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FREE WEEKLY Thanksgiving

Happy Thanksgiving

Volume 3 • Issue 45 | November 23, 2026

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Produce credit: Peterson Farm



A WIDER FRAME FOR THANKSGIVING

Featured Writer

The Rev'd Luke Fodor
Rector, St. Luke's Church, Jamestown

Before anyone gets to the pie, someone at the Thanksgiving table will ask us to go around and say what we're thankful for. It's a kind of snapshot. We pause long enough to notice something about our lives and decide it's worth remembering.

I could say I'm grateful for the beautiful weather we've had this autumn. Then, as a skier, I'd probably add that I'm starting to worry about when it's going to snow and when I'll get out on the slopes at Peek'n Peak and Holiday Valley. The same stretch of weather can make one person grateful and another impatient. In my case, it can do both before I finish my sentence. Gratitude gives us room to hold those different perspectives together.

In a TedTalk video, the National Geographic photographer Dewitt Jones tells a story about gratitude and coming across a field of dandelions in British Columbia. He took a quick snapshot, decided the light could be better and figured he'd come back. By the time he returned, the yellow flowers had gone to seed. He was about to leave when he asked himself, "What's here to celebrate?" So he got down on the ground among the puffballs and found a picture he never would have thought to look for.

Jones encourages us to keep looking for the "next right answer." A photographer can take a good picture, move a few feet and find another one. Each perspective reveals something else worth noticing. I wonder what would happen if we did that with our Thanksgiving snapshots. As the days grow shorter, where might we find an unexpected source of brightness?

Start simply. I'm grateful for the turkey on the table. Widen the frame a little and there's Good Grass Farm in Ashville, where people raise turkeys on pasture. Widen it again and there's the person at Peterson Farm, Brigiotta's or Tuscany who helps us find the last thing on our Thanksgiving shopping list. By the time we sit down to dinner, we owe thanks to quite a few people who may never meet one another.

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SHOPPING LOCAL MEANS MORE DURING THE HOLIDAYS

Article Contributed by

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

At the CHQ Chamber we often highlight the importance of shopping local. Where and how we spend our hard-earned money as consumers is important, and data shows there is a significant positive effect when you choose a local business over big box or online retail. In fact, when you shop local, data shows 68 cents of every dollar gets reinvested in your local economy. This is through the wages a business owner pays their employees, supplies they purchase from other local vendors, and the numerous donations and sponsorships they give to support local organizations and causes.

My favorite illustration of this principle is in the episode "Markets" from the children's show Bluey. In the show Bluey receives five dollars from the tooth fairy, including an official tooth fairy sticker. Her family takes a trip to the local farmer's market where she wants to use her money to buy an item to share with her friend Indie. After struggling to find the right item, bluey makes an impulse purchase of the last toffee apple. Unhappy with her choice, Bluey wishes she had saved her money to put in the guitar case of the busker to request a song. Indie consoles her friend, saying her mom always tells her "What goes around comes around."

Next, we see the magic of shopping local unfold as we watch the tooth fairy bill circulate the market. The scene cuts to the apple vendor giving the five dollars to his child to grab a German sausage, and then the sausage vendor going to buy a carrot juice. The juice vendor ran out of carrots, so they buy a bag of carrots from a local farmer

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

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* COMMUNITY HOLIDAY * * EVENTS 2026 *

Christmas in the Village
November 20-22 | Westfield
Facebook: Christmas in the Village Westfield NY

Falconer Santa Parade
November 21 | 5pm
Coleson Park | Falconer
Facebook: Falconer Rotary Club

Miracle on Main
November 27-28 | Fredonia
Facebook: www.facebook.com/FestivalsFredoniaOfficial

Community Old Fashioned Santa Parade
November 28 | 11 am | Frewsburg
Facebook: Frewsburg Community Old Fashioned Santa Parade

Light Up the Point
November 28 | 5 pm
Bemus Point
Facebook: Village of Bemus Point

Christmas in the Village
December 4-5 | Lakewood
Info: lcdcny.org/christmas-in-the-village

Christmas on Central Holiday Spectacular & Parade
December 5 | 11 am-7 pm
Central Ave. 3rd-5th St. | Dunkirk
Facebook: Dunkirk Festivals & Special Events

Randolph's Country Christmas
December 5 | 10 am-8 pm
Main St. | Randolph
Info: enchantedmountains.com/event/2026/randolphs-country-christmas-1641

Jamestown Holiday Parade
December 5 | 6 pm
200 East Third Street | Jamestown
Facebook: Collaborative Children's Solutions

Light Up Cassadaga
December 5 | 5pm
Ames Commen | Cassadaga
Facebook: Citizens for a Better Cassadaga

Christmas Through The Village in Findley Lake
December 5-6 | Findley Lake
Info: visitfindleylake.com

Christmas in Our Community
December 6-12 | Sherman
Info: Facebook - Sherman Chamber of Commerce

Mayville Holiday Market
December 12-13
2 Academy St. | Mayville
Info: connectingyou716@gmail.com

Christmas in Clymer
December 15
Info: Clymer Area Business Association

A SMALL ADVENTURE

Short Story by ***Will Roth***

Writer, Persell Middle School Teacher

When Ted's mom asked him what he wanted for Christmas this year, he'd been eating a waffle and staring at the photos on the fridge. Under a Bill's magnet was a picture of Ted at his first football game, squeezed under his dad's huge, hugging arm. Next to it, pinned by a glossy magnet from Panama Rocks, was a photo of Ted in his baggy Boy Scout's uniform, receiving the rank of Tenderfoot.

"I have Santa swinging by the office later to sort out his tax-deductible charitable donations, it's probably going to take all day," his mom was saying, straightening the big sharp collar of her white button up, "I can put in a word on your behalf." Since starting at the firm last year, she'd used more and more corporate speech with Ted. Sometimes, he couldn't understand what she was trying to say, which frustrated him, but he could never bring it up. "What do you say," she was slipping on her dangerously pointy shoes, "anything you've got your eye on?"

Ted took another bit of waffle. He thought of only one thing, which filled his mind completely. EasyCrochet's Weighted Elephant Beginner Kit. It came with everything a complete novice needed to create their first project: hooks, instructions, pre-measured thick yarn, two big beads for the eyes, and soft, weighted stuffing. Ted had spent the last month looking up videos of strangers buying and building the elephant, and each time he watched, he only wanted it more. It was the perfect product: a new hobby and a nice little friend, all in one.

Ted turned to his mom. She was tall in her sharp shoes, and her lipstick was blood-red, and her hair was sleek and untouchable. She looked down at him expectantly and a little impatiently. In moments like these, she used to say 'Anyone home?' but she'd realized he hated that. Now she just waited and tried not to tap her foot. Ted felt like his whole head was staticky. He felt like a Lego man under the gaze of an enormous all-powerful human. "I don't know," he said quietly, and turned back to his waffle.

"Well, you can text me anytime, sweetie, it's not a worry. I've got to jet, so have a great day, be good, and I'll see you at dinnertime. Dad will be back at lunch, so until then, you know, don't burn the house down. Love you, Teddy, bye!" and he mumbled in response and stared down at his half-eaten waffle

-

Ted wanted to be alone. Technically, he was alone, because he was home and no one else was; Mom was at the firm, Dad was at the hospital, even Ted would normally be at school, but it was a Superintendent Conference Day (whatever that meant) so he was here. But the house never felt empty, because there were pictures on the walls and memories draped over everything. To really be alone, Ted went outside. He walked down his street until, just before the bridge, there was a gravel path into the woods, marked with a sign that read "Bentley Nature Preserve." Past that, the marsh.

Ted started down the trail, lit by sunbeams that broke through the naked trees and glittered on the flaky-frozen water. He followed the scattered wooden bridges—rickety things, sometimes just two parallel planks to pass over a stretch of muck—and wandered deep into the kingdom of sticks. Now and again, he passed a tree half-chewed by a beaver, or a log hiding a dark foxhole. Distracted by thoughts of the EasyCrochet kit, Ted paid little attention to which wooden bridges he trekked over, nor what corners of the bog they led him to. He'd traipsed through these woods countless times, how could he get lost?

At one point, Ted came across a peculiar bridge. Unlike a bridge's usual rectangular shape, this one was a long triangle, with a flat end towards Ted but a narrow point on the other side. Ted was picturing how comfortable the weighted elephant would be. He did not realize the unfamiliar path he'd stepped onto; he did not hear the unnatural creaking of the planks beneath his feet, which groaned like a wizard awoken from a nap; and he did not notice that, curiously, as he approached the endpoint of the triangle, the bridge did not seem to get narrower and narrower as one might expect, but rather with every step he took it appeared to be just as wide as it was the step before. It was only when he hopped off the end of the bridge, and he noticed that the grass around him was up to his nose and wide as his thigh, and that the dirt beneath him was clumped in boulder-sized balls, and that a brown leaf ahead of him looked the size of his living room carpet—it was only then that Ted realized something was off. The crochet kit left his mind. His breath went quick and shallow. Glancing around and gulping, he felt his tiny heart fluttering under his toothpick ribs, and his head buzzed blankly like the sound of going underwater in the bath. He didn't know what to do and felt, understandably, very small.

To Be Continued in our next edition, Nov. 30

Editorial *with Lori Cornell*

HAPPY THANKSGIVING



Publisher
Lori Cornell

This Thanksgiving, I find myself most grateful, once again, for the opportunity to serve as publisher of our community's weekly newspaper.

To our readers: Thank you for your faithful interest, thoughtful feedback, and the future promise you hold. In Chautauqua County, we proudly defy national trends. We still value print journalism and boast a rising readership. We hold dear the chance to showcase and support our community.

To our team: It's not easy to work under a hard deadline every single week, and not only do our designers, writers, printers, distributors, and technical support staff do it so flawlessly and with such sacrifice to their own busy lives, but they offer an unparalleled level of talent. I am humbled and honored to work with some of the best of the best. Please note their names on our publishers' block to the right. Their acknowledgment is well-deserved.

And last, but certainly not least…

To our supporters. By some incredible miracle, we have established partnerships with nearly ONE THOUSAND local businesses and organizations to keep this newspaper strong. We rely upon their support to remain free and accessible to the public we serve.

It is these same small business owners that deserve our support this holiday shopping season and always. Small businesses are the heart and soul of our community and their dedication will hopefully give us pause before we hop online or run immediately into the big box for everything on our list. What could you buy locally instead?

Think of the small business owners that make local media possible. Think of our friends and neighbors who build up our beautiful downtown and hidden gems on the outskirts. Think with give-back hearts as generous as theirs.

Think big and buy small…be THANKFUL for our community this year!

