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Volume 2 • Issue 44 | Week of November 24, 2025

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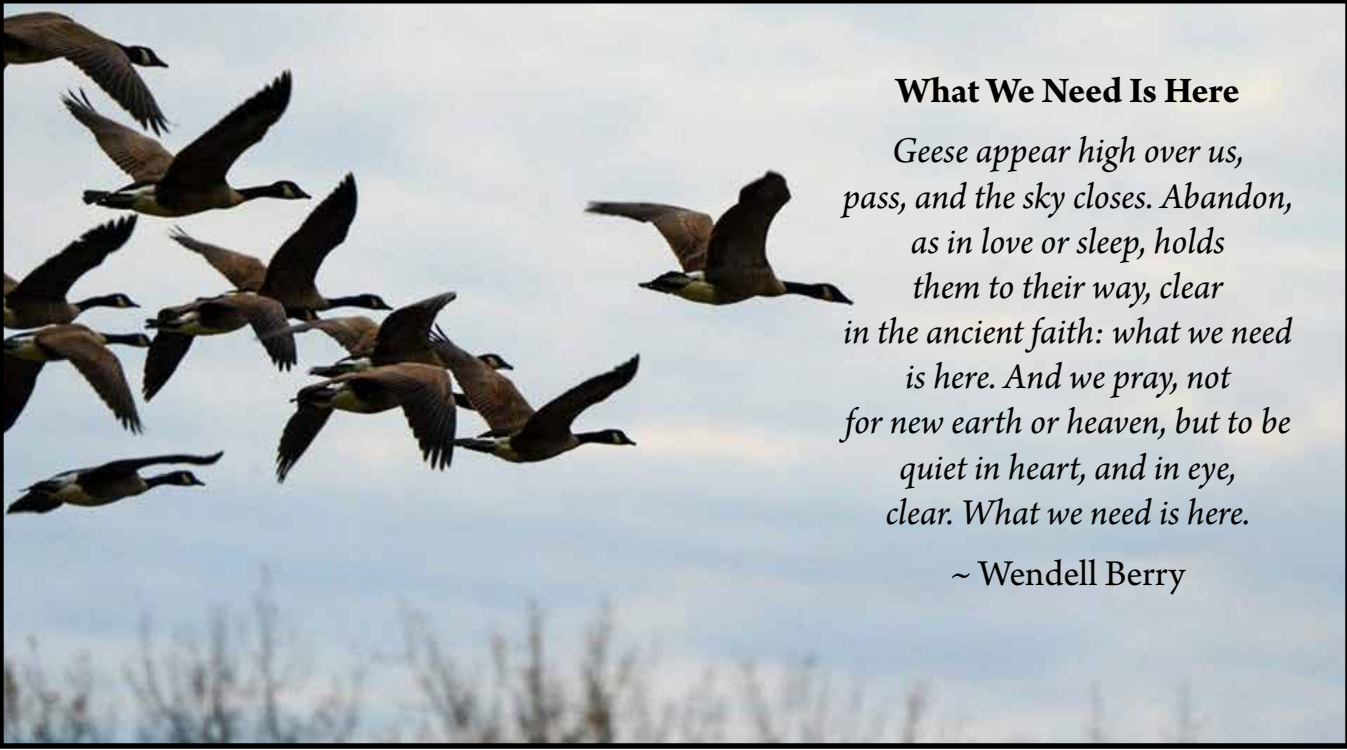


— CHAMBER —

JOIN TODAY!



WHAT WE NEED IS HERE A REFLECTION ON COMMUNITY, GRATITUDE, AND THE SEASON OF PAYING ATTENTION



What We Need Is Here

*Geese appear high over us,
pass, and the sky closes. Abandon,
as in love or sleep, holds
them to their way, clear
in the ancient faith: what we need
is here. And we pray, not
for new earth or heaven, but to be
quiet in heart, and in eye,
clear. What we need is here.*

~ Wendell Berry

Featured Writer

The Rev. Luke F. Fodor
Rector, St. Luke's Episcopal Church

As autumn releases its final sigh across Chautauqua County, I find myself watching the leaves loosen their grip on the branches. Most trees stand bare now—except for the stalwart oaks, still clutching their curled brown leaves as if reluctant to let go of what has been.

With the canopy thinned, the sky opens wide, and suddenly we can see things that summertime kept hidden: the long V-formations of migrating geese, the shifting light on our lakes, the quiet spaces between neighbors that call out for connection.

The changing landscape invites us to notice what matters. In a culture that often pulls us toward busyness,

Photo credit: Michael Beebe
Beebe is a Jamestown native and retired Buffalo News reporter. He also served the Jamestown Post-Journal and WJTN in his early career.

consumption, and private pursuits, this season nudges us into a different posture—one of gratitude, paying

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24

**PLEASE RESERVE YOUR 2026 WEEKLY/MONTHLY
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SCAN HERE
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OPTIONS

SUPPORT SMALL BUSINESS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON



Featured Writer

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

Since 1992, December retail spending as a percentage of total yearly spending has averaged 10%. US Census data shows it has dipped from a high of

11.3% in 1992 to 9.7% in 2023. Even with that dip, it remains true that people spend more money during the holiday season on retail purchases and food than they do in most other months of the year. In fact, this holiday season, the National Retail Federation is estimating that shoppers will collectively spend between \$1.01

trillion and \$1.02 trillion in November and December – and increase of over 3.7% compared with last year.

These numbers sound staggering. But we urge you to think about your own

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

This Week Around Town

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25

Thanksgiving Trivia Night | 6 PM
Alexander's on the Lake | Findley Lake
For Info: 716-233-4000

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26

**Thanksgiving Eve Shenanigans
6 PM-9 PM**
The Bemus Point Golf Club & Tap House | Bemus Point
For Info: 716-386-2893

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28

**Live Music: Ion Sky Acoustic
6 PM-9 PM**
The Bemus Point Golf Club & Tap House
Bemus Point
For Info: 716-386-2893

Dueling Pianos Comedy | 7 PM
Wicked Warren's | Jamestown
For Info: 716-484-4070

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29

Small Business Saturday
Chautauqua County
For Info: chqchamber.org/small-business-saturday

Amy King 5K Run | 11 AM
Celeron Moose Club | Celeron
For Info: 716-763-0303

Old Fashioned Santa Parade | 11 AM
Downtown Frewsburg
For Info: Frewsburg Community Old Fashioned Santa Parade Facebook Page

**Guppy's Grinchmas Whobilation
5:30 PM-10 PM**
Guppy's Tavern | Bemus Point
For Info: guppystavern.com

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29 & SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30

**Audubon Community Nature Center
Blue Heron Gift Shop Free Admission**
Audubon Community Nature Center | Jamestown
For Info: auduboncnc.org



In this issue:

Lil' Gingers Deli
A2Z Custom Signs & Apparel
Main & Wine Spirits



~ COMMUNITY HOLIDAY EVENTS 2025 ~

**Frewsburg Community
Old Fashioned Santa Parade**
November 29 | 11 AM
Facebook: Frewsburg Community Old Fashioned Santa Parade

**Christmas in The Village
of Lakewood**
December 3, 5-6
Facebook: Lakewood Community Development Corporation

**Dunkirk Christmas on Central
Holiday Spectacular & Parade**
December 6 | 11 AM - 7 PM
Facebook: Dunkirk Festivals & Special Events

Dunkirk Holiday Parade
December 6 | 5:00 PM
Facebook: Dunkirk Festivals & Special Events

Fredonia Miracle on Main Street
(Main St/Downtown Fredonia)
December 6
Info: festivalsfredonianany.org

Light Up Cassadaga
December 6
Facebook: Citizens for a Better Cassadaga

**Randolph "Light Up The Night" Christmas
Parade**
December 6 | 7:30 PM
Facebook: Enjoy Randolph

**Jamestown The Magic of Holiday
Movies Parade**
December 6 | 6 PM - 8 PM
Facebook: Collaborative Children's Solutions

Sherman Christmas in The Village
December 7 - 13
Info: Sherman Chamber of Commerce on Facebook

Christmas in Clymer
December 13 | 8am-9:45pm
facebook.com/events/clymer-ny/christmas-in-clymer

**Christmas thru The Village
Findley Lake**
December 6 - 7 | 10am-5pm
visitfindleylake.com

Mayville Holiday Market
December 13-14 | 10 AM - 4 PM
Facebook

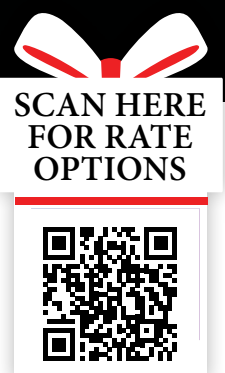


PLEASE RESERVE YOUR HOLIDAY AD SPOTS

Deadline for all December submissions: Thanksgiving

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Editorial with Lori Cornell

Thankful for my Type 1 Diabetes Heroes



Owner & Publisher
Lori Cornell

I usually try to shape my editorial thoughts around our "theme of the week," and this week's theme, Small Business Week, is more than deserving. In a community like ours, we are deeply fortunate to rely on so many small businesses that form the backbone of our local economy. Supporting them is essential, and it is our shared priority. The Chautauqua Gazette itself would not exist without the commitment and trust of our local partners, and we remain profoundly grateful.

