, will focus on the benefits of living, working, and doing business in the county through the Choose CHQ and Live CHQ marketing initiatives. (Submitted Photos)

Contributed by
County of Chautauqua Industrial Development Agency

Chautauqua County is ready to hit the national stage, thanks to an upcoming new segment of “Viewpoint with Dennis Quaid,” a public television (PTV) program distributed to more than 170 PTV stations across the country. The County of Chautauqua Industrial Development Agency (CCIDA), in conjunction with the Chautauqua County Partnership for Economic Growth (CCPEG) and Chautauqua County government, is partnering with the long-running program to highlight the Choose CHQ and Live CHQ initiatives, which explore the benefits that come with living, working, and doing business in the western-most county of New York State.

Hosted by acclaimed actor, Dennis Quaid, “Viewpoint with Dennis Quaid” engages its audience by cultivating each segment with an approach of educating viewers and inspiring them to take action.

The upcoming Chautauqua County segment of “Viewpoint with Dennis Quaid” will run approximately five minutes and will offer PTV audiences an insightful look into the County, an area of New York State that features a wide variety of outdoor recreational opportunities, nationally recognized museums and cultural attractions, and a business development team that works to help employers of all types and sizes find success on the regional, national, and international

stage. Filmed in early June 2025, produced over the summer, and scheduled for national distribution on Oct. 14, the program features commentary from several community leaders, including Paul “PJ” Wendel, Chautauqua County Executive; Mark Geise, Deputy County Executive for Economic Development and CCIDA CEO; Shawn Hricko, General Manager of Cummins Jamestown Engine Plant; and Journey Gunderson, Executive Director of the National Comedy Center. Together, the four help to explain how the county is not only a viable place to only visit, but also a great place to live and invest.

The program also uses footage to spotlight many areas of Chautauqua County, including Jamestown, Dunkirk, Westfield, Bemus Point, and Celoron. It also highlights the abundant outdoor recreational resources that are found in proximity to the County’s five lakes as well as the 250-plus miles of recreational trails, providing residents and visitors alike with a wide variety of outdoor opportunities, regardless of the season. Additionally, the segment helps to demonstrate how Chautauqua County is a prime location for those seeking career

opportunities, affordable living, and an appealing quality of life – all of which are highlighted in the Live CHQ talent attraction and retention initiative.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18



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Labyrinth Press Company and Pearl City Clay House Bring Wizarding Magic to Potters Alley Week



Contributed by
Pearl City Clay House

Magic is in the air this October in downtown Jamestown. Labyrinth Press Company is hosting Potters Alley Week from October 5–11, a Harry Potter-inspired celebration filled with themed events, community fun, and plenty of surprises. The week also highlights Potters Gallery, the outdoor gallery of local art located in historic Potter's Alley, for which it was named.

As part of the festivities, Pearl City Clay House (PCCH) is inviting fans and friends to create their very own wizarding keepsake with a Paint Your Own Potter Mug experience. Guests can choose a house stencil, design their mug in true Hogwarts style, and glaze it with their own touch of magic. Once fired, each mug will be ready to become a favorite for butterbeer, tea, or coffee.

To keep the fun going, each participant will also receive a token redeemable at Labyrinth Press Company for a themed monthly special. For those who'd

prefer to bring the creativity home, take-home mug kits will also be available. Kits can be pre-ordered online or picked up in person, complete with mug, stencil, and glazes, and returned to Pearl City Clay House for firing.

"This is such a natural partnership," said Debra Eck, PCCH Program Coordinator "Potters Alley Week is about celebrating art, imagination, and community—and what better way to join in than by creating your own piece of magic?"

Potters Alley Week will also include trivia, cider and donut pairings, a selfie wall and giveaway, a costume contest, and more. Full event details can be found on Labyrinth's social media.

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For more information or to pre-order a kit, visit www.pearlcityclayhouse.org



MARTZ-KOHL OBSERVATORY

SEARCHING FOR EXTRATERRESTRIAL LIFE WITH THE HABITABLE WORLDS OBSERVATORY

Contributing Writer

Andy Felong

Public and Media Relations
Martz-Kohl Observatory

The public is invited to attend a fascinating talk on humanity's next great mission to search for life beyond Earth. Lee Feinberg, Principal Architect of NASA's proposed Habitable Worlds Observatory (HWO), will present the science and engineering behind this future flagship telescope on Wednesday, October 15, 2025, at 7:30 p.m. The talk will cover the key and driving science needs, the architectures being studied, and the technologies being used for the HWO. It will also discuss how lessons from previous space telescopes are being factored into the effort.

The Habitable Worlds Observatory is being designed as a massive, next-generation space telescope—often called a "super-Hubble"—that will build on the technologies of the Hubble, James Webb, and Roman space telescopes. The primary goal of the HWO is to directly image Earth-like planets orbiting distant stars and analyze their atmospheres for biosignatures, or chemical evidence of life.