CHAUTAUQUA GAZETTE

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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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A Wider Frame for Thanksgiving

Continued from Front Page

There's room for a local toast, too. Whether we pour a glass from Johnson, Noble, 21 Brix, Mazza or Liberty Vineyards, here's to the people who grew the grapes and made the wine.

Yes, Thanksgiving can be awkward. We arrive carrying the year's disappointments, old family roles and firm convictions about how the world ought to work. Someone asks a question we had hoped to avoid. Someone offers an opinion with more confidence than the occasion requires. We wonder whether we can make it through dessert without an argument.

Gratitude takes practice at a table like that. It asks us to remember more of the person's story. This is also the uncle who taught us to fish for walleye in Lake Erie, the sister who called every day when we were sick, the neighbor who shoveled our driveway. Their convictions have grown out of experiences we may understand only partly. We might learn something by asking how they came to see things as they do.

We can even become thankful for the differences themselves. One person remembers what everyone else has forgotten. Another notices who has gone quiet. Someone questions a family assumption that deserves a second look. The youngest imagines a future the oldest could scarcely have pictured. Each sees something from where they sit. Together, we have a fuller view.

For me, gratitude is a spiritual passage. It carries us from taking life for granted toward receiving it as a gift. As a priest, I recognize that movement in saying grace. We pause to acknowledge how much has reached us through other hands. The food, the table and our very lives depend on care we could never have supplied for ourselves.

Practiced faithfully, that awareness changes how we make community. We ask what another person has to offer and what they might need from us. We learn to receive help as well as give it. We make room for someone else to choose the menu, tell the story or introduce a tradition. Belonging grows through that give and take, through having something to contribute and someone willing to receive it.

Look back at Thanksgiving pictures from years ago. Often, the disagreement has faded. We have forgotten who said what about the election or whose advice landed badly. We notice the familiar kitchen, the crowded table, the person laughing just beyond the camera's reach. We search the faces of people we miss. How gladly we would hear one of their stories again, even the one we complained they told every year.

Those pictures remind us how precious it was to be together. They might also help us pay closer attention to the people here now. And behind every table is a place.

For us, that place is Chautauqua County. Our communities hold both unique and shared histories and loyalties. Think of the Lake Erie shore and grape-growing country, of Dunkirk and Fredonia, of Chautauqua Lake, Jamestown and the hills farther south. Some of us know home by the water. Others recognize it along a country road, a village storefront or a neighborhood where generations of family have lived.

Those attachments can narrow our sense of community. We become so accustomed to our own end of the county that the other feels distant. Gratitude invites us to get curious about the places our neighbors love. What do they want us to see? What are they working to preserve? Where would they take us for a meal?

A drive north or south can become a small act of connection and celebration. We need each other, and our county is sustained by thousands of ordinary choices that honor that connection. A local purchase helps keep a business open. An invitation welcomes a newcomer into a circle of friends. A shared meal gives people time to become familiar to one another. Gratitude becomes part of the life of the place.

So when it is our turn at the Thanksgiving table, perhaps we can name someone who has helped us see differently, or a corner of this county we have come to love through another person's eyes. Then we can listen.

Years from now, someone looking at this year's picture may have forgotten much of what we said. May they remember how it felt to have a place at the table.





Pat's Pen *with Pat Locke*

Thanksgiving .. A Time to Remember What Matters Most



Contributing Writer

Pat Locke

Thanksgiving is more than a holiday filled with turkey, family gatherings and pumpkin pie. It's a time to pause, reflect and appreciate the blessings that often get overlooked. At its heart, Thanksgiving is about gratitude for family and friends, for the comfort of home and for the simple joys that make life meaningful.

It reminds us that happiness isn't always found in grand gestures, but often in the little things such as a familiar smile, a helping hand or a seat at the table. While traditions may change and loved ones may not always be gathered around us, the memories and love they leave behind remain part of the celebration.

Perhaps the true meaning of Thanksgiving is found not in what fills our plates, but in what fills our hearts. It is a gentle reminder to count our blessings, cherish one another and carry an attitude of thankfulness long after the holiday has passed.

Happy Thanksgiving

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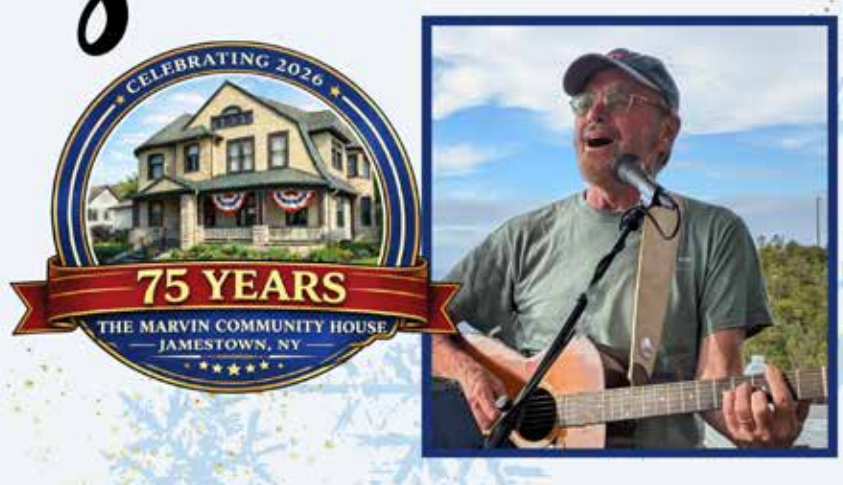

The Resource Center receives VA Suicide Prevention Grant

Contributed by

The Resource Center

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is continuing its mission of preventing Veteran suicide by working with community-based organizations across the country, including The Resource Center.

Through the Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program (SSG Fox SPGP), The Resource Center received $519,046 from VA to support local Veterans.

The SSG Fox SPGP provides funding to community-based organizations serving eligible Veterans, service members and their families with non-clinical and innovative approaches to preventing Veteran suicide. With its SSG Fox SPGP award, The Resource Center plans to provide Veterans in Chautauqua County with baseline mental health screening, outreach, education, case management, peer support services, and assistance in obtaining and coordinating other public benefits.

"Suicide prevention in our local communities is of vital importance," said Heather C. Brown, TRC's vice president of clinical operations, who will oversee the program. "It's not just about statistics or headlines. It's about saving lives and offering hope."

Coordinating the SSG Fox SPGP is the latest TRC initiative aimed at supporting Veterans. Last year, TRC assumed operations of the Joseph P. Dwyer Veterans Peer Support Project in Chautauqua County. And from 1998 to 2009, The Resource Center operated a VA outpatient health clinic.

"We're thrilled to be able to add this service to our agency and to increase TRC's commitment to Veterans and their families," Brown added.

For more information about the local program, phone The Resource Center at 716-483-2344. For more information about the SSG Fox SPGP, visit https://MentalHealth.VA.gov/ssgfox-grants.

If you're a Veteran in crisis or concerned about one, contact the Veterans Crisis Line to receive 24/7, confidential support. You don't have to be enrolled in VA benefits or health care to connect. To reach responders, Dial 988 then Press 1, chat online at VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat, or text 838255.

THE RESOURCE CENTER
Making a Difference in People's Lives

MHA Recognizes Participants, Staff, and Community Members



Submitted Photo

Mental Health Association Finance Director Jill Marsh, left, and Be the Change You Want to See in Jamestown's Bonnie Weber share a happy moment after the MHA's Thanksgiving luncheon, for which Weber and her volunteers again prepared and served a delicious dinner. Among those receiving certificates for their progress were three participants who completed Strong Foundations, an intense program for single parents to build strong, faith-filled homes. Weber presented roses to those participants and to staff for their dedication. She also recognized volunteers and community supporters, including John Felton, CEO at the Southern Chautauqua Federal Credit Union. For hours and services of the MHA's Jamestown and Dunkirk recovery centers, call (716) 661-9044 or visit MHACHQ.org or Facebook.com/MHAChautauqua.

County Executive Wendel Advocates for Former NRG Site as New York Unveils Advanced Nuclear Energy Plan

Wendel highlights Dunkirk property's potential to create jobs, strengthen the local tax base, and support affordable, reliable electricity.



Contributed by

County Executive PJ Wendell

Chautauqua County Executive Paul M. "PJ" Wendel Jr. is reaffirming his commitment to revitalizing the former NRG Power Plant in Dunkirk following his attendance at the 2026 Advanced Nuclear NY Summit, held November 17–18 in Rochester.

During the summit, Governor Kathy Hochul announced the completion of New York State's Advanced Nuclear Master Plan, a comprehensive roadmap outlining the State's goal of developing five gigawatts of new nuclear power generation. The plan identifies opportunities for advanced nuclear energy development across Upstate New York, emphasizing economic growth, workforce development, energy reliability, and responsible site selection.

For Wendel, the announcement reinforces the importance of positioning the former NRG property as a potential location for future advanced nuclear energy development.

"The former NRG Power Plant represents one of the greatest opportunities for economic revitalization in Chautauqua County," said Wendel. "I have remained committed to bringing this property back into productive use because I know what it can mean for Dunkirk and our entire region. We have the infrastructure, the workforce, and the history of energy production needed to compete for an investment of this magnitude. Now is the time to make sure Chautauqua County is part of New York's energy future."

The former NRG site offers several advantages for potential energy development, including established electrical grid connections, industrial-zoned property, access to Lake Erie, and a skilled regional workforce with experience in the energy sector.

Wendel emphasized that restoring productive use to the property could deliver benefits extending well beyond energy generation.

"Bringing this site back online is about creating good-paying jobs, attracting private investment, and restoring a valuable property to our tax base," Wendel continued. "That means new opportunities for our residents, additional resources to support essential public services, and the potential to reduce the tax burden on local families and businesses. We also need to be looking at ways to expand access to reliable, affordable electricity. With utility costs continuing to strain household budgets, developing new energy resources that can help stabilize and potentially lower electricity bills must remain a priority."

NYPA is pursuing the development of at least one gigawatt of new advanced nuclear generation in Upstate New York, an effort that forms part of the State's broader five-gigawatt goal.

While no final site selection has been announced for the Dunkirk property, Wendel believes Chautauqua County is well-positioned to demonstrate its potential.

Wendel also highlighted Jamestown Community College's recent $1.29 million nuclear workforce development grant, which will support specialized training in nuclear manufacturing and welding certification. The funding will help prepare local workers for good-paying careers in the growing nuclear energy industry, further strengthening Chautauqua County's position as a potential hub for advanced nuclear development.

New York's Advanced Nuclear Master Plan outlines potential actions related to site evaluation, workforce readiness, regulatory processes, industry partnerships, and responsible nuclear development.