Pastor Luke Fodor offers a wonderful reflection on the front cover of this edition; his parallel to the flight of geese captures the spirit of mutual support better than I ever could. With the CHQ Chamber's efforts highlighted on our cover as well, readers will

find plenty of inspiration to give local businesses the spotlight they deserve.

I hope you will instead allow me to use my space this week to lift up another November observance that is very close to my heart, Diabetes Awareness Month. Every year, this month offers a moment to support the millions of Americans living with diabetes and to honor the families who walk alongside them.

This week, I share my pride for my own Type I Diabetes heroes, my sons Ben (age 20) and Zach (age 17). They live courageously with this demanding disease every day - a delicate balancing act between insulin and blood sugar levels. There's never a break. I am incredibly thankful for the advancements in technology and critical public awareness that makes it more possible for them to live safer and longer lives. Please take a moment, as we close out Diabetes Awareness Month, to educate yourself about this disease and appreciate all those that work hard each day just to live.

Thank you and Happy Thanksgiving to all!

CHAUTAUQUA GAZETTE

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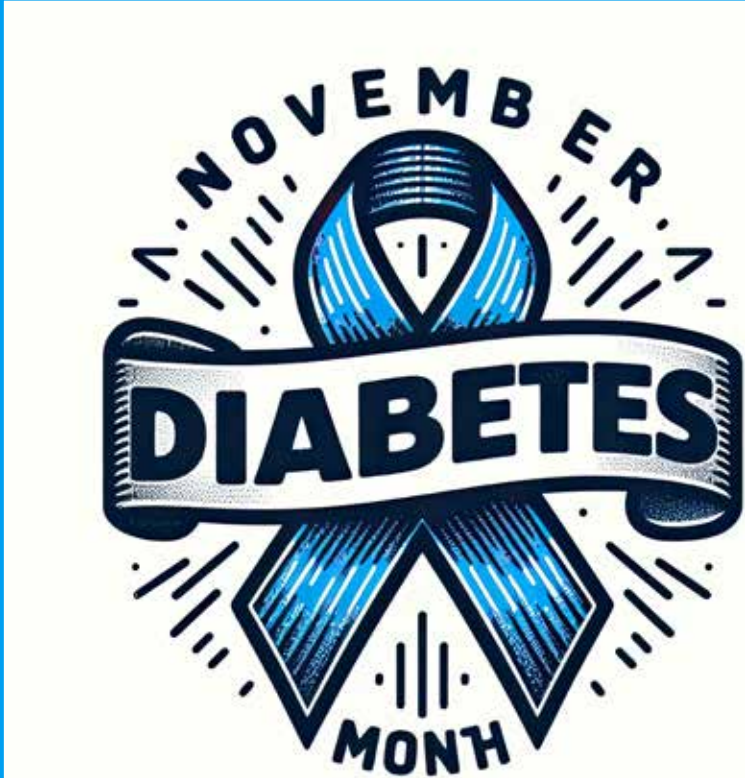
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SUBMISSION DEADLINES
Thursdays at 5:00 pm

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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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- John F. Kennedy



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In Loving Memory

November 14

Robert B. Volk, 92
Blawnox, PA
Lind Funeral Home

Joseph R. DiMaio, 78
Jamestown
Lind Funeral Home

Opal E. Sprague, 93
Falconer
Falconer Funeral Home

Korwin W. "Kory" Butman, 63
Jamestown
Lind Funeral Home

November 17

Cheryl A. Collins, 71
Jamestown
Falconer Funeral Home

Sherrie A. Cline, 52
Frewsburg
Peterson Funeral Home

November 18

Brian J. Stein, 44
Jamestown
Lind Funeral Home



Josephine Steele, 86
Jamestown
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In Loving Memory

Leanna Star Mayy "Le-Le" Herrera

February 8, 2021 - November 17, 2025

Leanna Star Mayy "Le-Le" Herrera, age 4, of Jamestown, NY, passed away on November 17, 2025, following a tragic accident. Born on February 8, 2021, to Sabrina Sample and Ne-nito Herrera, Leanna brought laughter and warmth into every space she touched.

Lynisha, Lavonnnte, Latrell, and Le-Lito Herrera; her aunts and uncles Tasha, Shania, Austin, Cheito, Ashlyn, and Itza Marie; her grandparents Lyn, Amanda, and Michael; her great-relatives Bernard Jr., Mitchell, Linda, Bobby, Bernard III, Yavonna, Nick, Angela, Deborah, and Paula; and many beloved cousins.

A bright and joyful child, Leanna loved playing outside, singing, dancing, coloring, and spending time with her siblings. She was a proud student in Mr. Knight's class at Fletcher Elementary School, where she looked forward to learning and going to school each day. Her excitement for life shone through in the little things she loved, especially watching KPop Demon Hunters and sharing laughs with the people around her. Leanna was deeply loved by her family, friends, and all who had the blessing of knowing her.

Leanna is reunited in heaven with her little brother Landon, her great-grandmother Frances Mount, great-grandfather Bernard Williams, great-grandpa Steve, and her grandfather John Sample.

Donations to her family can be made at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-sabrinass-family-after-tragic-loss>.



She is survived by her siblings

Some Time I've Spent in Reverie

A Sonnet by Paul Leone

Some time I've spent in reverie
Since first your beauty I'd admired:
Some reason have I to lament
What then I'd thought your love required.
Now I've engaged your private eyes,
Or, rather, you have engaged mine,
No longer need I to disguise
My faulty reasoning's design.
And you, your passion once concealed,
Now granted me admission to,
Our petty poses are revealed,
Our lies are made confession to.
In reverie once more drift,
I cherish now your chastening gift.



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JPS Remembers Former Board President DiMaio

Contributed by
Erie 2-Chautauqua-Cattaraugus BOCES

The Jamestown Public Schools family is mourning the loss of Joseph R. DiMaio, a longtime Jamestown High School teacher, coach, and the former president of the JPS Board of Education. Beloved by students, colleagues, and former players alike, “Coach DiMaio” served the district for 45 years. DiMaio passed away Monday, Nov. 17 at the age of 78.

“Joe DiMaio was one of the first people I met when I began here at Jamestown,” said Kevin Whitaker, JPS Superintendent. “His impact on students, parents and the community has been both powerful and meaningful. I last spoke with him just last week as he continued his commitment to kids by participating in a Veterans Day event at Jefferson Middle School. Joe was a Jamestown institution and his efforts for our community, our school district, and our kids will not be forgotten.”

A 1965 graduate of Jamestown High School, DiMaio served as a health teacher in the Jamestown Public Schools system from 1972 until his retirement from JHS in 2003. He served as an assistant football coach at then-Lincoln Junior High School from 1976 to 1979 and served as the head football coach from 1979 to 1981. In 1981, he joined the varsity football program at Jamestown High School as an assistant coach, serving in that capacity until 2003. In that time, he helped lead the program to a state title appearance in 1993 and three state championships in 1994, 1995, and 2000.

Following his retirement, DiMaio was elected to the Board of Education in 2004, spending 12 years as a Board of Education member and serving as the board’s president for four of those years.



As a board member, he played an active role in the New York State School Boards Association. His passionate advocacy in the fight for equitable funding for small city school districts, including Jamestown, helped to put the lawsuit in the state and national spotlight, leading him to serve on the Board of Directors of New York State Association of Small City School Districts, including one year as president of the organization.

DiMaio was honored in 2016 with NYSSBA’s prestigious Everett Dyer Award for Distinguished School Board Service and honored in 2015 by the Western New York Educational Service Council with an Award of Excellence for Board of Education Member. A beloved member of the school community, he was a regular presence at JHS football games and athletic events and regularly visited classrooms to share his experience and memories from his service in the Vietnam War. In 2019, his portrait was installed on the district’s “Distinguished Contributor” wall in the Kathman Administration Building.

Peace, Hope and Joy with Linda Kent

Give Thanks



Featured Writer
Linda Kent

Thanksgiving. That time of year when our thoughts turn to what we are thankful for. We’re to focus on our family, our friends, our homes, our health. Ads remind us, cards remind us, decorations remind us; but even before we can fully focus on the occasion, Christmas comes rushing in behind.

So especially considering recent national events, I propose that we start celebrating our thanks early. Daily even. Why should we save it for only one special day and season?

If you have good health, be grateful. There are many around us who aren’t healthy and can’t enjoy life the way we do. If you have a home, be thankful. There are many who have no home to be secure in. If you have friends,

even one, feel blessed. There are many people who go through life alone. No one to talk with, confide in, console them, comfort them. What a blessing it is to have a friend. If you have family, cherish them. How many people no longer have a family to be part of, or are estranged from? Family is to be cherished and held close as part of our heritage. Even if we want to deny we know them sometimes. Love them

Why is this such a hard thing to do? Is it because we’re too busy? Because we’re all too wrapped up in our own lives to appreciate what we have? Life is too short for that. Being thankful for what we have in all circumstances improves our lives. It makes us aware of the good around us. Because it is there. See it, acknowledge it, and embrace it.