Lee Feinberg brings a wealth of experience from NASA's most critical space projects. He currently serves as the Principal Architect for the HWO at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center. For over

20 years, he was the Telescope Manager and optics lead for the revolutionary James Webb Space Telescope (JWST). Prior to that, he was part of the team responsible for repairing and upgrading the Hubble Space Telescope (HST). Feinberg is a NASA Goddard Senior Fellow and a recipient of the US government's Presidential Rank Award for his contributions to the JWST.

This talk will be shown on the big screen at the Martz-Kohl Observatory and available online via Zoom. You are encouraged to come to the observatory to virtually meet Lee Feinberg and join in our always lively Q&A after his talk. The observatory is located at 176 Robbin Hill Rd, Frewsburg, NY 14738. If the weather permits, there will be public viewing opportunities. While our lecture room is heated, you should dress for outside weather for tours and viewing. More info: <https://martzobservatory.org>

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

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CCIDA and Viewpoint with Dennis Quaid Team Up to Highlight Chautauqua County, NY

Continued from page 14

In conjunction with the Choose CHQ branding effort – which encompasses both the CCIDA and CCPEG Economic Development efforts – the program also communicates how Chautauqua County is preparing for new industries through the development of shovel-ready sites, while also helping existing businesses to thrive, such as Cummins and Wells.

“We are very excited to partner with the Viewpoint team, who helped us tell our story to a national audience,” said Mark Geise. “It’s no secret that our county has seen a population decrease during the past 50 years. Our hope is that through this project, along with other Live CHQ and Choose CHQ marketing efforts, we can help educate outsiders about the positive aspects of living and doing business in Chautauqua County, thereby reversing our population decline while filling open job positions.”

Beyond the distribution of the “Viewpoint with Dennis Quaid” PTV program, the producers of the program have also created a 30-second commercial, which is being shown on network television stations in 100 different major markets during the month of October. Additionally, an extended profile video on Chautauqua County has been provided to the CCIDA/CCPEG for their own marketing efforts. The video will be prominently displayed on both the Choose CHQ and Live CHQ websites, and will also be available for viewing on all related social media platforms. Finally, an email campaign is being coordinated by the program’s producers, featuring

key details about Choose CHQ and Live CHQ. This campaign will involve distributing the content to an estimated 1 million recipients, also on Oct. 14.

Funding for the “Viewpoint with Dennis Quaid” project was provided through the CCIDA’s 2024 Chautauqua County Business Development, Assistance, and Promotion fund. More information about the CCIDA and CCPEG can be found at ChooseCHQ.com. For information about living in Chautauqua County, visit LiveCHQ.org.

About Viewpoint with Dennis Quaid - “Viewpoint with Dennis Quaid” is a Public Television program that offers viewers insightful stories about innovative developments and their impact on various industries. Hosted by Dennis Quaid, the program aims to educate and inspire audiences by exploring the ingenuity and dedication behind organizations shaping our world. Learn more at: www.viewpointproject.com

About CCIDA - The CCIDA is an economic development organization authorized and empowered by the State of New York to make Chautauqua County a better place to work, live, and visit. It facilitates development by attracting new businesses, while promoting the retention and expansion of existing businesses. Assistance in the form of incentives – tax abatements, low interest loans, and bond financing – enhances the opportunities for job creation and retention by our businesses. For more information visit ChooseCHQ.com.



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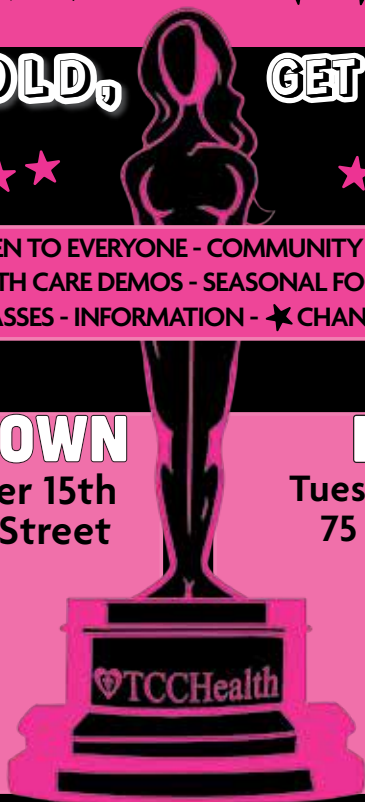
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Breast Cancer Awareness MONTH

Every Story Is Unique, Every Journey Matters

Continued from front page

ultrasound was done the same day. The radiologist recommended a biopsy, which was completed two days later. After the biopsy and in the middle of the chaos of COVID, I heard the words that turned my world upside down: triple negative breast cancer. I remember sitting there, stunned, thinking, "This can't be happening to me." Even as a physician, with all the knowledge and experience I had, nothing could prepare me for how it felt to suddenly be a cancer patient.