To learn more about the Advanced Nuclear Master Plan, visit:

nyserda.ny.gov/All-Programs/Advanced-Nuclear-Energy/Advanced-Nuclear-Master-Plan

Brooks-TLC Hospital collects record-breaking food donations during 21st annual Rock Out Hunger



(From left) Joe Fuglewicz, marketing and communications, and Mark Constantino, senior director of operations, BTLC, pose with grocery carts full of items donated to Feedmore WNY as part of Rock Out Hunger food drive.

Contributed by

Brooks-TLC Hospital System

Brooks-TLC Hospital System (BTLC) employees came together to make a difference in the community, collecting a record-breaking total of more than 1,170 food items during the 21st annual Rock Out Hunger food drive benefiting FeedMore WNY.

This year marked Brooks-TLC Hospital's ninth year participating in Rock Out Hunger as part of Kaleida Health's involvement in the annual food drive, which brings organizations and community partners together to help address food insecurity throughout Western New York.

Donations collected by Brooks-TLC Hospital will support FeedMore WNY partner organizations serving local communities in Chautauqua County, including the Boys and Girls Club of Northern Chautauqua County, Chautauqua County Rural Ministries Friendly Kitchen, Dunkirk City Schools No. 3 and No. 7, Dunkirk Conference Center, The Dunkirk Salvation Army, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Food Closet and Dunkirk Middle and High School.

"We are proud to be part of Rock Out Hunger and grateful for the opportunity to give back to the communities we serve," said Ken Morris, president, Brooks-TLC Hospital. "The generosity and enthusiasm demonstrated by our employees are proof to the commitment they have not only to providing exceptional care, but also to supporting our neighbors beyond the walls of our hospital. Every donation makes a difference and we are proud to see our team come together for such an important cause."

Adding a little friendly competition to this year's food drive, 11 departments across the organization participated in a department-versus-department challenge to collect the most food items and decorate their own shopping carts. The competition brought creativity and team spirit to the initiative, with departments transforming shopping carts into festive displays while filling them with food donations.

Together, employees filled more than eight shopping carts with food, setting a new collection record for Brooks-TLC Hospital's participation in the program.

The donations come at an important time for families throughout the region. According to the 2025 Chautauqua County Community Health Assessment, approximately 15% of county residents experience food insecurity, compared to 13% statewide and 14% nationally. Food insecurity can be especially challenging in rural communities, where transportation barriers, fewer grocery options and long distances to food assistance programs can make accessing nutritious food more difficult.

Through initiatives like Rock Out Hunger, Brooks-TLC Hospital employees are helping connect local families with the resources they need while demonstrating the hospital's ongoing commitment to the health and well-being of its community.

"Being a community partner and giving back is important, not only as a healthcare provider committed to supporting the overall well-being of our community, but also as an opportunity to help our neighbors, families and friends," added Morris.

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Blue Star Mothers Lake Erie NY 4 Receives $2,500 Grant From Centra Credit Union

Contributed by

Blue Star Mothers Lake Erie NY 4

Blue Star Mothers Lake Erie NY 4 is receiving a $2,500 grant from Centra Credit Union to further its mission. This organization was nominated by Centra Team Members who feel passionate about the work they do in our community.

A total of 50 organizations received grants through nominations by Centra Team Members. A complete list of organizations receiving grants can be found at Centra.org. Since the beginning of this program in 2017, Centra has granted nearly $1 million directly to non-profit organizations across its footprint.

These Team Member nominated donations are one of many programs the Centra Foundation and Centra Credit Union have to give back to their Members and the Communities they serve.

For instance, 36 students in the Communities Centra serves were awarded scholarships in April 2026 through the Loretta M. Burd Scholarship Program. To further support education, the Centra Foundation hosted Teaming Up with Teachers, celebrating its 10th year of the program by giving away three $1,000 10-Year Legacy Awards and six $500 Impact Awards.

Centra also gives back directly to its Members through their all-cash Member Loyalty Rewards program. These cash rewards are deposited into a special high interest savings account to further reward Centra's Members. In early 2026, Centra paid out nearly $1.5 million in special dividends to Centra Members.

Financial support for the Communities Centra serves will continue throughout the remainder of the year with Centra's United Way Workplace Campaign and the Centra Foundation's Holiday Giving Program. Centra Team Members and Members donate to these programs to help support non-profits in the local communities. In 2025, 340 Team Members pledged a total of $148,353 to United Way agencies throughout the Communities Centra serves while the 2025 Holiday Giving Program raised more than $63,000.

In addition to financial support, Centra and its Team Members also give back to the Communities they serve through volunteerism. Centra provides family and community time to all Team Members in the form of three paid days off per year. These days can be used to volunteer, and Centra Team Members provided more than 650 service hours to United Way partners in 2025.

Centra and its Team Members also support local organizations through sponsorships, many of which involve Centra Team Members volunteering their time to attend the event and host activities or giveaway prizes to attendees.

About Centra Foundation

Centra Foundation is the charitable arm of Centra Credit Union and was formed to extend the credit union's mission of People Helping People. The Centra Foundation is Centered on Caring and aims to support charitable efforts that help meet the needs of communities where Centra Members live and work.

Submitted Photo

Pictured L to R: Brenda Donato, Outreach Store worker;Terri Johnson, TOYS FOR TOTS Coordinator; Julie Gable, Outreach Store worker

The First Lutheran Community Outreach Store recently presented a check for $500.00 to the **TOYS FOR TOTS** coordinator, Terri Johnson. In 2024, 5336 children were served through TOYS FOR TOTS, and in 2025, 7590 children were served. With this donation, we hope to jump-start the campaign so that we exceed last year's total.

THE 47TH ANNUAL EMPIRE STATE WINTER GAMES ARE SLATED FOR FEBRUARY 4-7, 2027

Archery added to the Empire State Winter Games

A record 38 hockey teams will compete in the 47th Annual Empire State Winter Games

Registration is open to be a Part of the 2027 Empire State Winter Games

Contributed by

Empire State Winter Games

Celebrating its 47th straight year in Lake Placid and New York State's Adirondack region, the Empire State Winter Games will take place Feb. 4–7, 2027, with an expanded lineup that now includes archery. The new sport will debut at the Tupper Lake Sportsman Club, in Tupper Lake, N.Y., marking a significant addition to the Games' growing slate of competition.

"Kicking off this new sport that welcomes both youth and adult competitors is an exciting milestone for the Empire State Winter Games. Our team at the Adirondack Sports Council, along with our dedicated sponsors, is thrilled to bring archery into the Games' lineup," said Karlan Jessen, Adirondack Sports Council (ADKSC) executive director. "We look forward to fostering even greater growth and engagement throughout the Adirondack region."

During the event on Saturday, Feb. 6, youth participants in grades 6 and above, as well as competitors in the adult division for ages 18 and older, will compete by shooting at 3D targets. Medals will be awarded to the top three finishers in each category.

A surge in athlete participation is anticipated again this year. Archery is expected to add at least 50 athletes, while a record 38 boys', girls', and adaptive hockey teams have already registered for the four-day, multi-sport winter festival. Figure skating remains the Games' largest sport, with more than 300 figure skaters and 16 synchronized skating teams already signed up to compete.

Registration is open to be a part of February's Empire State Winter Games. Athletes and volunteers can log ontohttps://empirestatewintergames.com to register.

For more information about the 47th Annual Empire State Winter Games, go to https://empirestatewintergames.com/.

Fans and athletes can also follow on Facebook, Instagram, and X, using @ESWGames and #ESWGames.

Community Bank

About the Adirondack Sports Council

The Adirondack Sports Council (ADKSC) is a not-for-profit organization established in New York's Olympic region that combines decades of sport event management leadership, sustainability expertise, and creative engagement strategies to deliver impactful world-class experiences to communities and organizations across New York State and beyond.

The ADKSC cultivates strong partnerships with event stakeholders, participants, and communities by actively engaging in meaningful dialogue and aligning with their unique needs. This approach enables us to craft genuine, economically beneficial, and socially impactful experiences that resonate with the values and aspirations of all involved.

About the Empire State Winter Games

Founded in 1980, the Empire State Winter Games (ESWG) are a multi-day winter athletic competition headquartered in Lake Placid, NY. Amateur athletes of all ages and from all over the Northeast and Canada compete in more than 30 winter sports competitions over three days every February. The Empire State Winter Games are a community-driven event, courtesy of a partnership between the Regional Office of Sustainable Tourism (ROOST); the towns of North Elba, Wilmington, Tupper Lake, Harrietstown and Brighton; the villages of Lake Placid, Tupper Lake, Paul Smiths, Wilmington, and Saranac Lake; the counties of Essex and Franklin; the New York State Olympic Regional Development Authority (ORDA). Connect with the Games on www.EmpireStateWinterGames.com, Facebook.com/ESWGames, and Instagram.com/ESWGames.

Zonta Club of Jamestown Raises Awareness of Domestic Violence During 16 Days of Activism



Submitted Photo

Contributed by

St. Susans Center

The Zonta Club of Jamestown is joining organizations around the world in observing Zonta International's annual 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign, November 25 through December 10. Through a series of community initiatives, the club is working to raise awareness of domestic violence, share valuable resources, and encourage action to end violence against women.

This year, the Zonta Club of Jamestown has planned several activities throughout the community to bring attention to this important issue. The City of Jamestown will issue a mayoral proclamation recognizing the 16 Days of Activism, and City Hall will be illuminated in orange, the internationally recognized color of the campaign and a symbol of the fight to end violence against women.

In an effort to reach individuals throughout the region, the club is partnering with 18 libraries across Chautauqua County to distribute information about domestic violence and provide access to resources for individuals who may need help or support. Additional awareness efforts include decorating a tree in orange and displaying an awareness banner at the Salvation Army.

The need for continued awareness and advocacy is significant. According to national statistics, nearly one in two women and more than four in ten men in the United States report experiencing contact sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner during their lifetime.

Domestic violence and sexual assault are pervasive, life-threatening crimes that affect millions of individuals across the country, regardless of age, economic status, race, religion, or educational background. Raising awareness, making resources accessible, and creating supportive communities are important steps toward ending this violence.

Zonta International is committed to building a better world for women and girls through service and advocacy. The organization's vision is a world in which no woman lives in fear of violence.

The Zonta Club of Jamestown encourages community members to wear orange, learn about the issue, share available resources, and join in raising awareness during the 16 Days of Activism. Together, our community can help create a safer future for women and girls.