So, in this upcoming holiday season, look for the good things in your life and celebrate them often. Keep celebrating them through the year, long after this season is done, on into next year and beyond. Make it a habit to find good things and say thanks, I can’t wait to see what’s next.

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Frewsburg Community Old Fashioned Santa Parade

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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 with lights, music and hometown spirit. It's the kind of celebration that reminds us why Frewsburg shines brightest this time of year.

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Frewsburg Community Old Fashioned Santa Parade

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 29TH • 11AM

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On Small Business Saturday and Sunday, November 29–30, Audubon Community Nature Center's Blue Heron Gift Shop has free admission and a treasure trove of wonderful holiday gifts. Everything is discounted, from cuddly stuffed animals to locally-made honey, beeswax candles, soaps, and more. Get a special gift with your purchase of a holiday gift membership. Next Monday, December 1, is the deadline to finish your holiday shopping with "Go with the Flow" River Otter tees and sweatshirts, brought back by popular demand. Buy or bring a new, unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots and you will receive a free admission pass. Audubon is at 1600 Riverside Road, one-quarter mile east of Route 62 between Jamestown and Warren. For all the details, call (716) 569-2345 or visit AudubonCNC.org/events.

H A P P Y

Thanksgiving



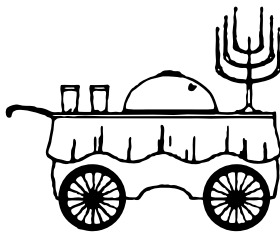
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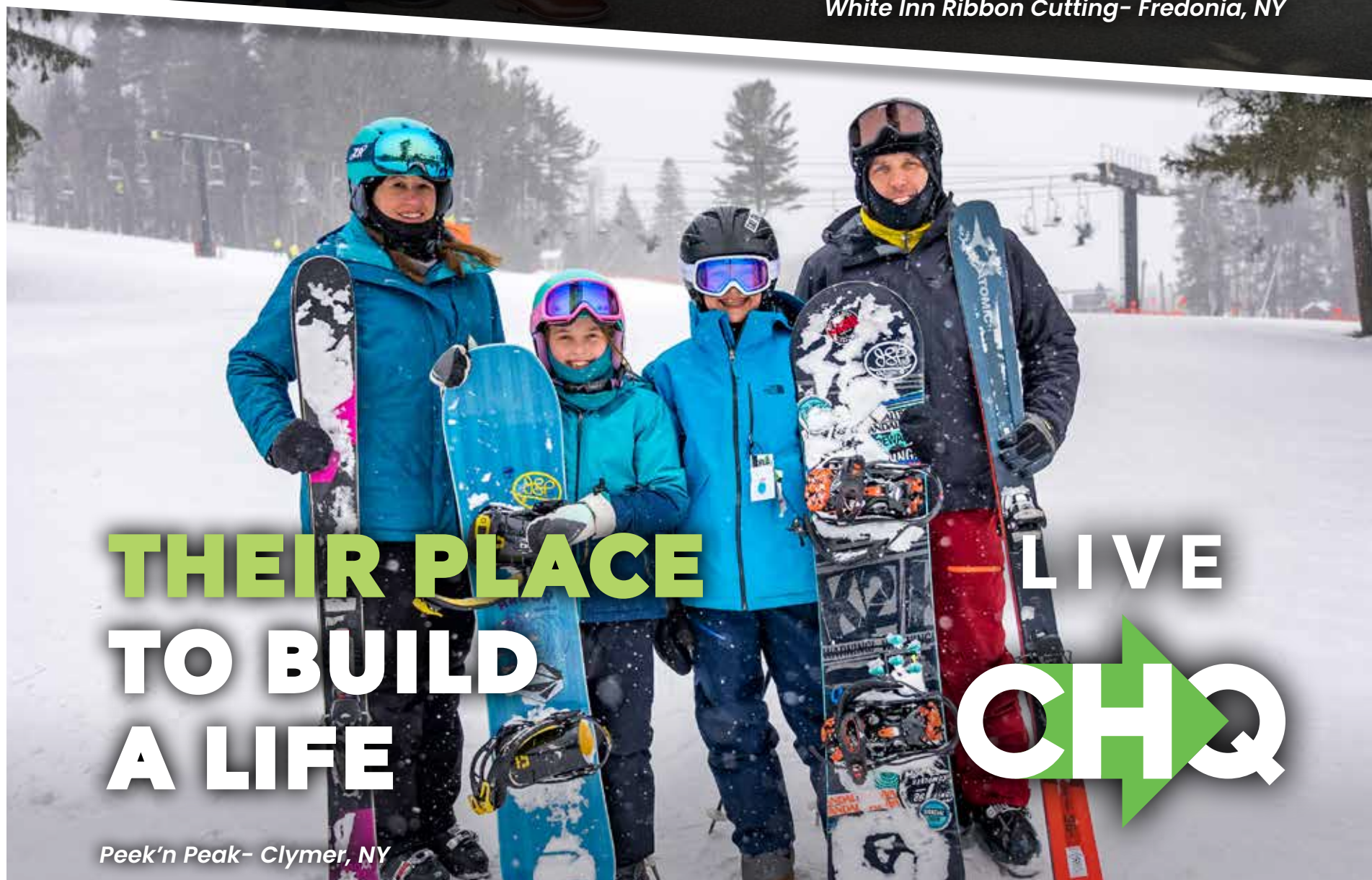
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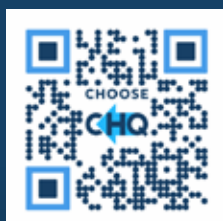
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National Comedy Center Wins Two Gold Anthem Awards Honoring Excellence in Corporate Social Responsibility and Community Engagement

Global honor recognizes groundbreaking work supporting individuals living with memory loss and their caregivers

Contributed by
National Comedy Center

The National Comedy Center has been named a Gold Winner in the 5th Annual Anthem Awards for its One Laugh at a Time: A National Comedy Center Memory Café, a monthly program supporting individuals living with memory loss and their caregivers. The Comedy Center earned Gold honors in the Education, Art & Culture category for Corporate Social Responsibility and Local Community Engagement, placing the initiative among the top-tier social-impact programs recognized worldwide.

View the National Comedy Center winning entries here:

Gold Winner – Education, Art & Culture: Corporate Social Responsibility – Memory Café

Gold Winner – Art & Culture: Corporate Social Responsibility – Memory Café

Past and recent Anthem Award Gold Winners include global organizations such as Google, AARP, UNICEF USA, Amazon Music, Rare Beauty by Selena Gomez, Everytown for Gun Safety, the Clinton Global Initiative, World Central Kitchen, PBS, MTV Entertainment Studios, and Sesame Workshop. The 5th Annual Anthem Awards received more than 2,000 submissions from 42 countries worldwide. Launched by The Webby Awards in 2021, the Anthem Awards is one of the world’s leading platforms celebrating social impact, cultural change, and community engagement.

The National Comedy Center – one of the most interactive museums in the country – introduced its Memory Café this past February, offering a monthly, supportive gathering for individuals living with dementia, Alzheimer’s, or other memory-related conditions, along with their caregivers, family members, and care partners. The program invites participants to explore immersive museum exhibits that celebrate comedy’s greatest legends and most memorable moments, creating meaningful opportunities for connection through shared experiences, familiar comedy, and the comfort of community.

“Born out of real stories of living



with dementia, this program reminds us that laughter connects us when conversation has failed us. Comedy can be the tool providing crucial connection and respite, as important for caregivers as it is for their patients, and loved ones,” stated Journey Gunderson, National Comedy Center Executive Director. “Being honored with two Gold Anthem Awards on a global stage affirms the importance of offering people a place where joy, laughter, connection, and relief are still possible.”