From there, things moved quickly with my treatment plan. Surgery to remove the tumor was the first step. This was followed by twenty weeks of chemotherapy, which included a drug called the "red devil." This medication earned its name. The side effects were brutal, with exhaustion, hair loss, and numbness in my extremities. After the chemo came three weeks of radiation treatments, which brought more challenges. It was relentless, and under the shadow of the COVID pandemic, cancer treatments and recovery felt even more isolating. Masks, distancing and fear of infection created so many layers of stress and anxiety.

Yet somehow, this hardship also highlighted the power of our community. As much as I knew the science behind what was happening, I discovered that cancer is not just a physical battle; it is more so an emotional and spiritual one. Phone calls, cards and virtual check-ins reminded me that love could not be quarantined. I leaned heavily on my family and friends, who became my anchors. Their support carried me through long nights of worry and anxiety. My colleagues and coworkers at Jamestown Pediatrics were my

biggest cheerleaders. Positivity became my lifeline. I learned to focus on hope and to surround myself with people who believed in my healing.

Five years later, I look back with awe and gratitude. I am healthy, recovered and thriving. Breast cancer may have disrupted my life, but it did not define it. Instead, it reshaped my perspective. I no longer take simple joys for granted: an evening walk with my dog, enjoying a sunset at the lake, a shared meal or the laughter of a child in my office. I continue to enjoy traveling, but now I see every trip, whether near or far, as a celebration of life itself.

My fight against breast cancer taught me lessons I now pass on to others: listen to your body, prioritize your health and never underestimate the importance of early detection of breast cancer through self-examination and your annual mammogram. Each individual's experience with breast cancer is completely unique. Perhaps the greatest lesson is this, even in life's darkest moments, human connectivity provides you with resilience and hope that can light the way forward.

Triple negative breast cancer was not a journey I had planned, but it gave me a deeper appreciation for strength, connection and joy. As October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and highlights our fight, we know the fight continues every day, and I stand with you in solidarity. Today, I live not only as a survivor, but as someone on a new and vibrant path, one filled with gratitude, health and the beauty of second chances.



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United Way of Chautauqua County's Salute to Labor

Continued from page 13

his wife of more than 56 years, Theresa, were a recognized team in Chautauqua County – often working together on causes close to their hearts. Both were recognized by the Democratic and Republican committees for their dedication to community service.

He served on the Salvation Army Advisory Board for Dunkirk, and was on the American Cancer Society, County Board of Directors. He served on the Brooks Memorial Building Fundraiser. He served on the Dunkirk Regional Planning Board. He was a labor delegate to the United Way Board. He was an advisor for Boy Scouts Explorer Ship 54. He served on the Board of Directors for Workers Memorial from its inception in 2001.

Jim was well recognized for his labor and civic achievements. In 1972 he received the Admiral Hooper Award from the United States Naval Reserve. Jim was honorably discharged from the United States Naval Reserve in 1984 after 24 years of service. He retired as First Class Petty Officer. In 1975 he was selected to Who's Who in Labor. In 1989 Jim received the CSEA Community Service Award presented by LU 807. In 1993 Jim was honored by the Chautauqua County Democratic Committee at the Annual Labor Dinner. In 2005 the Chautauqua County Republican Committee recognized Jim and Theresa for their community. In 2006 Jim received the AFL-CIO Labor Leader of the Year Award. In 2016, Jim received a Lifetime Achievement Award from United Steel Workers. In 2023 the Dunkirk Area Labor Council AFL-CIO presented Jim with the Life Achievement Award for over 50 years of service to the labor movement and to the community. Jim was nominated by Hank Hoisington, President of CSEA Retirees Chautauqua/Cattaraugus Counties.

"Jim has had a positive impact on our community, past and present," Hoisington said in his nomination.

The Joseph H. Mason Award

Joseph H. Mason was the Directing Business Representative of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, District 65, representing southwestern New York and northwestern Pennsylvania.

Joe's reputation for standing up for the causes of labor impacting the day-to-day lives of working men and women of our area is well known. Joe was recognized nationally for serving as the first Co-Chair of the labor management committee, a locally initiated revolutionary approach to labor relations.

Joe Mason was most importantly a long-standing member of the United Way Board of Directors. Joe exemplified labor's commitment to serving our community through his devotion to the United Way campaign.

After Joe's passing on, the United Way Board of Directors created this award in recognition of labor's critical contribution to the success of the United Way. What has followed has been 43 years of the United Way recognizing the critical role that local labor leaders play in serving our community, in addition to serving the interests of the union members they represent.

About United Way of Chautauqua County

United Way of Chautauqua County is committed to improving lives and strengthening communities by mobilizing resources, fostering partnerships and supporting impactful programs. Through collaboration and innovation, United Way works to address the most pressing needs in Chautauqua County, ensuring a brighter future for all.



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Gregory Krauza
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CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY WORKING FAMILIES COMMITTEE

Robert Dando, Chair
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Legislator Larson: Your Precious Right to Vote

Contributed by
Legislator Fred Larson

Your vote in this Fall’s election is easy and convenient. You will have nine days of early voting, from Oct. 25 to Nov. 2, before Election Day, on Tuesday, November 4. In American history, however, achieving the right to vote, especially for women and Black people, has been hard.