Small Business Saturday at Audubon Community Nature Center





November 28 is a day to patronize local businesses. Audubon Community Nature Center invites you to check out the Blue Heron Gift Shop with its treasure trove of wonderful holiday gifts, from books for all ages and cuddly stuffed animals to locally-made honey, beeswax candles, and soaps. All are 10% off for the day (20% for members), admission is free, and you receive a free honey product gift when you purchase a gift membership. Nature Connections, 1-2 p.m. on Wednesday, December 2 welcomes ages 5-10, especially homeschoolers. For its second gathering, children will study "Animals in Winter" through exploration and hands-on learning, discovering how to find signs of animal activity in the winter, including looking for tracks and other clues. For details on these, call (716) 569-2345 or go to AudubonCNC.org/Events. The Nature Center is at 1600 Riverside Road, one-quarter mile east of Route 62 between Jamestown and Warren.

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Save The Date: 2027 Hope & Healing Conference Of WNY Announces "Pathways To Wellness" Theme & Call For Presenters



Contributed by

Chautauqua County Department of Mental Hygiene

Mark your calendars! The Hope & Healing Conference of Western New York will return to the State University of New York at Fredonia on Wednesday, June 9, 2027, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. with registration open at 8:00 am.

This year's theme, "Pathways to Wellness," will explore the many ways individuals, families, and communities can build connections, foster resilience, and support mental health and overall well-being.

The conference brings together individuals 13 and over comprised of professionals, advocates, community partners, and individuals with lived experience to share knowledge, inspire meaningful conversations, and strengthen connections across Western New York.

Call for Presenters Now Open!

Conference organizers are currently accepting presentation proposals from individuals interested in sharing their expertise, experiences, and innovative approaches to mental health, substance use, suicide prevention and awareness, grief and loss, wellness, recovery, and community support.

Opportunities include engaging breakout sessions and brief, inspirational Hope Talks. Presentations should contain material appropriate for attendees 13 and up.

Interested presenters can apply online: HopeandHealingConference.com

Additional conference details, including registration information and programming updates, will be announced in the coming months. For more information, visit our website at: HopeandHealingConference.com. We are looking forward to another meaningful event.

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CCIDA Approves Support for Rand Aerospace & Defense Group Expansion in Town of Ellicott

$5.22 million investment will expand manufacturing capacity, retain 115 jobs, and create 31 new positions

Contributed by

County of Chautauqua Industrial Development Agency

The County of Chautauqua Industrial Development Agency (CCIDA) Board of Directors approved financial assistance for a $5.22 million expansion project by Premier Precision Machining, LLC during its Nov. 17, 2026, meeting. The project will establish additional manufacturing operations in the Town of Ellicott, allowing the Falconer-based precision manufacturer to expand production capacity, support growing customer demand, and create new employment opportunities in Chautauqua County.

Premier Precision Machining, LLC, doing business as Rand Aerospace & Defense Group (Rand), plans to acquire the existing manufacturing facility at 2375 Parkway Drive, located within the CCIDA's Joseph H. Mason Industrial Park in the Town of Ellicott, through its real estate holding company, 2375 Parkway Drive, LLC. The property, which has been on the market for an extended period, will be returned to productive use through the company's approximately $5.22 million investment in its acquisition, renovation, and equipping.

Planned improvements include electrical and HVAC upgrades, interior renovations, and the installation of new machinery and equipment. The additional manufacturing space will support the continued growth of Rand's defense programs and newly awarded contracts. The expansion will supplement, rather than replace, Rand's existing facility on Allen Street in Falconer, which the company will maintain and continue operating at full capacity. With more than seven decades of experience, Rand has established itself as a trusted manufacturer of complex, high-precision components for major corporations around the world. The company is recognized for its technical expertise, quality, on-time delivery, and longstanding relationships with customers in the aerospace, defense, oil and gas, and transportation industries.

"This expansion represents an important next chapter for Rand as we continue to grow our capabilities and respond to increasing demand from our customers," said Dan McKenrick, president and CEO of Rand Aerospace & Defense Group. "Our investment in this new facility will provide the additional manufacturing capacity needed to support our existing and future programs, while creating new opportunities for our employees and the local workforce. We are proud to continue investing in Chautauqua County and appreciate the support of the CCIDA and our local partners."

The project is expected to retain 115 existing positions and create 31 new full-time jobs over the next three years, strengthening the region's advanced manufacturing sector and supporting the continued growth of a longstanding local employer.

"Rand's decision to expand its operations here in Chautauqua County demonstrates the strength of our local manufacturing sector and the confidence businesses have in our workforce and economic future," said Chautauqua County Executive Paul M. "PJ" Wendel Jr. "This investment will help retain existing jobs, create new opportunities for residents, and reinforce our county's reputation as a place where advanced manufacturing businesses can grow and succeed."

As part of its Nov. 17 approval, the CCIDA Board of Directors authorized financial incentives for 2375 Parkway Drive, LLC, including sales tax exemptions not to exceed $80,000 and mortgage recording tax savings not to exceed $58,761. Incentives also include a 20-year payment-in-lieu-of-taxes (PILOT) agreement, which will provide $3,052,006 in payments to the affected jurisdictions over the life of the project.

"Supporting the growth of established manufacturers like Rand is a key part of our economic development strategy," said Mark Geise, Chautauqua County deputy executive for economic development and CCIDA CEO. "This project represents a significant private-sector investment that will increase

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24

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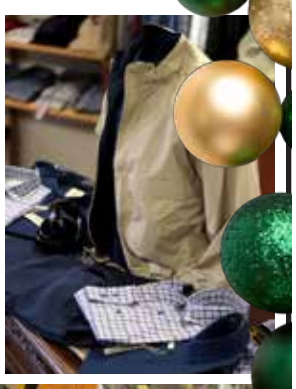

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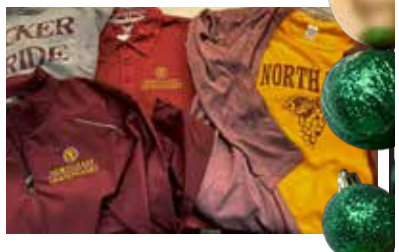

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CHAMBER CORNER

A SEASON FOR GRATITUDE

Article Contributed by

Daniel J. Heitzenrater

Chautauqua County Chamber of Commerce
President and CEO

As we head into the Thanksgiving holiday and the start of the busy holiday shopping season, it's a good time to pause and reflect on all we have to be thankful for. Here at the CHQ Chamber, there is certainly no shortage of reasons to give thanks, especially when it comes to the people and businesses that make Chautauqua County such a special place.

First and foremost, we are thankful for our members. The businesses that belong to the CHQ Chamber represent a wide range of industries and communities throughout the county. They provide jobs, serve our residents and visitors, support local organizations, and contribute to the strength of our local economy. Their commitment to being part of the Chamber reflects a shared belief that we are stronger when we work together.

We are also grateful for our sponsors and partner organizations. Their support makes it possible for us to offer programs, resources, networking opportunities, and services that help local businesses connect and grow. From helping a new business with a ribbon cutting, to supporting an established business looking to expand, these partnerships play an important role in building a stronger economic climate throughout Chautauqua County.

And, of course, we are thankful for our community. It is the people who live, work, and visit here who bring our communities to life. We see that generosity in the way residents support local businesses, volunteer their time, show up for community events, and look out for their neighbors. Those everyday acts of support are what make a community feel like home.

As we enter the holiday shopping season, supporting local businesses is one more way to show our appreciation. Our independent retailers, restaurants, and small businesses offer more than products and services. They create gathering places, provide personal connections, and help give our communities their unique character. Every purchase made locally helps support the people and businesses that contribute so much to our county.

The CHQ Chamber's ShopLocalCHQ Gift Card is one easy way to give back, with more than 145 participating businesses throughout the county. Whether shopping for gifts, dining out, or enjoying local experiences, it offers plenty of ways to keep holiday spending close to home.

Our mission is to build vital connections, provide professional resources, and champion our local businesses in Chautauqua County. We are fortunate to work alongside so many people who share that commitment. This Thanksgiving, we want to extend our sincere thanks to our members, sponsors, partners, and community for being part of the CHQ Chamber and for all you do to make Chautauqua County a great place to live, work, and do business.

From all of us at the CHQ Chamber, we wish you a happy Thanksgiving and a wonderful holiday season!

Holiday Window Decorating Contest Returns

We are pleased to bring back the popular countywide Holiday Window Decorating Contest. This event is open to locally owned Chamber member businesses and organizations. It's free to participate and is designed to create festive windows and facades, as well as pump up community spirit.

Voting this year will be done through a Facebook picture gallery, with first, second, and third place prizes being awarded based on the most likes per picture on the Chamber's original post.

Organizations must register through the Chamber's web calendar event page and will be required to submit a photo of their completed window.

The Chamber will create a Google map of all participating locations to help drive foot traffic throughout the county and put more eyes on your business. Voting runs now through December 17.

Shop Small This Holiday Season with the CHQ Chamber Digital Pass

The CHQ Chamber's 2026 Shop Small Digital Pass will run November 27 through December 18, offering residents and visitors another way to discover local businesses and support the Chautauqua County business community during the holiday shopping season.

The free digital pass allows participants to earn points by visiting participating businesses and checking in through the pass's GPS feature. Once participants accumulate 150 points, they can redeem them for a prize directly through the digital pass. The first 10 participants to reach 150 points and complete a redemption will each receive a $50 SHOPLOCAL CHQ Gift Card. Additional points will be available for check-ins made on Small Business Saturday, November 28.

Businesses participating in the SHOPLOCAL CHQ Gift Card program are automatically included in the digital pass. No additional registration or action is required. Customers do not need to make a purchase or check in with business staff to earn points; they simply use the GPS check-in feature when visiting a participating location.

Businesses that are not currently part of the SHOPLOCAL CHQ Gift Card program can join to be included in this and other local shopping initiatives. The program provides an opportunity to introduce customers to participating businesses while supporting local commerce throughout Chautauqua County.

Participants can sign up for the free digital pass beginning November 27 at go.chqchamber.org or through the Experiences section at chqchamber.org. Businesses interested in becoming a SHOPLOCAL CHQ Gift Card merchant can contact Nicole Eckman at: neckman@chqchamber.org.

A New Way to Start the Day: Join Us for the CHQ Chamber's Annual Meeting!

The CHQ Chamber's Annual Meeting is getting a fresh start this year with a breakfast gathering on December 11 at the Chautauqua Harbor Hotel from 8 a.m. to 10 am. Connect with fellow business and community leaders over breakfast, hear the latest Chamber updates, participate in the election of board members, and celebrate collaboration in our region with the presentation of the Pam Lydic Coalition Builder Award.