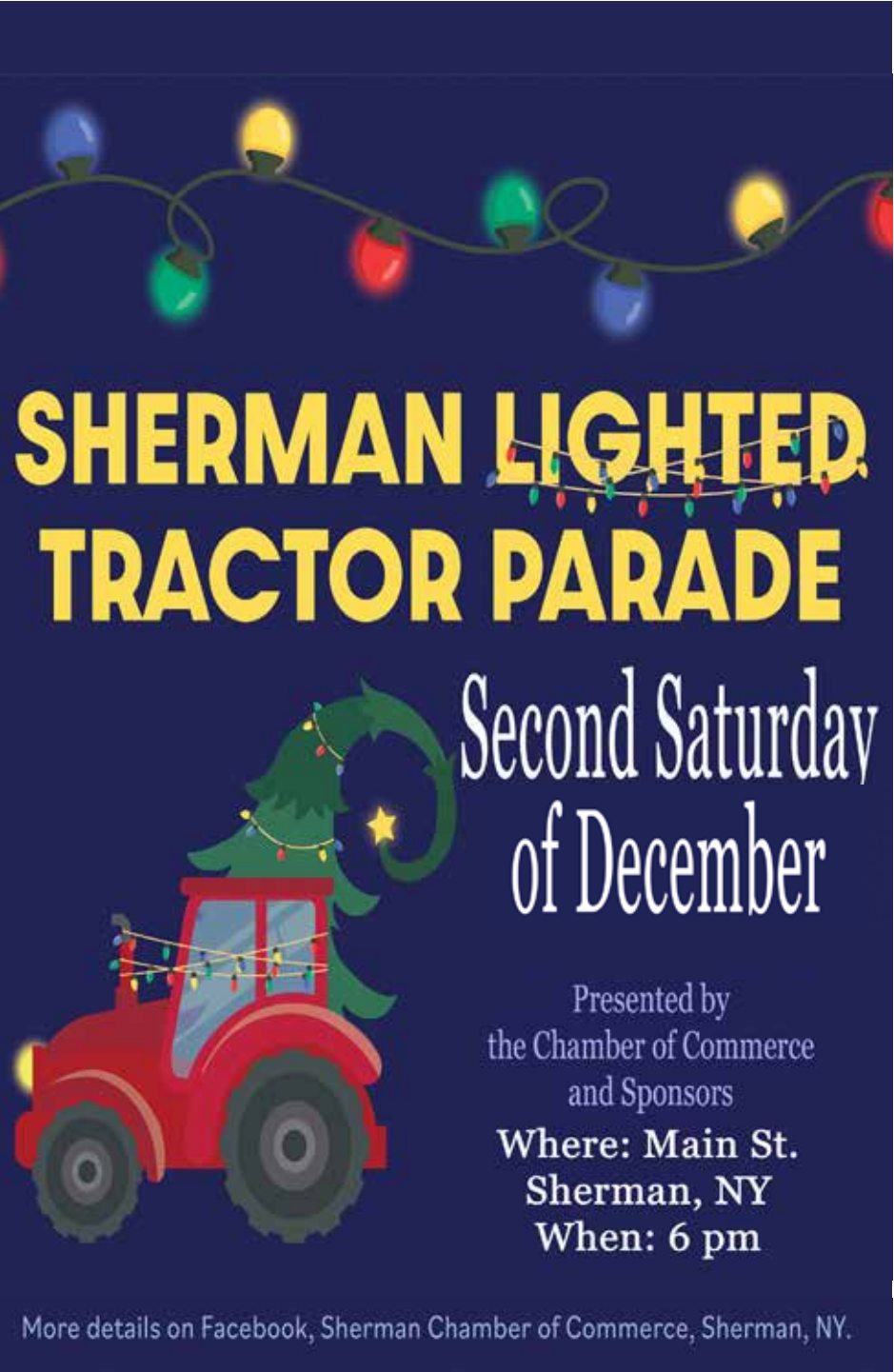
Participants and caregivers have expressed how meaningful the program has been from the very first gathering. Many share that the Memory Café has become a highlight of their month – an experience that feels uplifting, familiar, and emotionally grounding. Families describe moments of recognition sparked by beloved comedy, meaningful conversations that emerge in the museum’s interactive spaces, and the relief of being part of a community that truly understands the caregiving journey. Caregivers frequently note that the program feels restorative rather than clinical, offering both respite and genuine connection. This experience is supported by staff who have received specialized training to thoughtfully welcome and assist individuals living with memory loss and their care partners.

During each Memory Café, participants explore the museum’s interactive exhibits at their own pace, revisiting favorite moments from shows like I Love Lucy, The Carol Burnett Show, The Dick Van Dyke Show, and Saturday Night Live, along with artists such as Johnny Carson, Carl Reiner, Mel Brooks, Betty White, Richard Pryor, Don Rickles, and The Smothers Brothers. These experiences spark conversation, evoke memories, and give caregivers a supportive space to exhale and recharge.

“These two Gold Anthem Awards validate that innovative cultural institutions can make a powerful impact in their communities,” said Rochelle Mole, Chief Operating Officer of the National Comedy Center. “The Memory Café has become a place where caregivers and families feel truly welcomed, supported, and understood – one gathering at a time.”

Winners of the Anthem Awards are selected by the International Academy of Digital Arts and Sciences (IADAS), whose judges include leaders from

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22



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Senator George Borrello Recognized as One of New York State's Most Effective Republican Legislators

Submitted photo



Senator Borrello debating legislation on June 11, 2025.

Contributed by
**Office of
Senator George Borrello**

State Senator George Borrello has been ranked one of the most effective Republican legislators in the New York State Senate, according to the latest Legislative Effectiveness Scores released by the Center for Effective Lawmaking. The analysis placed Senator Borrello first among Senate Republicans for the 246th Legislative Session, based on a detailed review of sponsored bills, committee actions, and measures signed into law.

Senator Borrello said the rating is the result of his commitment to representing the people of the 57th District and working to advance policies that strengthen rural communities.

"Public service is about delivering results for the people you represent, and that has always been my focus," Senator Borrello said. "I'm grateful for this recognition, but what matters most is ensuring the voices of my constituents are heard and that we keep pushing for policies that allow New York to thrive. Too many harmful, misguided decisions have driven people and businesses away. My work has been, and continues to be, about fighting for common sense, accountability and opportunity."

The Center for Effective

Lawmaking bases its rankings on fifteen indicators, including how far a legislator's proposals advance and the significance of their policy impact. In the 2023-24 term, Senator Borrello sponsored 125 bills, with 19 passing the Senate and 17 becoming law, which is a high rate for a minority-party legislator.

Senator Borrello emphasized that effective lawmaking requires persistence, cooperation, and a willingness to challenge policies that undermine New York's future.

"At a time when many New Yorkers are losing confidence in state government, I believe it is more important than ever to pursue practical solutions and to work across the aisle wherever possible," he said. "My goal is always to make state government work better for the people it serves. I will continue advocating for policies that support our farms, small businesses, first responders, families, and all who want to see our state move in the right direction."

He added that the ranking reinforces the importance of the work ahead.

"New York has enormous potential, but we need to reverse the policies that have held us back," Senator Borrello said. "I'm proud to be an effective voice for my district, and I remain committed to fighting for a stronger, more prosperous future for all New Yorkers."

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MTA PRESENTS A CHRISTMAS CAROL



Robert H. Jackson Center's Cappa Theatre, December 12–21

MTA PRESENTS! Brings Charles Dickens's A Christmas Carol to Life

Contributed by

Mike Thornton Agency

The Mike Thornton Agency LLC is proud to announce its latest holiday theatrical event: a fully staged production of Charles Dickens's timeless classic A Christmas Carol, running December 12–21, 2025, at the Robert H. Jackson Center's Cappa Theatre in Jamestown, NY.

This festive production promises to deliver a heartwarming and immersive experience for audiences of all ages. Featuring a cast of talented professional actors — Stephen Stout, Michael Thornton, Jordan Wolfe, Rachel Lykins, Titus Miller, Lauren Shilansky, and Todd Singleton — the show brings Dickens's beloved characters vividly to life, including Ebenezer Scrooge, Bob Cratchit, Tiny Tim, Jacob Marley, and the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Future.

Directed by Stephen Stout, with lighting design by Scott Barton, sound design by Ed Tomassini, and stage management by Stavros Singleton, this new adaptation

combines the artistry of live theatre with the magic of Dickens's unforgettable tale of redemption, compassion, and the enduring spirit of Christmas.

Producer and Artistic Director Mike Thornton describes the show as "a fully staged Broadway-style production with Victorian-era costumes, dynamic lighting and sound, and live actors onstage. We are excited to bring Dickens' story of redemption and forgiveness that has touched hearts for generations."

Thornton adds, "We're thrilled to share Dickens's masterpiece with families and theatergoers in a way that celebrates the spirit of Christmas. Our hope is that A Christmas Carol becomes an annual Jamestown holiday tradition for the entire community."

This year's A Christmas Carol follows the success of the Mike Thornton Agency's 2024 production of It's a Wonderful Life, which captivated audiences and helped establish MTA Presents! as a leading force in bringing professional, family-friendly

theatre to the Jamestown region.

Set against the charming backdrop of Victorian London, A Christmas Carol tells the unforgettable story of Ebenezer Scrooge, a miserly old man who, through the supernatural visits of the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Yet to Come, discovers the true meaning of generosity and joy. Audiences can expect a rich, emotional journey filled with laughter, nostalgia, and the redemptive power of the holiday spirit.

All performances will be held at the Robert H. Jackson Center's Cappa Theatre, located in the heart of Jamestown, offering an intimate and beautifully restored venue perfect for holiday entertainment.

Tickets for A Christmas Carol are on sale now and can be purchased online at [MTApresents.com](https://mtapresents.com). Early reservations are strongly recommended, as seating is limited and this production is expected to sell out quickly.

Join the Mike Thornton Agency this

Performances will take place on the following dates and times:

Friday, December 12 – 7 PM

Saturday, December 13
2 PM & 7 PM

Sunday, December 14 – 2 PM

Thursday, December 18 – 7 PM

Friday, December 19 – 7 PM

Saturday, December 20
2 PM & 7 PM

Sunday, December 21 – 2 PM

December for an unforgettable holiday tradition that celebrates the warmth, hope, and joy of the season. Experience the power of live theatre and the enduring message of Dickens's beloved classic — that it's never too late to open one's heart and embrace the true meaning of Christmas.