At the founding of our country under the Articles of Confederation and shortly thereafter, under the original Constitution, the right to vote was set by each state and was usually limited to white men who owned property. The 1828 Presidential election was the first in which non-property holding white males could vote in the vast majority of states.

Slaves in the South counted as 3/5 of a person to determine each state’s population in determining how many House of Representatives members each slave state would have and, therefore, its Electoral College share. Those same slaves, of course, had no right to vote.

President Grant used all of the adoration he had earned as our most successful Civil War general to succeed in getting the passage through Congress of the 14th Amendment to the Constitution in 1868 and the 15th Amendment in 1870 that were designed to give Black voters a Federal guarantee of the right to vote. President Grant’s efforts at reconstruction of the South tried to protect the new Constitutional right of former slaves to vote, but Southern states put up countless barriers to Black citizens, including poll taxes, literacy tests and outright intimidation and violence to prevent Black people from voting. The Presidential election of 1876 resulted in the Northern Republicans backing off on their support of President Grant’s commitment to voting rights for 4,000,000 freed slaves. It would take the Voting Rights Act of 1965 for the Federal government

to stop Southern states from discriminating against Black voters.

Women began to organize to demand the right to vote after the Civil War. It would be a long, difficult fight. In order to win the right to vote, women would have to get at least 2/3 of Congress to pass a Constitutional Amendment and then get the states to ratify the amendment. The National Woman Suffrage Association was not formed by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony until 1869.

World War I and President Woodrow Wilson’s claim that we were fighting for democracy put pressure on Wilson to publicly support the right of women to vote. In 1918, President Wilson changed his position to support a Constitutional Amendment. It finally passed Congress in 1919. Enough states ratified the 19th Amendment to allow women to vote for president for the first time in November 1920.

For almost 200 years, only people 21 and older had the right to vote. While serious discussion of lowering the voting age to 18 began during World War II, when 18-year-olds were drafted, another war apparently won 18-year-olds the right to vote. During the Vietnam War era between 1964 and 1973, the U.S. military drafted 2,200,000 young men between the ages of 18 and 26. As the Vietnam War became increasingly unpopular, the question of how the United States could draft 18-year-olds to fight and die in Vietnam but deny them the right to vote became harder for Congress to ignore.

Apparently, to try to reduce the hostility to the Vietnam War among young people, especially college students, in 1971, Congress decided to pass the 26th Amendment to give everyone 18 and over the right to vote. Despite these lengthy struggles to get the right to vote, by this Election Day, Tuesday, November 4, probably only about 30 percent of registered voters in Chautauqua County will take advantage of their precious right.

GREG CARLSON RECEIVES CSEA ENDORSEMENT

Contributed by
Greg Carlson
Candidate, County Clerk

This summer I accepted an invitation to meet with the Civil Service Employees Association’s (CSEA) Chautauqua County Political Action Committee (PAC). It was an excellent face-to-face exchange with the organization representing the majority of the hard-working civil servants employed by the clerk’s office. After the Chautauqua County PAC presented my information to CSEA’s Region IV PAC, I was honored to learn CSEA would be endorsing my campaign for Chautauqua County Clerk. This endorsement is not only meaningful to my campaign, but to me personally as well. Any plan I introduce to the voters is only achievable because of the employees the CSEA represents doing the work on a daily basis. An open and collaborative relationship with the CSEA will be the cornerstone of ensuring employees are treated with fairness and respect. The announcement of this significant endorsement provides a great opportunity to share some of my personal thoughts on leadership.

During my 20-years of military service, and nine-years as the Director of Veterans Services for Chautauqua County, I’ve completed numerous formal leadership courses. Formal training provided a baseline of knowledge, but it was 30-years of experiences in both leading and being led, and my personal successes and failures that solidified my leadership principles. There are two basic principles I found associated with every success.

The first and most basic principle is to treat others as you’d want to

be treated. This doesn’t mean you can give an individual or group you oversee everything they request. But fairness, respect and openness to feedback is almost always achievable. When a difference of opinion arises, the discussion should always be on the issue of disagreement, not the individual as a person. Situations arise where respect is not reciprocated, and you have to respond accordingly in those circumstances. However, the starting point should always be mutual respect.

The second enduring principle is consistency. The military is the ultimate leadership laboratory, and I served for numerous commanders. Some very good, and some not so good. The good commanders were all a bit different, but their commonality was consistency. You knew what to expect, and could operate with confidence because your boss was consistent in messaging and expectations. The bad were polar opposites: you were hesitant to take initiative because you could never predict their reaction. Since retiring from the Air Force, I’ve been blessed to work for three outstanding county executives, each with their own unique leadership style, but always respectful and consistent in expectations.

There have been thousands of books written about leadership, and it’s impossible to cover all of the nuances in a single column. But when you start with the basic principles of mutual respect and consistency, everything else tends to fall in place. If elected, I look forward to being a respectful and consistent leader to the employees of the clerk’s office. I will maintain an open-door-policy with CSEA to ensure we’re addressing the needs of our hard-working civil servants.