Our keynote speaker will be Michael Edwards, Director of the Jamestown Renaissance Corporation. Drawing on his experience leading downtown revitalization efforts in Chicago, Pittsburgh, Spokane, and Jamestown, Edwards will share his perspective on what makes downtown districts successful and how communities can create places where people want to live, work, shop, and connect.

His presentation will explore the connections between vibrant downtowns, strong local businesses, community investment, and economic development. From creating welcoming public spaces to supporting business growth and attracting new investment, Edwards brings a wealth of experience in understanding what helps downtowns evolve and thrive. His work in Jamestown also offers a local perspective on the opportunities and challenges facing communities throughout Chautauqua County.

Start your morning with meaningful connections and a look at what's ahead for the CHQ Chamber. Register today through the Chamber's online calendar!

We extend our sincere thanks to our event sponsors: Chautauqua Harbor Hotel, The Chautauqua Region Community Foundation, County of Chautauqua Industrial Development Agency, Glenora Radio Network and State University of New York at Fredonia.

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Shopping Local Means More During the Holidays

Continued from Front Page

who gives the bill as change to another customer. That customer ends up at Indie's mom's stand, where she uses the money to purchase one of her desserts. Indie's mom then gives her the five bucks to throw in the guitar case for a song. Bluey and Indie look at each other in disbelief, holding the tooth fairy's five-dollar bill that made its way back to them. While we might not see our own money make its way from one business to another quite like Bluey did it happens behind the scenes, and during the holiday season we have even more reason to put it into practice.

During the holidays the case for shopping local is even more compelling when you consider the ancillary benefits compared to big box or online. Start with the experience when you open the door and step into a local business. You walk up and see their tastefully decorated window (don't forget to vote for them in the Chamber's window decorating contest!). As you open the door your senses awaken with the smell of freshly brewed coffee or the candle they're burning. You find a unique assortment of gifts and items deliberately sourced by the owner, some perhaps made by local artisans and many you won't find anywhere else. As you shop, the staff is attentive and may ask about your intended recipient, to help you select the perfect gift.

That product is not only a gift for your friend or family member, it is a gift for that local business owner as well. Our friends and neighbors who choose to run their own business pour their heart and soul into what they do, and they really care about the attention to detail in their shops from the product selection to the customer experience they create. When you stop in, chat with them, and make a purchase, you've given their business dream a vote of confidence and brightened their day.

This story isn't just some whimsical cartoon, it happens every day across Chautauqua County. Residents and visitors choosing local, spending their money at local businesses where it is reinvested into other local businesses, services, and people. The businesses that make up the foundation of our communities are owned, staffed, and supported by our friends and neighbors. Think about the impact of how you spend your dollar as you shop not only this holiday season but year-round. When you support local, you strengthen our local communities and economy. Like Indie's mom said, "What goes around comes around."

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A day of Miracles and family fun throughout The Village of Fredonia

NOVEMBER 27 & 28, 2026

Festivals Fredonia, Inc. presents Miracle on Main Street

A fun week of shopping and a day of Miracles, family fun and shopping throughout the Village of Fredonia

Contributed by

Festivals Fredonia

Festivals Fredonia's annual "Miracle on Main Street" festival is set for Friday, November 27 and Saturday, November 28! Festivals Fredonia's annual "Miracle on Main Street" festival kicks off Friday, November 27 and continues Saturday, November 28, with a full day of family fun from morning through the evening tree lighting. Celebrate Small Business Saturday and the start of the holiday season in downtown Fredonia!

Come celebrate all of the MIRACLES of the holiday season in downtown Fredonia. The weekend begins Friday, November 27, with horse-drawn carriage rides (fee) and the "Must Be Santa" Bar Crawl (fee). On Saturday, November 28, Santa and Mrs. Claus come to town with activities for kids and the whole family, including a craft vendor show, gingerbread decorating, horse-drawn carriage rides, story times, a movie in the park and the tree lighting in Barker Commons.

The MIRACLES throughout the day include:

- The Miracle of SHARING (supporting the Salvation Army "Red Kettle" campaign)
- The Miracle of THE HOLIDAY (Santa lighting the tree; 6:00PM)
- The Miracle of GIVING (all of the community organizations and volunteers who selflessly give their time and talents to our festivals)
- The Miracle of GENEROSITY (All of those who generously support Festivals Fredonia throughout the year and during this special festival)
- The Miracle of LIFE (supporting your local blood drive)

The festival and events kick off at 3PM Friday with activities throughout the village, Fredonia First Methodist Church, The White Inn, Next Chapter Bookstore, Christ Community Church, Darwin R. Barker Library and Museum, Barker Commons and Domus Fare. There will be story time with Santa for youngsters at Darwin R. Barker Library, as well as story time with Mrs. Claus at the Next Chapter Bookstore (12 Park Place).

Craft vendors, photo booth pictures and pictures with Santa will be set up in the Fredonia First Methodist Church, gingerbread house decorating at The White Inn, kid's crafts at Next Chapter Bookstore respectively, starting at 11 AM; visits with Santa will take place 2 PM – 4 PM. Festivals Fredonia is hosting a basket raffle in Fredonia First Methodist Church as well.

There will also be food vendors in Barker Common as well as family friendly menus at Domus Fare. Santa will be visiting Domus Fare from 10 AM to noon. Attend the free movie at 4 PM, followed by the tree lighting by Santa at Barker Common gazebo at 6:00 PM.

Santa ends his visit at 4:00 PM at the Fredonia First Methodist Church, but returns at 6:00 PM, to light the official holiday tree in Barker Common. This will be followed by caroling to round out the days' events. Come on out and kick off the holiday season!

Special thanks to all our sponsors and donors. Donations for this event have been provided by Tim Hortons, Southern Chautauqua FCU, Northern Chautauqua Community Foundation, The Fredonia Beaver Club, DFT Communications, The Barn 3521, Christ Community Church and Fredonia First Methodist Church. For more festival information and the list of events and times, please go to www.festivalsfredoniany.org.

About Festivals Fredonia:

Festivals Fredonia is a not-for-profit organization of civic-minded volunteers who dedicate their time and efforts to enhancing the cultural appeal of the village of Fredonia, and to support and promote its local businesses through inclusive, family-friendly, cultural, and historical events and festivals.

If you are interested in more information or for volunteer opportunities, contact:

Isabella Pucci-Schaefer

festivalsfredoniany@gmail.com

(716) 401-1261

Useful links:

festivalsfredonia.org

facebook.com/festivalsfredoniaofficial

MIRACLE ON MAIN STREET

Activity Guide

Friday, November 27

Hot Chocolate & Coffee
Welcome Booth
3-8pm
Free

Must Be Santa Bar Crawl
Check-in at Welcome Booth In Barker Commons
4pm to 10pm
The White Inn
Downtown Brew
Raven & Thorn
BJs
Coughlans Pub
Mainline Bar & Grille

Horse Drawn Carriage
Visitors Booth
5-8pm
$5 per person



Saturday, November 28

Domus Fare
41 West Main Street
All Day
Pancake Breakfast

The White Inn
52 E Main Road
11am to 2pm
Gingerbread House Decorating Workshop with The Cakery
Small: $18 Medium: $23
Large: $28

Fredonia First Methodist Church
25 Church Street
12pm to 6pm
Craft Vendor Show & Basket Raffle
2 pm to 4 pm
Visit with Santa & Mrs. Claus

Horse Drawn Carriage
Visitors Booth
12-6pm
$5 per person

Darwin R. Barker Library & Museum
7 Day Street
12pm to 12:30pm
Story time with Santa

Literacy Volunteers/Next Chapter Bookstore
12 Park Place
1pm to 1:30pm
Story time with Mrs. Claus
2pm-2:30pm
Kids Craft Workshop

Barker Commons
4pm
Movie in the Park

Tree Lighting at the Gazebo with Santa and Mrs. Claus at 6pm

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NOV 28

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DEC 1-13

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DEC 8

Santa & The Psychic Night

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DEC 12

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LIGHT UP THE POINT

Bemus Point | Saturday, Nov. 28

A small-town holiday celebration on Small Business Saturday!

Bemus Point Inn • 7am-2pm
Homemade cinnamon rolls & festive Mistletoe Mimosas

Lake Life Café • 11am-4pm
Kids crafts & vendors

The Market • All Day
Peppermint ice cream, gifts & stocking stuffers

Bridgeview • 2pm-4pm
Cookie decorating

Lenhart • 2pm-4pm
Outdoor firepits, crafting & warm apple cider

Bemus Point Library • 3:30pm-5pm
Cookies with Mrs. Claus

Crackerjack Farms • 3:30pm-7pm
Horse & carriage rides through the Village, starting at the Lenhart

Splash • 3:30pm-7pm
$3 Christmas cookies, $2 hot dogs & $1 hot chocolate bar on the patio

Parade starts at 5 PM followed by the lighting of the village tree.
Parade will start/end at The Landing, down Main Street, Alburtus Ave, Lenhart and back up Lakeside Drive.

Happy Holidays!

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LIGHT UP THE POINT

Bemus Point • Saturday, November 28 • Parade starts at 5:00pm


Submitted Photo













Light Up the Point Returns for Annual Holiday Celebration

Contributed by

Kate Bartlett

At the CHQ Chamber we often highlight the importance of shopping local. Where and how we spend our hard-earned money as consumers is important, and data shows there is a significant positive effect when you choose a local business over big box or online retail. In fact, when you shop local, data shows 68 cents of every dollar gets reinvested in your local economy. This is through the wages a business owner pays their employees, supplies they purchase from other local vendors, and the numerous donations and sponsorships they give to support local organizations and causes.

My favorite illustration of this principle is in the episode "Markets" from the children's show Bluey. In the show Bluey receives five dollars from the tooth fairy, including an official tooth fairy sticker. Her family takes a trip to the local farmer's market where she wants to use her money to buy an item to share with her friend Indie. After struggling to find the right item, bluey makes an impulse purchase of the last toffee apple. Unhappy with her choice, Bluey wishes she had saved her money to put in the guitar case of the busker to request a song. Indie consoles her friend, saying her mom always tells her "What goes around comes around."

Next, we see the magic of shopping local unfold as we watch the tooth fairy bill circulate the market. The scene cuts to the apple vendor giving the five dollars to his child to grab a German sausage, and then the sausage vendor going to buy a carrot juice. The juice vendor ran out of carrots, so they buy a bag of carrots from a local farmer who gives the bill as change to another customer. That customer ends up at Indie's mom's stand, where she uses the money to purchase one of her desserts. Indie's mom then gives her the five bucks to throw in the guitar case for a song. Bluey and Indie look at each other in disbelief, holding the tooth fairy's five-dollar bill that made its way back to them. While we might not see our own money make its way from one business to another quite like Bluey did it happens behind the scenes, and during the holiday season we have even more reason to put it into practice.