Tickets and Information:

[MTApresents.com](https://mtapresents.com)

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A BRIEF HISTORY OF CHRISTMAS TREES

Courtesy of
Metro Creative

Towering evergreen trees adorned in lights and other trinkets are a focal point of the holiday season. Christmas trees are placed in prominent locations in homes, typically in front of a large picture window or in the corners of large entryways. These awe-inspiring trees beckon people to inspect all of the ornaments and often are the first thing people envision when thinking of holiday decor. The tradition of the Christmas tree is believed to have begun in Germany in the sixteenth century. However, the National Christmas Tree Association says there may be earlier references to Christmas trees in other parts of the world as well. The first written

record of a decorated Christmas tree comes from Riga, Latvia, in 1510. Men of a local merchant's guild decorated the tree with roses and then set fire to it. The rose was considered a symbol of the Virgin Mary. In the sixteenth century in Alsace, France, trees were sold in the marketplace and brought home and set up undecorated. Laws limited the size to "eight shoe lengths" or slightly more than four feet. Early German Christmas trees were adorned with apples, a holdover from earlier traditions when evergreen boughs hung with apples were used as props in miracle plays. These plays took place in churches on December 24, which was Adam & Eve's Day in the early Christian calendar. Evergreens have long been symbolic of life during the cold months

of winter, calling to mind the promise of spring to come. Various cultures, including early Christians, featured trees during winter solstice celebrations. Some historians believe Martin Luther, a Protestant reformer who might have been inspired by stars in the night, was responsible for adding lighted candles to the Christmas tree. The Christmas tree was introduced to the United States by German settlers in the 1800s. Soon after those settlers' arrival, trees began to be sold commercially. President Franklin Pierce is credited with having the first Christmas tree at the White House. Today, Christmas trees are wildly popular, with the American Christmas Tree Association reporting that 94 percent of U.S. consumers plan to display one.



Support Small Business This Holiday Season

Continued from Front page

holiday spending. Where you choose to spend your resources makes a huge difference. When you buy gifts, décor, and special holiday treats, you are making a choice about where your money goes. When it goes to small locally owned businesses more of it remains here in our own communities to support our local economy.

It remains true that 68-cents of every dollar spent with a local business goes into supporting our community. A study this year by Capital One shows that money spent at an independent business may recirculate in the local economy between six and fifteen times. The same study shows that 75% of Americans say supporting their local economy is the primary reason they shop at a local business.

This is great news, and we urge you to be part of the Shop Local movement! Our mission at the CHQ Chamber is to build vital connections, provide professional resources, and champion our local businesses in the Chautauqua County. As a proud champion for small businesses, the CHQ Chamber works to drive foot traffic and collectively market our locally owned businesses. When you're holiday shopping over the next several weeks, please check out the amazing array of small locally owned businesses right here in Chautauqua County. In just about every municipality there are small businesses that offer unique and special merchandise including apparel and home goods, locally made products, and much more. These businesses not only help support our local economy, but they also create a distinctive sense of place. Intertwined with our incredible natural resources and outstanding local attractions, small businesses are the icing on the cake in Chautauqua County – part of what creates a terrific quality of life here. Shop small this holiday season, and let's keep our local businesses thriving well into the new year!

Join us for the CHQ Chamber 25th Annual Meeting

The CHQ Chamber is celebrating 25 years, and we hope you'll join us! Each year the Chautauqua County Chamber of Commerce holds its Annual Meeting and goes through some of the key steps for every annual meeting: election of board and officers, some special presentations, and a keynote address.

Our board roster for 2026 includes a broad variety of businesspeople from an array of economic sectors across Chautauqua County. The proposed slate includes Chair Heather Brown, The Resource Center; Vice Chair Emily Reynolds, Cornell Cooperative Extension; Treasurer John Felton, Southern Chautauqua Federal Credit Union; and Secretary Robert Mazza, Mazza Chautauqua Cellars and Five & 20 Brewing and Spirits. New board members on the slate are Deborah Ferrer, Deborah Ferrer Design Studio; Angelo Marra, West Main Mercantile; Ken Morris, Brooks-TLC Hospital System; Dawn Murphy, Whizz-n-Smash; and Joe Sanfilippo, Sanfilippo Solutions. Returning directors are Jon Davis, Ashville General Store; Larry Fiorella, HBKS Wealth Management; Stephen Kolison, State University of New York at Fredonia; Vicki McGraw, Elegant Edibles Catering; Brian Pender, Northlake Development; Kristofer Sellstrom, Jamestown Board of Public Utilities; and Monica Simpson, Chautauqua County Partnership for Economic Growth.

Keynote speaker for the CHQ Chamber Annual Meeting will be Ronald Richard, the retired president and CEO of the Cleveland Foundation. With an extensive background in both non-profit and for-profit work, we expect his message will resonate with many in Chautauqua County.

The Chamber will present the Pam Lydic Coalition Builder Award for 2025 to Aimee Rogers, the founder and president of Imagine Forestville.

The CHQ Chamber Annual Meeting will be held at noon, Friday, December 12, upstairs at Wicked Warren's, 119 West 3rd Street, Jamestown. The CHQ Chamber Annual Meeting is sponsored by Brooks-TLC Hospital System/Kaleida Health, County of Chautauqua Industrial Development Agency, Jamestown Community College, Media One Radio Group, the State University of New York at Fredonia, and Wicked Warren's. Our program booklet is sponsored by DFT Communications, M&T Bank, National Grid, Shults Auto Group, and UPMC Chautauqua. Our favors sponsors are Brooks-TLC Hospital System, LaBella Associates, and Southern Chautauqua Federal Credit Union. The cost of lunch is just \$35 for this event and registration is open online now at www.chamberrsvp.org.



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A Season of Light & Connection

**One Local Movement Is Healing People while Saving Lives
Where healing meets purpose — and every act of calm creates
ripples of good. Western New York's Equine Union International
brings hope to families and animals this winter.**

Contributed by
Forest Acres

As the darker, colder days of winter settle in and families across Western New York face growing stress and food insecurity, one local movement is offering a light of hope. The stark reality is that nearly 1 in 7 New Yorkers faces hunger, according to recent studies. Even across the U.S., that number is reaching its highest level in nearly a decade.

In the midst of that heaviness, Equine Union International, founded by Dena Garfield, is creating connection—raising awareness and supporting local food initiatives through donations, education, and wellness programs that empower families to make nourishing choices. By teaching healthy eating habits and accessible wellness practices, this growing movement is helping youth and adults alike.

Many community members know Dena through her healthy meal business, Hip-Eats, which provides wholesome meals designed around seasonal ingredients and Ayurvedic circadian rhythm. That hands-on approach has evolved into personally and virtually guiding clients to create the same nourishment at home—through education in mindful sourcing, seasonal living, and everyday habits that support true wellbeing.

Built on years of groundwork - her wellness, equine, and leadership practices under Forest Acres and Hip-Eats, has evolved into a community connecting people that feel compelled to do good. By integrating a nutritional foundation with her somatic and equine-assisted modalities, Dena and her team help families and community members take simple, sustainable steps toward ultimate health and collective growth, while giving back at the same time.

Equine Union International is a community-based hub that bridges the gap between wellness professionals, people that receive care, and horses that help them all through partnership. With somatic healing, hands-on horse experiences, and education around daily wellness habits, Dena and her team help people of all ages and



Submitted photo

challenges move out of stress and into nature while restoring nervous system health.

At Forest Acres, home to Dena's rescue horses, people come to reconnect and rediscover what their natural rhythm feels like. Here, one-on-one sessions with neurodivergent youth, stressed caregivers, and leaders find clarity, confidence, and calm in a world that often asks too much of them.

Throughout the area, the people of Equine Union International extend that same spirit into the community. The team brings Youth Discovery Workshops to the Boys & Girls Club of Jamestown and The Relief Zone in Frewsburg, where children learn to regulate stress through movement and mindfulness, prepare healthy snacks that nurture their growing bodies, and explore early entrepreneurial skills that build confidence and uncover their unique gifts.

"We haven't seen the kids this calm, engaged, and inquisitive in a long time," said one Director at a Youth Discovery Workshop. "They're ocused, asking questions, and they are proud of what they learned."

Dena and her team further their outreach by hosting large-group workshops at the indoor arena at Centaur Stride Therapeutic Riding Facility, a nonprofit that has served the region for more than 30 years. One of the participating youth groups, the JUMP Program of Jamestown Public

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24

the **W**

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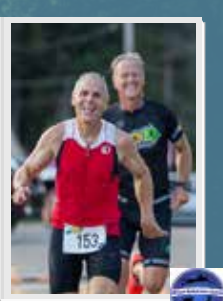
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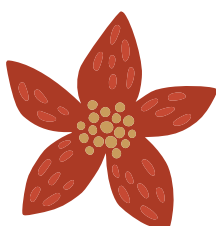
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Silver Creek Students Stand up Against Bullying with Sweethearts & Heroes

Contributed by
Sweethearts & Heroes

October was National Bullying Prevention Month, and as part of an ongoing partnership with the Silver Creek Central School District (CSD), an amazing duo of superheroes without capes from “The World’s #1 Youth Leadership Team” returned to the area.