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LEGISLATOR LARSON
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GREG CARLSON FOR
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- ★ PROVEN LEADER COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE IN COUNTY GOVERNMENT
- ★ TRANSPARENCY, ACCOUNTABILITY, RESULTS

“My primary focus is serving the residents of Chautauqua County. There is no singular action or talking point that leads to good governance. It’s a commitment to continuous process improvement, and putting our dedicated public servants in the best position to provide efficient and friendly customer service. My focus will be proper staffing, improved training, and easier access for our residents and customers.” -Greg Carlson

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County Clerk Candidate Krauza Addresses Attendees at His Rally

Contributed by
Greg Krauza
Candidate, County Clerk

Greg Krauza, candidate for Chautauqua County Clerk, recently addressed a large group attending a rally for his campaign held at Fredonia Place. Krauza began by thanking the group for their support and individuals, including his wife, Jonelle, for all their work on the event.

Clerk candidate Krauza pointed out that voters should look at the Clerk campaign as an extended interview for the position.

"The first thing we address in an interview is experience," Krauza said. "For the last 30 years, I have created and managed companies that are based in customer service and delivering as promised to our customers. We have to ensure that my staff and I deliver as promised. Through inclusive management, we have identified needs and though training and continuous improvement systems, we have accomplished that. My professional experience makes me well qualified for the duties of the county clerk."

"The second part of the interview would look at your commitment to the community," he added. "When the Fredonia Farm Festival was cancelled, I spoke up and backed up my words with action as I became a chairperson of the Fredonia Farm Festival. I also stepped up when the Resource Center needed a chairperson for the Jamestown Gus Macker, a position I held for 20 years"

Krauza mentioned he also has experience as president of the Filling the Gap Board of Directors, president of the Fredonia Community

Chamber and as captain of an 11 Day PowerPlay team that has raised thousands of dollars to battle cancer.

"My commitment to the community shows I have the creativity, inclusive management style and leadership skills to get the job done," he said. "As clerk, I will focus my experience and skills on improving service and creating revenue."

Krauza also spoke about his drive to see meaningful structural change throughout the county.

"We can not continue to conduct business as we have," he said. "To relieve the tax burden on our residents, I will encourage and support the kind of change we need to provide services in the most cost-effective way. I have confidence in our municipal leaders and residents that, given support, they can develop these efficiencies. I am also confident we can do this without losing jobs, without changing municipal boundaries and without losing valuable traditions."

Krauza concluded his remarks by reviewing his experience, commitment and vision.

"As the interview concludes on Election day, I want to be selected as county clerk and to make that happen, I need your vote and the vote of everyone who supports improved service and the need to change," he said. "I humbly ask for your vote and pledge to give you the same effort in the clerk's office I give in both my professional and community life."

Krauza then answered questions from the crowd and concluded the event. "To paraphrase someone who could win any election anywhere in WNY ... Be good, do good, God bless and go Chautauqua," he said.

Melissa First for County Legislator, District 17

Contributed by
Melissa First
Candidate, County Legislator District 17

I am excited to introduce myself as a legislative candidate for Chautauqua County district 17.

As a wife, parent of 6 children and a member of the Panama-Clymer-Sherman school community, I have been consistently involved as a board member of Sports Boosters as well as holiday assistance through the schools for families in need. I have spent volunteering in support of community fundraisers, school events and local food banks, as well as serving as a trustee for

the Ashville Free Library. What I have not done is become involved in local politics. Until now.

I felt compelled to enter the race for county legislator because, like so many of us living here, I was frustrated by the consistent population decline and business losses from the area that have been occurring for the last 25 plus years. I want my children to feel like this is a great place to return to, or remain in. I want to see local schools thrive, not forced to invest time and bussing for sports that combine 2, 3 and even 4 or 5 schools into 1 sport. I want to see

small towns in my district support small to medium businesses that keep Main Street flourishing. Many of the short term solutions being passed as legislation today in our county are simply votes to raise or lower taxes on various goods, property or services in an attempt to balance a budget without increasing income with increasing costs. This is not progress.

I do believe it is possible to reverse this trend but it takes putting all the legs of a stool on at the same time. Job training, development grants, affordable housing and services all have to be coordinated together. It will take a lot of effort on the part of our local legislators and some creativity. The usual approaches have not been effective.

I can be part of the solution as your legislator. I have professional experience as senior management running a 1,500 employee food manufacturing facility. I have experience coordinating with state governments to obtain development grants and monies. I have real estate experience and have been managing the business portion of a small construction and design business for 25 years. I would like to be given the opportunity to contribute to my district and the county at large as a legislator for the upcoming term.

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COUNTY LEGISLATOR

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ELECT
Greg
KRAUZA
COUNTY CLERK



- Improve DMV service delivery
- Increase revenues in both DMV and the Clerk's office
- Advocate and support structural change throughout the County

I am eager to represent you, listen to you and work for you. We cannot continue "government as usual".
Thank you, Greg

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Greg Krauza

The Gazette has invited all countywide and legislative candidates to submit an ad and article each week this fall.