During the holidays the case for shopping local is even more compelling when you consider the ancillary benefits compared to big box or online. Start with the experience when you open the door and step into a local business. You walk up and see their tastefully decorated window (don't forget to vote for them in the Chamber's window decorating contest!). As you open the door your senses awaken with the smell of freshly brewed coffee or the candle they're burning. You find a unique assortment of gifts and items deliberately sourced by the owner, some perhaps made by local artisans and many you won't find anywhere else. As you shop, the staff is attentive and may ask about your intended recipient, to help you select the perfect gift.

That product is not only a gift for your friend or family member, it is a gift for that local business owner as well. Our friends and neighbors who choose to run their own business pour their heart and soul into what they do, and they really care about the attention to detail in their shops from the product selection to the customer experience they create. When you stop in, chat with them, and make a purchase, you've given their business dream a vote of confidence and brightened their day.

This story isn't just some whimsical cartoon, it happens every day across Chautauqua County. Residents and visitors choosing local, spending their money at local businesses where it is reinvested into other local businesses, services, and people. The businesses that make up the foundation of our communities are owned, staffed, and supported by our friends and neighbors. Think about the impact of how you spend your dollar as you shop not only this holiday season but year-round. When you support local, you strengthen our local communities and economy. Like Indie's mom said, "What goes around comes around."

For any questions, please contact Amy Jo Catlett at:(716) 485-1855.

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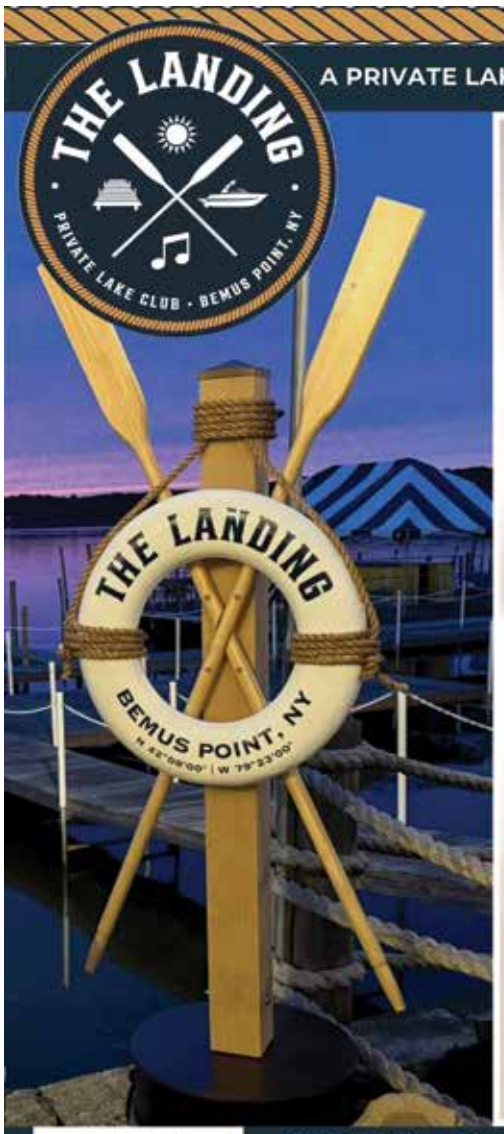

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Frewsburg Community Old Fashioned Santa Parade

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 28TH • 11AM

Frewsburg is gearing up for one of its most beloved traditions: the Community Old Fashioned Santa Parade. This year's event will bring classic small-town holiday charm to Main Street, featuring festive floats and Santa himself arriving in true old-fashioned style. Families from across the area are invited to bundle up, gather along the parade route, and welcome the start of the season on Nov. 28 at 11 a.m. with lights, music and hometown spirit. It's the kind of celebration that reminds us why Frewsburg shines brightest this time of year.







Submitted Photos



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DoubleTree by Hilton Reflects on Gratitude, Community and the Future



Contributing Editor

Katrina Fuller

As Thanksgiving approaches, Brandon Odell, general manager of the DoubleTree by Hilton in downtown Jamestown, is taking time to reflect on the people who have helped make the hotel successful while looking forward to new opportunities in the coming year. For Odell, the holiday season is an opportunity to recognize his wife and kids, his team members and their families, and the guests and community members who have supported the hotel.

"As we come into the time of Thanksgiving, we're both thankful for the community and everybody who helps to support the hotel," Odell said.

Odell credits his wife and kids with providing the support that allows him to do his job.

"I'm very, very thankful for my wife and kids," he said. "Also, my staff."

Among those he is most grateful for are his employees, whose dedication to hospitality has helped the Jamestown property earn recognition within the DoubleTree brand. Odell said the hotel's employees frequently go beyond their everyday responsibilities to make guests feel welcome and cared for. When staff members learn that guests are visiting because of the death of a loved one, they may arrange for flowers and a sympathy card to be waiting in their room. Similarly, when families visit for a birthday celebration, employees often take the initiative to recognize the occasion with a birthday card or other personal touches. For Odell, those gestures reflect the kind of hospitality the hotel strives to provide.

"A hotel is like your home, your second home for a second," he said, adding that creating a welcoming environment is something his staff does particularly well.

He also expressed appreciation for the families of his employees, recognizing the sacrifices involved in working in an industry that operates around the clock, including holidays.

The hotel's commitment to hospitality has also earned it recognition from guests and industry organizations. Odell said the property has held Jamestown's No. 1 hotel ranking on Tripadvisor for five consecutive years and has maintained a AAA Three Diamond designation.

As the city's only full-service hotel, he said the DoubleTree takes pride in providing a welcoming experience for visitors while contributing to the broader success of downtown Jamestown. That commitment extends beyond the hotel's doors.

Odell said giving back to the community is an important part of the hotel's identity, even as a property operating under a nationally recognized brand.

Through DoubleTree's CARE initiative, individual hotels are encouraged to become involved in their communities through service projects and other charitable efforts. One of the largest annual efforts is its involvement with Toys for Tots, an organization particularly meaningful to Odell. The hotel raises money for the organization, while employees volunteer their time to help prepare and distribute gifts. Odell noted that the broader local Toys for Tots effort reached more than 6,000 children last year.

"As a hotel and as a franchise, we want to make sure that we keep giving back to the community and doing what we can to support everybody," he said.

The hotel also works with local organizations and businesses to support downtown revitalization and attract additional visitors to the city. Odell said the DoubleTree is working closely with the Jamestown Renaissance Corporation, the city and the Gebbie Foundation on efforts to strengthen downtown Jamestown. Those efforts include increasing conference and tourism activity, particularly through organized bus tours. According to Odell, the hotel has already seen an incredible increase in booked bus tours compared to last year. The additional visitors, he explained, benefit more than the hotel itself, bringing potential customers to downtown restaurants, shops and attractions.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23



Submitted Photos

Brandon Odell and his family

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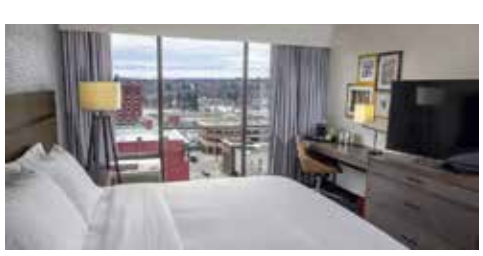



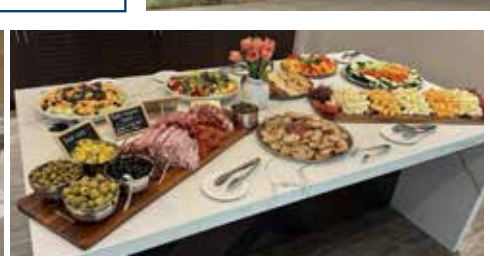



Senior Scene *with Dana Corwin*

Home Is Where the Heart Is: Connecting Older Adults to Care, Comfort, and Independence



Contributed by

Dana Corwin
Director of Chautauqua County Office for Aging Services

There is no place quite like home. For many older adults in Chautauqua County, staying at home means maintaining independence, remaining connected to loved ones, and enjoying the familiar surroundings that make life meaningful. This November, the Chautauqua County Office for Aging Services (CCOFAS) recognizes the professionals, family caregivers, and community partners who help make aging at home possible.

Home care provides more than help with daily tasks. It offers peace of mind to families, helps ease caregiver stress, and supports older adults in maintaining their dignity and quality of life.

Home Care Programs and Community Partnerships

The **Expanded In-home Services for the Elderly Program (EISEP)** helps eligible older adults access personal care, housekeeping, and case management so they can remain safely in their homes and communities. EISEP may be an option for people who need help at home but do not have Medicaid coverage for these services. Income-based cost-sharing may apply.

CCOFAS works with local home care agencies to connect eligible older adults with the support they need. Depending on the services provided, home care professionals may assist with bathing, dressing, mobility, meal preparation, housekeeping, and other daily activities.

EISEP also offers a non-Medicaid consumer-directed option, giving eligible participants greater choice in arranging their care. This may include hiring someone they know, provided program requirements are met.

We are grateful to our case management staff, local home care agencies, nurses, and direct care workers for the compassion and dedication they bring to serving older adults throughout our community.

Understanding Medicaid Home Care Options

For individuals who qualify for Medicaid and need ongoing long-term services and supports, **Medicaid Managed Long Term Care (MLTC)** may provide another pathway to care at home. MLTC plans coordinate covered services according to eligibility, assessed needs, and each individual's plan of care.

Medicaid also offers consumer-directed care options for eligible individuals, allowing them greater involvement in choosing and managing their care. Because eligibility and program requirements vary, CCOFAS can help individuals and families understand their options and determine where to begin.

Home Care Benefits for Veterans

Veterans and their families should also explore home care benefits through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Depending on eligibility, services may include homemaker and home health aide assistance. Some veterans may also qualify for additional pension benefits through Aid and Attendance, which can help offset the cost of care.

For assistance exploring available benefits, contact the **Chautauqua County Veterans Service Office at 716-661-8255** or visit Chautauqua County Veteran Services. Chautauqua County is also home to VA outpatient clinics in Jamestown and Dunkirk. https://chautauquacountyny.gov/veteran-services/Veteran-Services

Caregivers Deserve Support, Too

Sometimes we become caregivers by choice. Other times, caregiving arrives unexpectedly and changes our lives. Either way, family caregivers are essential partners in helping loved ones remain at home, and their needs matter, too.