Tom Murphy and Josiah McKeon, of Sweethearts & Heroes, were in the Silver Creek CSD on Tuesday, Oct. 14 and Friday, Oct. 17. Sweethearts & Heroes aims to prevent hopelessness, bullying and suicide by providing dynamic, inspiring content that centers on the human interaction skills necessary for schools and other organizations to change all aspects of their culture — skills such as empathy, compassion and teamwork.



Sweethearts & Heroes’ vast menu of services includes the BRAVE Youth Leadership System, which trains older students in bully drills that they, in turn, teach to students in lower grades, thus creating a sustainable, student-directed initiative; and The Kennedy Columbus STEP Program (Student Teacher Empathy Program), which teaches high school students how to present Sweethearts & Heroes’ signature assemblies to students in grades K-2 and 3-5 in a small-group, classroom setting.

Sweethearts & Heroes’ central team of traveling presenters includes Murphy, Director and Founder, of St. Albans, VT, and McKeon, of New York. On Oct. 14, McKeon started a new year of BRAVE in the Silver Creek CSD. On Oct. 17, Murphy introduced students to the STEP.

McKeon returned to the Silver Creek CSD on Nov. 4; Murphy is back on Nov. 17. Their efforts with continue in December, February, March and April.

“We are thrilled to continue our partnership with Sweethearts & Heroes’ BRAVE system for the second consecutive year,” said Shannon Matson, Director of Positive Interventions and Family Connectedness, Silver Creek Central School. “After just two sessions, our students have thoroughly enjoyed their experiences, particularly the opportunity to work with elementary students.

We’ve received positive feedback from multiple parents expressing how much fun their children had in the program. This year, we’re excited to introduce the STEP. Students are eager to engage with HOPE Classroom lessons and begin their leadership journey with Tom Murphy.

For more than 16 years, Sweethearts & Heroes has presented what Murphy calls “the ‘stop, drop and roll’ of bullying” to more than 2.5 million students in school districts from New England to Hawaii and north into Canada. Sweethearts & Heroes also tailors its presentations and professional development workshops for businesses, non-profits and civic groups. Murphy said, “We go where we’re needed. That’s what heroes do.”

Sweethearts & Heroes has also created The HOPE Classroom, a digital subscription service designed for various grade levels and different school sizes. This value-packed offering can allow Sweethearts & Heroes to be in every school in the U.S. For more on Sweethearts & Heroes, find them here on social media

“Piglet noticed that even though he had a Very Small Heart, it could hold a rather large amount of Gratitude.”

- A.A. Milne, “Winnie-the-Pooh”

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Small Animal Science Seniors Support Care for Cats at Dunkirk Clinic



Small Animal Science students from the LoGuidice Educational Center helped during a cat neuter clinic.

Contributed by
Erie 2-Chautauqua-Cattaraugus BOCES

Seniors in the Small Animal Science program at the LoGuidice Educational Center got hands-on veterinary experience on Nov. 18, assisting with a low-cost neuter clinic for cats at Whiskers Veterinary Hospital in Dunkirk. The opportunity followed a Nov. 12 training day where students learned clinic procedures and observed a full feline neuter surgery.

More than 80 cats were signed up, and students helped roughly 30 receive neuter surgeries and rabies vaccinations.

They assisted with check-in, sedation monitoring, surgery preparation, post-op care, and owner instructions.

“The students were fabulous and a tremendous help,” said Dr. Sarah Johnson. Instructor Holly Lemke added that the experience allowed students to apply class knowledge to real-life situations and praised the hospital staff for their guidance.

Participating students included Isabella Bongiovanni, Cadence Cave, Nathan Frary, Samantha Buthy, Angelina Mekus, Savayah Long, Carleen Logan, Elizabeth Krynski, Adabella O’Hara, Lyra Stephenson, and Hanan Mohamad Narvaez.

American Diabetes Month: Simple steps that add up

Contributed by
**Chautauqua County
Office for the Aging**

November is National Diabetes Month, a time to shine light on one of the most common and most preventable chronic diseases in the United States. This month is about learning more, taking small steps to protect our health, and supporting the people in our lives who live with diabetes every day.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), more than 38 million Americans are living with diabetes, and another 97 million adults have prediabetes, many without even knowing it. If left untreated, diabetes can lead to serious health problems like heart disease, kidney disease, nerve damage, and vision loss. The encouraging part is that with early detection, healthy habits, and the right medical care, many of these complications can be prevented or delayed.

Simple, realistic changes that can make a difference:

- Balanced meals with more fruits and vegetables
- Choosing water over sugary drinks
- Daily movement or physical activity
- Regular health screenings and check-ins with a provider
- Emphasize that small, consistent actions add up

Recognizing the Warning Signs

Common symptoms of diabetes include frequent urination, increased thirst, unexplained weight loss, fatigue, and blurry vision. These signs can be easy to miss, especially if they come on gradually. If you or someone you love is experiencing any of them, talk with a healthcare provider. A simple blood test can detect diabetes early and help prevent more serious health problems.

Support and Local Resources

- Highlight the importance of education and support for those living with diabetes
- Mention local programs, nutrition counseling, diabetes education classes, or other available services
- upcoming Diabetes Prevention Program through UPMC Chautauqua.
- Emphasize community connection and that no one has to manage this alone

Call to Action

- Encourage readers to take one small, meaningful step during National Diabetes Month
- Schedule a screening
- Try a healthy swap at meals
- Join a local health event or class

- Support a friend or family member living with diabetes
- Reinforce that collective action can make a difference in community health

Closing

If you notice any of these symptoms in yourself or someone you love, reach out to a healthcare provider or your local health department. Awareness, prevention, and support can make a real difference. This month, take one small step. Schedule a screening, make a healthy swap at meals, or check in with a friend who has diabetes. Little changes matter, and when we take them together, our community grows stronger.

Check out our website at <https://chqgov.com/office-aging> to see all the programs and services offered. Additionally, by signing up for our communication system, if you are not already registered, will provide you with information at your fingertips. We send messages about the current programs you may be interested in through your preferred communication method: text, email, or an automated call. If you are not already signed up to receive these messages, just call us at our NY Connects line 716-753-4582.

By making simple and healthy choices on a daily basis, you will be well on your way towards achieving total wellness. We know the healthy choice is not always the easiest choice, but small changes can make a big difference. Chautauqua County Office for Aging Services offers Nutrition & Wellness programs to support you in your journey toward total wellness. Call NY Connects at 716-753-4582 for more details and information about any of the Nutrition and Wellness programs provided by Chautauqua County Office for Aging Services.

SNAP-Ed materials are funded by USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or SNAP. This institution is an equal opportunity provider. Some of these materials have been funded in whole or in part by grants from the New York State Office for the Aging (NYSOFA), and/ or the Administration on Aging (AOA) and/ or Administration for Community Living (ACL). Nothing herein is intended, nor should be construed, as an endorsement by the State of New York.



Welch Building Redevelopment Ready to Move Forward

Latest action by CCIDA paves the way for creation of 46 new housing units in Westfield



The effort to renovate the C.E. Welch Building in Westfield by Savarino Co. will soon get underway, following action on Tuesday, Nov. 18 by the County of Chautauqua Industrial Development Agency. The updated project description calls for all 46 housing units in the project to be market rate, while also updating the overall cost of the project. The project is tentatively scheduled for completion in 2027.

Contributed by
County of Chautauqua Industrial Development Agency

A major redevelopment project involving the C.E. Welch Building in the Village of Westfield is ready to move forward. During its meeting on Nov. 18, the County of Chautauqua Industrial Development Agency (CCIDA) Board of Directors approved amendments to the project description originally authorized for the project 2021. The action paves the way for the developer, 2 Portage, LLC, to begin work on the creation of 46 new housing units in the Village's downtown, while also developing new commercial rental space.

In December 2021, the CCIDA initially approved PILOT/Tax Lease incentives for adaptive re-use of the four-story, 51,000 square foot structure. Those incentives included real property, sales tax, and mortgage recording tax abatements to assist with renovating the building and creating a mix of residential apartments and commercial tenant space. This week's action by the CCIDA board amends the project description. Among the changes, 2 Portage, LLC has decided that all units will be leased at market rate with no tenant restrictions on rents or income. This is an update from the previous project description, which noted that some units would be made available to lease as affordable housing units. Additionally, the total project budget was updated to \$19.25 million. "Today's action by the CCIDA board was more of a formality to update details of this important housing project. The actual amount and terms of the incentives approved four years ago have not changed," said Mark Geise, Chautauqua County Deputy County Executive for Economic Development and CCIDA CEO. "However, we still needed to make these final adjustments before we could close on the project in order for it to proceed. With today's changes, a project that has been years in the making is now ready to begin. It's a very exciting day for

the Village, Town, and the County."