We appreciate those candidates that have helped make this special voter education section possible.

We encourage and welcome all.

Carle: Wendel is No Fiscal Conservative

Contributed by
Tom Carle

Candidate, County Executive

My name is Tom Carle. I am a Chautauqua County legislator, and the Democratic and Working Families Candidate for County Executive. I am challenging our county executive for that role in this November’s election.

I am a married father of five, with three kids in school. We currently reside in Fredonia with my family. We have lived in Canada, Minnesota, and Ohio, following my work, and chose Chautauqua County in 2017 to be our home.

My background has been in manufacturing and human resources. I have led teams of people in the USA, Canada and the UK to success in the workplace. I have been self-employed, owning small businesses, have worked on a farm and so much more. Early on, I learned that I could not play the banjo for a living and took to working in factory production positions to afford a family life. Work always went well for me. What I found in the latter part of my career is that wherever I work, it would improve dramatically from what I inherited. The key to success was to train everyone to be focused on the quality and the cost, and from there we developed a ‘culture of cost reduction’ in every location where I worked. In our county, we could benefit from a government that focused on reigning in costs as we maintain quality in all that we do. I would like to bring that world of experience to bear in our county business.

You see, if we don’t have the expense, we don’t need the tax to cover it. Who doesn’t want there to be lower taxes?

So, getting back to the subject and title of my “introduction,” that my opponent is not fiscally conservative:

Paul M. Wendel, Jr’s taxpayer-paid press release claiming he is ‘Doing More for Less’ is incorrect - he is actually doing the complete opposite.

The truth is that County Executive Wendel is no fiscal conservative:

1. 10 years ago, after the sale of the County Home, the county had 1,000 employees. Under Wendel, there are now over 1,200, a 20% increase.
2. Wendel presided over a 20 percent increase in County employees, while the county has had a loss of 14,000 people.
3. Under Wendel, the county property tax levy continues to increase. In 2024, the County property tax was \$71,500,000. In 2025, Wendel raised that to \$73,200,000, a jump of \$1,700,000.
4. Wendel approved an increase of 60 percent to the legislative salaries beginning in 2026.”
5. The compensation in county collective bargaining agreements and salaries approved by Wendel exceed the Chautauqua County per capita average.
6. In addition, Wendel has proposed moving county offices to Lakewood and has brought forth a proposal for a \$120 million county jail project.

As you can see, our current County Executive has been “Doing Less for More,” not the other way around, and he is proposing increased debt with costly, if not unnecessary projects.

Tom Carle for Chautauqua County Executive -

- My business experience has been in helping struggling organizations to cut costs and become more efficient. I was successful each and every time.
- Let me bring a fresh perspective, focus, skill sets and a winning record to the County Executive’s Office.
- When the Buffalo Bills missed the playoffs for 17 straight years, the owner finally brought in a new General Manager.
- The voters have a chance this fall to pick a new General Manager for Chautauqua County.
- I welcome the opportunity and the challenge to turn Chautauqua County into a winner, like today’s Buffalo Bills.



CHAMBER CORNER

Choose Community Over Convenience

Article Contributed by
Daniel J. Heitzenrater
Chautauqua County Chamber of Commerce
President and CEO

The CHQ Chamber Business Awards Banquet this year brought together 275 people in one room for a dinner and celebration of businesses throughout Chautauqua County. It’s a great feeling to be in a room with so many others – all enjoying a singular experience together. Apart from going to a show or sporting event, these occurrences seem to happen less frequently in recent years, and that may make the feelings surrounding it more powerful.

Beyond events and gatherings, many people have also shifted their mindset to choose convenience over camaraderie. When you can conveniently shop at your fingertips and your purchases can be delivered within hours or days, many are opting for convenience rather than venturing out to do their own shopping. Just as our society may be prioritizing time at home over public functions, going out to shop or dine has become less important for many people.

Opportunities to gather with friends, neighbors, and even community members we haven’t met, are important steps in strengthening our community – especially at a time when people seem more divided and lonelier than ever. In-person participation doesn’t have to be on a large scale to have an impact. Every day we have opportunities to make choices that place community over convenience. Ordering through an app might be easy, but is it enjoyable? Where’s the feeling of togetherness when all you’re doing is waiting for something to be delivered?

Contrast that experience to getting your morning coffee in person at the local coffee shop. As you walk in, your nose is greeted by the aroma of freshly ground coffee. You hear the

espresso machine and chatter of nearby patrons. You speak to another person in line who may recommend a new special. You might run into a colleague or friend to exchange warm greetings. The barista gives you a smile and thanks you for stopping in. Overall, it’s a more fulfilling experience, and it likely has a more positive impact on your day and those around you.