CCOFAS connects caregivers with information, resources, and support to help them navigate their responsibilities. Asking for help is not always easy, but finding the right support can make a meaningful difference for both the caregiver and the person receiving care. Visit our

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24

ArtScape Jamestown Opens Its 2027 Call for Artists and Sponsor


Submitted Photo

Contributed by

ArtScape

ArtScape Jamestown is kicking off its fifth year of inviting local artists to submit their work for the ArtScape public art program, now through February 15, 2027.

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

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

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

A jury of arts professionals will select up to 60 pieces to be included in the 2027 program. The chosen works are professionally photographed for display on the banners. Local businesses can sponsor a banner, and the names of the artists and the sponsors are featured on the banners. At the end of the outdoor display, the banners are removed and given to the sponsor, or the sponsor may choose to donate the banner to the artist. Sponsors are encouraged to display the banner in their place of business, highlighting their support for enriching the community through public art programs.

Banners will be hung in May & June of 2027, and a brochure with a walking tour of the banners will be distributed. The original art show will be held April 9 - May 22. We also look forward to hosting Artist Talks and workshops at Pearl City Clay House and Chautauqua Art Gallery.

“I am excited to celebrate our fifth year of ArtScape in 2027”, said Leslie Calimeri, owner of Chautauqua Art Gallery. “I’ve watched ArtScape grow each year since its inception and I’m looking forward to new artwork and continuing to build our ArtScape community.”

“We are thrilled to continue supporting ArtScape Jamestown at Pearl City Clay House in 2027”, said Deb Eck, PCCH Program Director. “We look forward to continuing to display artwork in our gallery and hosting ArtScape artist talks and workshops”.

Interested artists and those interested in sponsoring a banner can find information and an application at https://ArtScapeJamestown.com The deadline for both artists and sponsorship is February 15, 2027.

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Ripley Community & Heritage Funds Is Accepting Grant Applications

Contributed by

Northern Chautauqua Community Foundation

The Ripley Community & Heritage Funds (RCHF) are accepting grant applications from charitable, nonprofit organizations that serve the Ripley community. The deadline to submit applications is January 15, 2027.

The RCHF's mission is to enrich the lives of Ripley's residents. To date, the RCHF has distributed over $126,399 to Ripley organizations.

RCHF funds have grown to include the Ripley Community Heritage Fund, the Koefoed Bentley Fund, and the Wilmer & Ethel McDonald Fund for Ripley. All of these funds are available to support programs in the Ripley Community.

Grant applications and guidelines are available on the Northern Chautauqua Community Foundation's website at https://www.nccfoundation.org/helping-nonprofits/ or can be found on the NCCF website under Community Donor Advised Funds. Applications can also be obtained by contacting Pete Ryan at 716-252-6542 or by contacting any committee member. RCHF Committee members include: Pete Ryan (Chair), Lew Barnes, Dave Bower, Mary Beth Chess, Ryleigh Enterline, Calvin Janes, Andrew Knight, Vicki Mosier and Dick Wade.

Since its incorporation in 1986, the NCCF has invested more than $25 million in northern Chautauqua County through strategic grant-making, targeted scholarships, and leadership and community collaborations. The NCCF is a tax-exempt charitable organization 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 their community. For more information on the NCCF, visit www.nccfoundation.org or call 716-366-4892.

NORTHERN CHAUTAUQUA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

DoubleTree by Hilton Reflects on Gratitude, Community and the Future

Continued from Page 21

Odell said he maintains close relationships with downtown restaurant owners and other hospitality businesses in the area, including the Chautauqua Harbor Hotel, with properties referring guests to one another when appropriate. He believes that kind of cooperation is essential to creating a thriving downtown.

"I think that's a way to make the city work," he said, emphasizing the importance of businesses working together rather than viewing one another solely as competitors.

Looking ahead, the DoubleTree is also expanding its own calendar of events to provide additional entertainment opportunities for local residents. The hotel recently hosted a successful prize bingo night, featuring a buffet and prizes including purses, coolers, fishing gear and LEGO sets. Odell said the event was well received and he hopes to organize similar activities in the future.

Another upcoming event is Dinner with the Grinch, scheduled for Dec. 19, which he said is already generating considerable interest. For Odell, these events are another way to make the hotel a gathering place for the community, rather than simply a destination for overnight guests.

Addressing recent reports that the property has been listed for sale, Odell expressed confidence in the hotel's future. He said his connection to the city is personal as well as professional. Odell met his wife in Jamestown, and the couple has built a life here with their family.

"We're not going anywhere. I'm not going anywhere," he said. "We're gonna keep moving along and keep doing what we're doing."

SUDOKU

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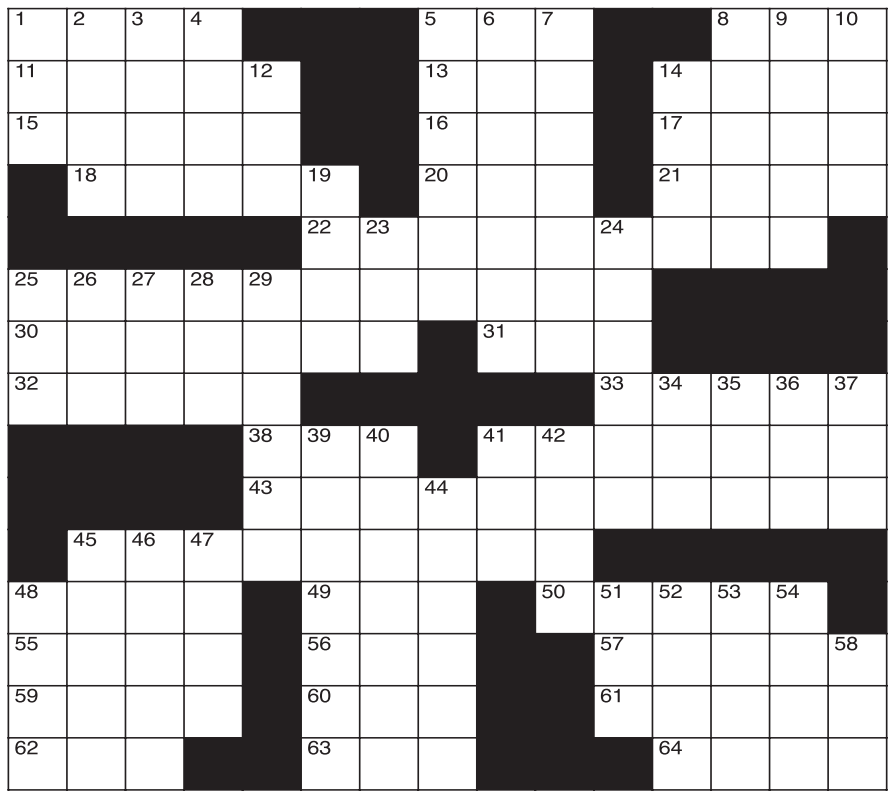
2	8	6	4					5
	4		8	5				
9	7		3			6	4	
	3			2		8		1
4		1		8		5		7
	6			4			8	
			2	7	1			6
5	1	3	6		8		7	

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



CLUES ACROSS

1. Insect feeler
5. Central processing unit
8. Part of (abbr.)
11. Typical
13. Tall, rounded vase
14. __ Alto, California city
15. Lustrous, velvet-like fabric
16. "Fresh Prince of __ Air"
17. Hebrew calendar month
18. British surgeon who discovered bone disease
20. Agreement between debtor and creditor (abbr.)
21. Elongated part of anatomical structure
22. Acts slowly on
25. Keeps a little too safe
30. Greek seaport
31. "Baba O'Riley" rockers
32. Vision
33. Potassium nitrate in mineral form
38. Midway between northeast and e
41. Not a pro
43. Give a new look
45. Sensational
48. Nobel Prize-winning physicist
49. Annoy constantly
50. Vaccine developer
55. Lying down
56. Type of language (abbr.)
57. Flat-bottomed boat
59. Smallest or slightest
60. Bind
61. Speeds
62. The products of human creativity
63. Consume food
64. Ancient Greek sophist

CLUES DOWN

1. A young canine
2. As fast as can be done
3. Soviet moon probes
4. Sharp spasm of pain
5. One who adheres to a specific art movement
6. Show parts of
7. Unfasten
8. San Diego ballplayer
9. Santa
10. Rocky peaks
12. "Matt Houston" actor Horsley
14. A written agreement between two sides
19. Beginning to end (abbr.)
23. Greek goddess of the dawn
24. Not written in any key
25. Organized missions
26. Seven
27. Work unit
28. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
29. Broadway legend Bernadette
34. Belonging to a thing
35. Vietnamese offensive
36. Bitterly regret
37. Make a mistake
39. Newborn child
40. A combined landmass
41. Satisfaction
42. Hilly peninsulas in Denmark
44. Young swine
45. Type of sword
46. Siskel's partner
47. Brood of pheasants
48. Hindu model of ideal man
51. Suitable in the circumstances
52. La __ tar pits
53. Unstressed-stressed metrical foot
54. California wine country
58. Badly

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS ON PAGE 25

May I have a moment with you?



Contributed by

Judy Wroda, PCC CM ILS CAPS

Rural Mobile Medical Unit Health and Wellness Initiative

Hello, my friends – this is Miss Judy. May I have a moment to visit with you a bit?

I wanted to thank you all – "thank you" for allowing me to come into your homes and assist you and your family with issues that you were overwhelmed by.

I wanted to say "thank you" for inviting me into your schools so that I could assist your child who lives with a disability and needed just a bit more encouragement, or perhaps helping those who were trying to assist your child so that we could work together to find the the services that would best benefit your child and your family.

I wanted to say "thank you" to the families of my elders who came to me and asked for help with abuse issues, dementia related issues, preplanning and end of life issues – thank you for allowing me to help you all with such sensitive matters. It was my honor to be invited in at such a crucial and delicate time in your families' lives.

I also wanted to say 'thank you' to my rural families who took time to visit with me and share their needs and concerns regarding health care and lack of transportation in my rural areas – thank you for visiting with me freely and openly so that I could better assist you and find ways in which to bring services to you so that you did not have to worry about finding ways access the services that others who live in larger areas do not have trouble accessing. Thank you for allowing me to work with you to ensure you have equitable access to the care and services you need(ed).

For my precious youth and littles, "thank you" for sharing your fears and concerns with me about this great big world that is getting more and more scary for you. Thank you for letting me help you with trafficking concerns, abuse issues, bullying, loneliness, hunger and homelessness, and so many other issues you truly should not have to be worrying about. I hope I was able to help you enough so that you can face your future with hope and dignity.