In addition to the initial support provided in late 2021, the CCIDA also approved a \$475,000 loan for the project in early 2023, which helped to secure the purchase of the building. The project has also received assistance from Chautauqua County through an Empire State Development (ESD) infrastructure grant and from the Restore NY program and other ESD sources. The project has also applied for \$1 million in assistance through the Village's recently awarded NY Forward grant it received from ESD, although final determination on that funding won't be known until sometime in the spring of 2026.

The C.E. Welch Building is located in the French Portage Road Historic District, which is both a local and nationally registered Historic District. Built for Dr. Charles E. Welch in 1909, the building represents a significant contribution to the history of architecture and commerce in the village. Most notably, the building housed the office headquarters of the Welch's Grape Juice Company.

After Welch Foods sold the building to a private developer in 2005, who was not able to proceed with rehabilitation and reuse of the building, it was acquired by the Town of Westfield in 2014. In 2021, the Town issued a Request for Proposals for redevelopment of the Welch Block. A development team headed up by Savarino Co. was awarded Designated Developer status, and subsequently entered into a purchase agreement with the Town.

Once completed, the building will include 46 residential units. In addition, there will be 3,700 square feet of commercial space located in original commercial space at the corner of Portage Road and Main Street. The commercial space will be targeted at a mix of tenants, including a food and beverage/retail operator and other professional service office spaces.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23

Fredonia Theatre Series Offers Humorous, Fast-paced Take on Shakespeare



The cast of the Fredonia Department of Theatre and Dance production of "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)" includes, kneeling from left, Katya Sacharow and Tali Kam, and, standing from left, Lillyanna Whipple, DJ Falone, Chris Buettner, and Ryan Okun.

Contributed by
SUNY Fredonia

Expect the best of the best when Fredonia's Mainstage Series offers "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)" this December.

The Department of Theatre and Dance will present five performances of this comedic "cultural touchstone" from Dec. 4 to 7 in the Alice E. Bartlett Theatre on the Fredonia campus. Show times are 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 4; Friday, Dec. 5 and Saturday, Dec. 6; with 2 p.m. matinees on Saturday, Dec. 6 and Sunday, Dec. 7.

Tickets are available online 24/7 at fredonia.edu/tickets. Tickets may also be purchased on Monday, Wednesday or Friday by phone at 716-673-3501 or in person at the

Campus Ticket Office in the Williams Center.

"Comedy is key. Our objective with this and in the writing is pure comedic entertainment," said Director Paul W. Mockovak, distinguished teaching professor. "The play has been around for over 20 years and has had several updates. Ours is a compilation of the best of them all."

Written by Adam Long, Daniel Singer and Jess Winfield, "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)" is one of the world's most frequently produced plays. Featured are all 37 of Shakespeare's plays and with a fast paced, witty and physical approach, it's "full of laughter for Shakespeare lovers and haters alike."

"Our job is simply to bring it from the two-dimensional world of the script to the three-dimensional world of the Bartlett theatre," Mockovak said.

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National Comedy Center Wins Two Gold Anthem Awards Honoring Excellence in Corporate Social Responsibility and Community Engagement

Continued from Page 9

global organizations dedicated to social impact, arts, health, and community well-being.

The National Comedy Center – named the “Best New Museum” by USA Today and one of TIME magazine’s “World’s Greatest Places” – is nationally recognized for creating meaningful, personalized museum experiences. Group Tour Magazine named it one of America’s top cultural institutions for student groups, reflecting its success in serving diverse audiences. The Memory Café builds on this commitment by offering another thoughtfully designed experience for a community that benefits deeply from connection and engagement.

The Center’s Memory Café program is made possible by Exhale – an initiative funded by the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation and the Health Foundation for Western and Central New York.

The National Comedy Center will continue to host its free Memory Café on the first Monday of each month, with the next gathering taking place on Monday, December 1, 2025, offering complimentary museum admission, time for exploration, refreshments, and a relaxed program designed to bring comfort and connection to individuals living with memory loss and to their caregivers and families. Reservations are encouraged; space is limited. Families who are unable to attend on the first Monday of the month may also contact the Comedy Center to explore arrangements for visiting with their loved ones at other times. More information is available at ComedyCenter.org/MemoryCafe.

About the National Comedy Center

The National Comedy Center is the United States’ cultural institution, museum and national archive dedicated to presenting the vital story of comedy and preserving its heritage for future generations. Opened in 2018 in Jamestown, New York, the museum complex offers an unprecedented, immersive visitor experience using state-of-the-art technology, interactivity, and personalization.

U.S. News & World Report selected the

National Comedy Center as one of the “25 Top Family Weekend Getaways in the U.S.,” while Condé Nast Traveler called it “one of the best museums in the country,” and People magazine named it one of “100 Reasons to Love America.” The museum has been featured in The New York Times, on CBS Saturday Morning, CBS Sunday Morning and on NBC’s TODAY Show, which called it “the Smithsonian of Comedy.”

Based on the vision of Jamestown native Lucille Ball for her hometown to become a destination for comedy, the non-profit National Comedy Center’s mission is to provide education on the comedic arts in the form of commentary and contextualization of its bodies of work across all eras and genres of the art form.

The National Comedy Center operates the Lucille Ball Desi Arnaz Museum, which explores the lives, careers, and legacy of the “First Couple of Comedy” and the incredible impact they had on the world, as well as the pioneering role and remarkable influence that I Love Lucy and Desilu Studios had on the entertainment industry for generations to come.

The annual Lucille Ball Comedy Festival, produced and presented by the National Comedy Center, has showcased comedy’s greatest stars and rising comedians over 35 years, including Jerry Seinfeld, Jon Stewart, Trevor Noah, Nate Bargatze, Lily Tomlin, John Mulaney, Bill Murray, Taylor Tomlinson, Gabriel “Fluffy” Iglesias, Jeff Foxworthy, Nicole Byer, Jay Leno, Joan Rivers, Margaret Cho, Amy Schumer, Sebastian Maniscalco, W. Kamau Bell, David Spade, Jim Gaffigan, Paula Poundstone, Kevin Nealon, The Smothers Brothers, and more than 300 comedic artists.

The National Comedy Center is a 501(c)(3) non-profit cultural institution whose mission is funded by philanthropic support. Donations and grants support the museum and its work to present the vital story of comedy and preserve its heritage for future generations.

www.ComedyCenter.org

X and Instagram: @ntlcomedycenter

Facebook: National Comedy Center

Western New York Nonprofit Support Group Announces Brand Evolution to Impact HQ fueled by NSG

Collaborative philanthropic effort will continue to connect nonprofits with critical resources to accelerate their impact

Contributed by Impact HQ

The Nonprofit Support Group, now called Impact HQ fueled by NSG, was established in 2019 by a group of local funders who recognized the need for a dynamic hub of resources and trusted partners that would be available to support any nonprofit serving the 9 counties of Western New York, including Monroe County. Recognizing the important role nonprofits play in creating vibrant and thriving communities, this is the only local funder collaborative dedicated only to supporting the nonprofit sector by equipping them for success and accelerating their impact.

“We have been connecting nonprofits with critical resources since our formation – and one of those resources is a robust online hub called Impact HQ,” said Katie Pieri, Director of Impact HQ fueled by NSG. “A critical piece of our mission is listening to the needs of nonprofits in our region and as our collaborative effort evolved, we heard from organizations that it would be helpful to pull all our resources together under the Impact HQ umbrella to make it easier for them to access critical tools all in one place.”

Any professional working at a 501(c)3 organization in Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Monroe,

Niagara, Orleans or Wyoming county can sign up for a free Impact HQ account at www.impact-hq.org. Resources available on Impact HQ range from free training opportunities for staff and Boards, available sources of grant funding, skill-based volunteers willing to take on projects and up-to-date trusted industry news given the rapidly changing governance landscape.

To date, Impact HQ fueled by NSG has served 1,000+ nonprofits and nonprofit professionals in 9 counties of WNY and invested more than \$3.1 million in program offerings.

The funders in the collaborative effort include: ESL Charitable Foundation, Health Foundation for Western & Central New York, John R. Oishei Foundation, Peter & Elizabeth C. Tower Foundation, Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation and the Western New York Foundation.

To stay updated on new tools and resources available, we encourage nonprofits to click and follow Impact HQ fueled by NSG on LinkedIn.



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 I choose to be grateful. That
 gratitude allows me to be happy.”**

- Will Arnett



CHQgazette.com

Welch Building Redevelopment Ready to Move Forward

Continued from Page 21

The project will create an estimated 70 construction jobs and three post-construction full-time equivalent jobs.

"The team here at Savarino has remained committed to seeing this project move forward and is excited to be working with our multiple partners - including the Village, Town, County, and State - to bring this historic structure back to life. The C.E. Welch Building will soon be adding residents and commercial activity to the corner of South Portage and Main Streets" said Samuel Savarino, Savarino Co. CEO.