This concept of active participation fits right in with the Chamber’s mission and message. Local businesses are the foundation of our communities. It’s not just the products and services they offer, it’s also the employment opportunities, community giving, and serving as a gathering place to build friendships and social bonds. Life is simply better when we experience it together, in person. Our work at the Chamber not only connects businesses with each other, it connects customers with our local businesses, and we hope it builds a more connected, resilient community along the way.

To all those who chose to attend the CHQ Chamber Business Awards Banquet, we thank you. You made a statement by opting for togetherness, and your support of our local businesses celebrating achievements and milestones means the world to them as they continue their great work throughout our county. The sheer headcount in the room was heartening.

We encourage everyone to be deliberate in the experiences you create for yourself and the businesses you support and stay mindful of the impact the purely convenient choice may have on you and those around you. When you choose to actively participate in opportunities to shop, dine, and gather locally, you are supporting your friends and neighbors. Thank you for choosing community.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 27

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One Laugh at a Time: A National Comedy Center Memory Café

Contributed by
National Comedy Center

Caring for someone with memory loss takes strength—and sometimes, a shared laugh can make all the difference. That’s why the National Comedy Center hosts a free Memory Café on the first Monday of each month, designed for individuals living with dementia, Alzheimer’s, or other memory-related conditions—along with their caregivers, family members, and care partners. The next Memory Café will take place on Monday, October 6—offering laughter, companionship, and the joy of community as we honor this day of rest and reflection.

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



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

This marks the National Comedy Center’s ninth Memory Café event, following its successful launch event in February.

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

- **When:** Monday, October 6, 2025
- **10 AM:** Check-in and museum exploration
- **11 AM:** Enjoy refreshments, great company, and a fun, engaging program.
- **Cost:** FREE



Western New York Author Publishes Novel Inspired by the Work of Frank Lloyd Wright

The Spiral offers a personal perspective on Wright with supernatural dimensions.

Contributed by
NFB Publishing

NFB Publishing announces the release of Eric Jackson-Forsberg’s debut novel, *The Spiral*. The book is available on amazon.com and through NFB’s website and locally at Good Neighbor Book Store.



Eric Jackson-Forsberg

“The Spiral draws on my own process of discovery as curator of a Wright house,” says Jackson-Forsberg. “It’s a meditation on sublimity and the futility of finite knowledge, exploring themes of personal, professional, and spiritual doubt.”

The story’s central character, Holden Maddox, is a curator haunted by his pursuit of the truth. His esoteric study of Frank Lloyd Wright design and his attempts to sort out his shadowy, small-town past are irresistible obsessions. Driven by a desire to reconstruct his personal history and forge a future for himself, Holden is drawn into a mystery surrounding two pieces of art glass, artifacts with convoluted roots much older and deeper than he knows. Uncanny forces—from the far reaches of the solar system to the Brooklyn Bridge—complicate the quest in ways that defy his imagination, test his resolve, and bend the laws of physics.

While the novel relies on Wright’s designs and the shadow of his character, it does so in a new way, distinguishing it from books like T.C. Boyle’s *The Women* based in the salacious circumstances of Wright’s personal life. The book should appeal to those fascinated with Wright and his work, as well as those interested in the occult and the pursuit of sublimity, from architecture to astrophysics.

Born and raised in the North Country of New York, Eric Jackson-Forsberg received his BA from Hamilton College with a concentration in Creative Writing and an MA in Art History from the University at Buffalo. For nine years, he served as curator for Frank Lloyd Wright’s Martin House complex, contributing to books such as *Frank Lloyd Wright Art Glass of the Martin House*. He and his family have lived in Boston, Buffalo, and Brooklyn, and now call Chautauqua County home.

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Holden Maddox is a curator haunted by his pursuit of the truth. His esoteric study of Frank Lloyd Wright design and his attempts to sort out his shadowy, small-town past are irresistible obsessions. Driven by a desire to reconstruct his personal history and forge a future for himself, Holden is drawn into a mystery surrounding two pieces of art glass, artifacts with convoluted roots much older and deeper than he knows. Uncanny forces—from the far reaches of the solar system to the Brooklyn Bridge—complicate the quest in ways that defy his imagination, test his resolve, and bend the laws of physics.

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Chamber Corner

Continued from page 25

Business Builder Workshop
October 15:
All About Inventory

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 Ashville 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.

SUDOKU

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

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
					38	39	40		41	42			
					43			44					
		45	46										
47	48					49				50	51	52	53
55						56					57		58
59						60					61		
62						63					64		

CLUES ACROSS

1. Comedic actor Rogen
5. Bits per inch
8. Tire pressure measurement
11. Angels great Mike
13. Own (Scottish)
14. Notable FI racing team
15. Upper bract of grass
16. Tax collector
17. Electronic counter-countermeasures
18. Informal loan clubs
20. Skeletal muscle
21. Popular fish type
22. Salts of acetic acid
25. Arriving early
30. Worded
31. Single Lens Reflex
32. Amphibians
33. Warm greeting
38. Belonging to a thing
41. Segmented worm
43. Concerns
45. Audacious
47. Wings
49. Type of drug
50. Wind chill formula scientist Charles
55. Island close to the U.S.
56. "To the ___ degree"
57. Daniel ___, French composer
59. A way to march
60. Where golfers begin
61. Spiritual leader
62. Of she
63. Mental disorder concerning body odor (abbr.)
64. Tall, slender-leaved plant