To my beloved Veterans – I pray for you every day. I see the struggles you face when you come home, I feel the pain you share when we visit about the things that go bump in your night – I hold you close and hope you feel my concern and genuine love for all you have sacrificed to protect our nation. I wish I could have made more of an impact in the way your issues were seen and addressed, but please know, I did what I could with what I had. But, I still wish I could have done more for you, as you did for us.

"Thank you" Brocton Central School District, Jason, Ashley, Jen, Deb, Ken, Melanie, Caitlin and all the teachers and staff for inviting me into your school and allowing me to bring health, dental, vision, auditory and behavioral health care to your students and our rural communities! It was such an unexpected pleasure to experience the growth over the years and to know that last year we were able to assist 429 people in one day of sharing and assisting our rural communities! Thank you for allowing me to be a part of your mission, that is no longer deemed impossible – your mission is truly, possible!

To my homeless and those struggling with hunger – "thank you" for accepting what I could do for you. I wish it could have been more, but sometimes progress is not possible when vision is obscured. I hope the assistance I was able to give helped you in your time of need, and I hope you remain safe with a tummy that is not begging for food tonight.

Chautauqua County and beyond, thank you for allowing me these past ten years to assist and help in any way I could. Thank you for encouraging my Rural Mobile Medical Unit Health and Wellness Initiative, thank you for attending the free health events that I planned throughout our communities. Thank you for being a sponsor of an event if that is how you helped, thank you for sharing the information and giving rides to those who wanted to come and get the assistance they needed and wanted, thank you to those organizations and churches who opened your doors to allow us to enter for a day and help those who asked for help. Thank you, Chautauqua County, for showing others what could be accomplished if we just all worked together with open hearts and willing hands.

I have spent ten years taking care of those I could, and now, my friends, I find it is time I take care of me for a bit. So, I want to share with you today, that I am retiring.

Please do not fret, if you need assistance, guidance, or just someone to talk with, please know you can still call Southwestern Independent Living Center (716 661 3010) to get those referrals, guidance and assistance. I am not leaving you alone; I am just handing you off to others who are more than willing to be there for you. There are so many agencies in this county that are willing to help – and if you are not sure where to start, just call my office and you will be listened to and helped in the manner you know is best for you.

Thank you – truly – thank you for allowing me to be there for you when you needed someone. I hope for all the best, for all of you, in the coming years! Please know you have impacted my life more than you will ever know.

Much love to you all, and may God bless – Miss Judy Wroda, PCC CM ILS CAPS

Southwestern Independent Living Center and the Chautauqua Gazette would like to announce the much-earned retirement of Miss Judy Wroda! Miss Judy was instrumental in developing programs that assisted our rural communities and families, our beloved veterans, our children and youth, as well as our elders. Miss Judy often worked with complex situations that required unending patience, understanding, and a great deal of empathy and compassion. She was often called upon by other agencies to assist with issues that seemed insurmountable, finding solutions through compassion and the innate ability to put participants at ease, thus enabling them to share with her parts of their lives that shaped their reality. Miss Judy is truly someone who cares for others and she did all she could to ensure those she assisted lived their lives in the manner they chose, with all the supports they needed.

Miss Judy also enjoyed roaming the country roads of Chautauqua County to find inspiration and subjects for her camera lens. Her work included national recognition for being the only photographer who had multiple photos chosen in 2020 for MSN's Fifty Most Beautiful Winter Scenes in the United States – all photos were taken within a two mile radius of her cabin in the woods, highlighting the magical beauty this area has to offer! Miss Judy's work was also recognized for her photo shoot of Ava and Samantha Nyweide with her beloved "Roaming Bobbett", Robert Gleason, roaming and exploring Sherman, NY in a whimsical fashion!

Miss Judy has had many stories published that included sights and scenes from Chautauqua County. Her most memorable stories are the ones that were written about her Roaming Bobbett (Bob Gleason) and his Red Headed Wood Nymph (Miss Judy) and their adventures at their cabin in the woods in Chautauqua County. These stories showcased the hilarity that can occur when wildlife, mother nature and two good humored people reside in the same mystical place in the secluded woods, with a troll who lived under the covered bridge that you had to cross to get to the cabin – the cabin where the bear ate the apples that were left on the porch, the big ten pointers looked in the cabin windows to see what we were up to, and raccoons formed their own little mafia family to run the grounds in the dark of night! Miss Judy's muse, her Roaming Bobbett, has passed on to his cabin in heaven, but she has decided she is once again going to share nature's fascinating beauty as seen through her lens and share the stories that the photos, and nature, inspire!

Miss Judy will truly be missed by all in, and around, Chautauqua County. We wish her much happiness in her retirement and great success in her new "retirement career" as an author and photographer!

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Wreaths Across America Seeks Sponsors and Volunteers to Honor 1,200 Fallen Soldiers at Lakeview Cemetery



Contributed by

Wreaths Across America

Wreaths Across America is calling on local residents, businesses, and community organizations to support its annual wreath-laying ceremony on **Saturday, December 19, 2026**, at Lakeview Cemetery. The event's goal is to ensure that every one of the 1,200 U.S. service members resting in the cemetery's Soldier's Circle is remembered and honored with a veteran's wreath.

Wreaths Across America is guided by a unified mission: **REMEMBER** the fallen, **HONOR** those who serve, and **TEACH** future generations the value of freedom. Achieving this goal requires active participation from the community through wreath sponsorships, volunteer assistance, and local awareness outreach.

How You Can Help:

- **Sponsor a Wreath**: Individual wreath sponsorships are $17. To sponsor a wreath for the Soldier's Circle, visit the official Lakeview Cemetery Wreaths Across America Sponsorship Page.
- **Volunteer Your Time**: Volunteers are essential for placing wreaths during the ceremony on December 19. To register as a volunteer or assist with event operations, contact Tony Galati at Anthony.m.galati@skf.com or Pam Sigular at psigular@gmail.com.
- **Spread the Word**: Help reach the 1,200-wreath goal by sharing the initiative with family, friends, neighbors, and local networks.

SCAN ME

For more information, to volunteer, or to make a donation, please visit https://wreathsacrossamerica.org/pages/43949/Overview/?relatedId=0.

About Wreaths Across America

Wreaths Across America is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded to continue and expand the annual wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery. Its mission—Remember, Honor, Teach—is carried out each December through synchronized wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery and thousands of participating locations across all 50 U.S. states, at sea, and abroad.

Home Is Where the Heart Is: Connecting Older Adults to Care, Comfort, and Independence

Continued from Page 22

Caregiver Support Services webpage to learn more.

https://chautauquacountyny.gov/office-aging/Caregiver-Support-Services

Let Us Help You Find Your Way

"I need help with housekeeping. My spouse can no longer manage alone. How can I find care?" These are questions many families face.

You do not need to know which program you qualify for before reaching out. The right services depend on individual needs, income, insurance, eligibility, and available resources. NY Connects through CCOFAS can help you understand your options and identify where to begin.

Call 716-753-4582 or email ccnyc@chqgov.com to connect with our team.

This November, we extend our sincere thanks to our CCOFAS home care case management staff, local home care agencies, nurses, administrative teams, direct care workers, caregivers, veterans service partners, and community organizations. Your dedication and compassion help Chautauqua County residents remain at home, maintain their independence, and age with dignity.

CCIDA Approves Support for Rand Aerospace & Defense Group Expansion in Town of Ellicott

Continued from Page 9

manufacturing capacity, retain more than 100 existing jobs, and create additional employment opportunities. By working collaboratively with businesses and our municipal partners, we can help ensure that companies like Rand have the resources and infrastructure they need to continue growing right here in Chautauqua County."

The expansion will also bring new investment and economic activity to the Town of Ellicott, positioning an existing industrial property for continued productive use and supporting the community's commercial and industrial tax base.

"We are pleased to see Rand make this significant investment in the Town of Ellicott," said Janet Bowman, Town of Ellicott supervisor. "The expansion of an established local manufacturer into this facility is a positive development for our community, bringing new jobs, increased economic activity, and productive use of an existing industrial property. We look forward to working with Rand and our economic development partners as this project moves forward."

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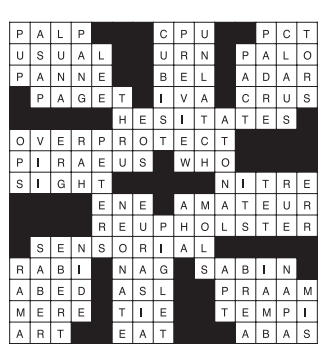
5	1	3	6	9	8	2	7	4



PUZZLES ON PAGE 23

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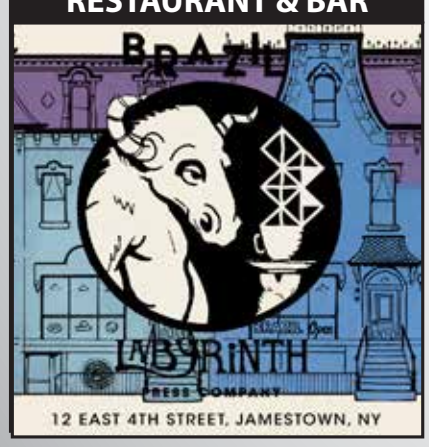

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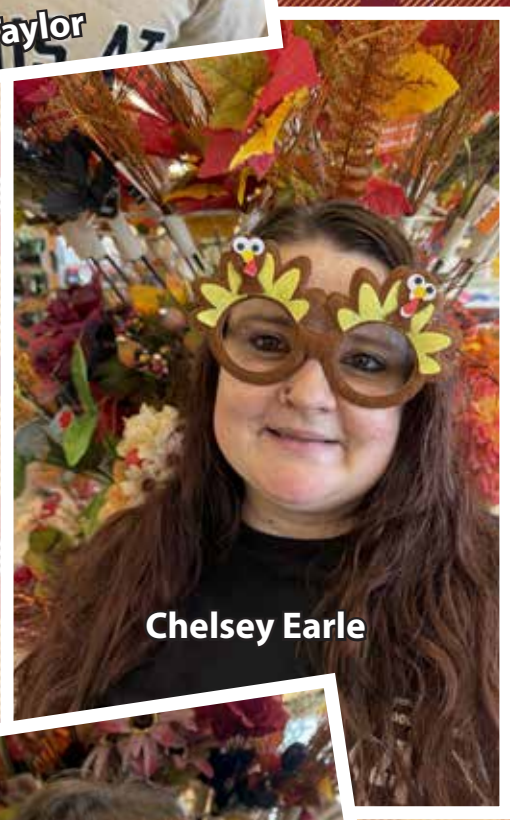
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