CLUES DOWN

1. Engine additive
2. Amounts of time
3. Fragrant brown balsam used in perfume
4. Color properties
5. One who hands over
6. Thieves of the sea
7. Put in
8. Nocturnal rodents
9. Pouches
10. Systems, doctrines, theories
12. Greek alphabet letter
14. Greek goddess of youth
19. Satisfy
23. Partly digested food
24. Dictator
25. Parts per thousand (abbr.)
26. The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet
27. A major division of geological time
28. Angry
29. St. Francis of ___
34. Romanian monetary unit
35. Stale
36. Go quickly
37. Commercials
39. Canadian city
40. One who slices
41. Perform perfectly
42. Nest of pheasants
44. Tactile sensations
45. Sword
46. Climactic
47. Adrenocorticotrophin
48. Fisherman's tool
51. Swiss river
52. Plant that makes gum
53. A French abbot
54. One point east of northeast
58. Get free of

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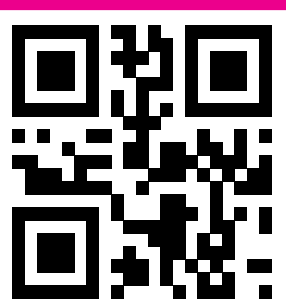
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(2) Mac & Cheese w/roll
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Rescue Dog Stunt Show Presented at Reg Lenna Center for The Arts on October 11.



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

Puppy Pals Live - the action-packed comedic stunt dog show as seen on America's Got Talent - is a hilarious presentation for the whole family and the dog lover in all of us, the spectacle stars mostly rescued dogs. This live event is presented to the public Saturday, October 11 at 7 p.m. at Reg Lenna Center for The Arts.

From shelters to showbiz, these pooches perform spectacular stunts and breathtaking feats like climbing a ladder, jumping rope, and backflips! Full of surprises and laugh- out-loud canine comedy, this 70-minute performance appeals to children of all ages. This is not only an action-packed spectacular but a family fun experience for everyone to enjoy! The Puppy Pals are PETS before they are performers.

As loved members of the family, the dogs enjoy the comfort of being free-range house pets when not on stage. Due to positive, reward based training methods reinforcing wanted behaviors and ignoring others the dogs LOVE the spotlight!

Puppy Pals Live is made possible by a sponsorship from Pea Pod & Juniper.

Tickets for this all-ages, family friendly performance are \$15. The Reg Lenna Center for The Arts box office is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 12-5 p.m. and one hour before movies and events. Tickets may also be purchased by calling 716.484.7070 or at reglenna.com. Reg Lenna Center for The Arts is located at 116 E. 3rd St. in Jamestown, NY.

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

Andy Field Memorial Fund Established to Honor Beloved Jamestown Custodian

Contributed by
**Chautauqua Region
Community Foundation**

The family and friends of the late Andy Field recently established a Donor Advised Fund, the Andy Field Memorial Fund, at the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation. The fund was created to honor Andy's legacy and support the organizations and causes that were meaningful to him throughout his life.

Andy Field was a cherished figure in the Jamestown community, serving as a custodian for 44 years at Jamestown Public Schools. He took immense pride in his work, which was evident in his meticulous care for the school grounds. His dedication was so profound that he'd often drive by the schools on his days off just to ensure everything was in order. Known for his signature yellow suspenders and Crocs, Andy was a calming influence who touched the lives of generations of students, faculty, and staff.

His impact was particularly felt at Jamestown High School, where students chose to donate their "Penny Wars" campaign earnings to his family following his brain tumor diagnosis. This heartfelt gesture, along with his recognition of an "Award of Excellence" as an Exemplary Custodian, Helper, and Friend, speaks volumes about the respect and affection the community held for him.

"Andy was a truly kind person to all," said his wife, Penny Field. "He was a family man who would do anything for his children, grandchildren, and family around



Andy Field

the area. He would gladly give the shirt off his own back to anyone who needed it."

Beyond the schools, Andy's presence was a fixture at the Top-A-Rise Campground, his "home away from home." He was a beloved figure there, whether sharing a morning coffee or tending to his famously large campfires.

"Andy had so much love for life and for everyone around him," added Penny. "He found so much joy in even the simplest things. I am so hopeful that this endowment fund can ensure that his legacy is never forgotten and that his kind, positive spirit will continue to bless our community for years to come."

The new Andy Field Memorial Fund is a permanent tribute to his generous spirit. As a Donor Advised Fund, its proceeds will be directed at the discretion of the fund advisors to support organizations and causes that were important to Andy and helped him throughout his life.

To support the Andy Field Memorial Fund, visit crcfonline.org/give or call the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation at 716-661-3390.

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PUZZLE
SOLUTIONS

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

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

PUZZLES ON PAGE 27

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