"If we want to strengthen and grow the economy in Chautauqua County, we need to be able to provide up-to-date housing units with modern amenities for working professionals," said Paul "PJ" Wendel, Chautauqua County Executive. "This adaptive, reuse and mixed-use project in Westfield is an example of how we are capitalizing on the rich history of our towns and villages across the county to provide new and attractive housing for our residents. I am excited that 2 Portage, LLC will breathe new life into this iconic building that has been an important part of our local history."

"One of our primary economic development goals for Chautauqua County is to provide additional, modern

housing units in our communities," added Geise. "Certain professionals and job seekers desire modern, ready-to-live in apartment space located in a downtown walkable community. This project in Westfield, combined with others we are working on in both northern and southern Chautauqua County, show our commitment to making the County an attractive place to live and work for new and prospective members of our workforce."

With an estimated 95% of funding secured and incentive agreement with the CCIDA now updated and amended, construction is expected to begin in the spring of 2026, with a completion date tentatively set for summer 2027.

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

SUDOKU

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

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Level: Beginner

CROSSWORD

			1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8	9	
								11					
12	13			14					15				
16		17							18			19	20
22									23				
24							25		26			27	
					28		29				30		
31	32	33			34				35			36	
37				38			39						
40					41			42		43	44	45	46
48					49				50				
51									52				
				53					54				55
								57	58				
									60				

CLUES ACROSS

1. Popular broadcast network
4. Train line
10. Go quickly
11. Straightforward
12. Canadian province
14. Swiss river
15. It can be straight or curved
16. Edit
18. Utter repeatedly
22. Gotten up
23. Sea vessel
24. Agents of one's demise
26. Not out
27. Something to scratch
28. A round water pot
30. Slang for cylindrical green fruit
31. Promotions
34. Masses of matter
36. Soviet Socialist Republic
37. Nightstand item
39. The content of cognition
40. Arab ruler
41. Northern U.S. state
42. Chewed in small bites
48. Hawaiian island
50. More thin
51. Of one
52. Rigid bracelet or anklet
53. Barbary sheep
54. Not even
55. Atomic #106
56. Haggle
58. Boxing's GOAT
59. Division of a group into opposin factions
60. Vietnamese offensive

CLUES DOWN

1. Horse-drawn carriage
2. Prejudices
3. Peacefully
4. University athletic official
5. Soldiers
6. Large mollusk
7. Take out again
8. Sour or bitter in taste
9. Songwriter Tunstall
12. Husk of wheat
13. Flexible covering in some birds
17. Energy
19. Night monkey genus
20. Small nails
21. Colorless volatile liquid
25. In a way, changes integrity
29. Mark Wahlberg's stuffed animal
31. Remember it
32. "Good Will Hunting" lead man
33. Pleasant facial expression
35. Sea vessel
38. Lacking poetic beauty
41. Tall, swift and slender dog
43. Sports personality Michelle
44. Robber
45. Liquefied natural gas
46. Snakelike fish
47. Sediment at bottom of a liquid
49. Crimean seaport
56. Bad grades
57. Popular S. Korean rapper



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A Season of Light & Connection

Continued from Page 14

Schools, experienced firsthand how horses can teach teamwork, calm, and presence. From Executives & Equines VIP Days for corporate teams, to youth programs, each session strengthens connection and leadership through partnership with horses.

In local schools, Dena weaves together yoga, mindfulness, and team-building activities that boost focus, energy, and camaraderie for athletic groups and staff. And at SOLT Spa & Café and Wicked Warren's Brewery, community members gather for Candlelight Yoga and wellness events that bring calm, connection, and a little fun into everyday spaces.

"Many people come to me hoping for relief from stress and wanting to feel calm and peaceful," says Dena. "Through these experiences, they begin to align with their natural rhythm again. They see that connection—whether with a horse, through movement or stillness, or even being in nature with us—has the power to change everything."

Each event, workshop, and membership supports local food programs and horse rescue initiatives, ensuring the healing ripples outward—helping both families in need and the horses that make this work possible.

"When someone joins us, they're part of something bigger," Dena says. "Together, we ease stress, nourish families, and give more horses a safe, purposeful home. We believe it's simple to make a difference, and giving is a form of healing."

The movement is growing, and community members are invited to take part—whether by attending an event, volunteering, or simply sharing the story. Those wishing to host a program, feature Dena's work, or schedule an interview can reach out directly using the contact information below.

Equine Union International
equineunioninternational@gmail.com
equineunion.com
Instagram: @denagrace
716-499-7811

About Equine Union International
Equine Union International is a community-based hub uniting equine-guided learning, wellness education, and ethical horse rescue. Through programs and partnerships, the initiative supports food-sovereignty efforts and horse-welfare causes while helping individuals rediscover calm, confidence, and purpose.

What We Need Is Here

Continued from Front Page

attention, and remembering that strength comes from moving together, like geese on their ancient pathways.

Wendell Berry captures this wisdom in the poem he titled simply **"What We Need Is Here":**

*Geese appear high over us,
pass, and the sky closes. Abandon,
as in love or sleep, holds
them to their way, clear
in the ancient faith: what we need
is here. And we pray, not
for new earth or heaven, but to be
quiet in heart, and in eye,
clear. What we
need is here.*

Berry reminds us that gratitude isn't a fleeting emotion—it's a way of seeing. And when we see with clarity, we realize that what sustains us is not something distant or extraordinary, but the everyday bonds of community.

As the geese fly overhead, each bird depends on the lift of the one in front of it. They rotate leadership, share effort, and stay close enough to benefit from one another's strength. This is more than a natural phenomenon; it is an image of solidarity. A reminder that we thrive not in isolation but in cooperation.

In our towns and villages, we have our own "V-formations" of support: neighbors who shovel one another's driveways, volunteers who stock food pantries, teachers who go the extra mile, small businesses that anchor our streets and keep money circulating in our local economy. These are not just amenities; they are the connective tissues of communal life.

As we approach the holidays—and especially Small Business Saturday—we have an opportunity to practice gratitude with our actions. Where we spend our dollars is also where we cast a vote for the kind of community we want to inhabit. Choosing to shop

local isn't only about supporting a business owner; it's about strengthening the ecosystem that keeps our towns vibrant and resilient. When we shift from being mere consumers to becoming conscious community members, we participate in something larger than ourselves. We help ensure that our neighborhoods remain places where people know one another's names, where creativity is nurtured, and where relationships matter more than transactions.

Gratitude reminds us to pay



Photo credit: Sue Poster

attention—to recognize the beauty in a nearly bare tree, the effort in a flock of geese, the labor and love behind every small business, and the presence of neighbors who walk alongside us through each season. It calls us to be "quiet in heart, and in eye, clear," able to see the abundance that surrounds us even in the leaner, colder months.

This Thanksgiving season, as the sky widens and the leaves fall, may we rediscover what Berry affirms: what we need is here. Not someday. Not elsewhere. Here—in the people, the businesses, the shared life of our community.

And may that awareness move us, like the geese, in a formation of care, courage, and gratitude.

MHA NOVEMBER RECOVERY LUNCHEON HAD THANKSGIVING THEME



At the Mental Health Association in Chautauqua County's November recovery luncheon, Executive Director Michael Nordin introduced Victor Flores, project manager for the Recovery Options Made Easy (ROME) warming center at 917 Washington Street in Jamestown. During Code Blue situations, when the temperature falls below 32 degrees, the warming center provides emergency food and shelter from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 a.m., or 8:30 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The Thanksgiving dinner was prepared and provided primarily by, from left, Bonnie Weber of Be The Change You Want to See in Jamestown, and volunteer Bill Schmidt, with serving assistance from MHA board members Lindsey Isaac-Lupus and Jennifer Howe. For more information, call (716) 661-9044 or visit MHACHautauqua.org or [Facebook.com/MHACHautauqua](https://www.facebook.com/MHACHautauqua).



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Infinity Visual and Performing Arts Launches End-of-Year Campaign to Fuel Creativity, Confidence, and Community for Local Youth



Contributed by
Infinity Visual and Performing Arts

Infinity Visual and Performing Arts has launched its annual End-of-Year Campaign, inviting the community to support a place where young people discover their voices, build skills that last a lifetime, and find a welcoming home in the arts.

Each year, Infinity provides young creatives with more than **11,000 individualized private lessons** and **1,200+ group classes** across five pillars of the arts; music, visual arts, dance, theater, and performance. Students learn from local working artists and musicians, perform regularly in the Infinity Arts Café and in the community, and have access to supportive mentors who celebrate their progress every step of the way.

But Infinity is more than lessons.

- It’s where students try something new and surprise themselves.
- It’s where friendships form between kids who may never meet otherwise.
- It’s where a young person can feel seen and valued; sometimes for the very first time.

“Infinity changes lives,” says Executive Director Shane Hawkins. “Our students build confidence, develop skills, and find a welcoming place to belong and thrive. That’s what your support makes possible.”

Donations to the End-of-Year Campaign help sustain every piece of Infinity’s mission, **from performance opportunities, instruments, art supplies, and group classes, to mentoring and access support for families who need it.** Community giving also keeps the Infinity Arts Café performance stage active all year long, helping young performers share their talents with live audiences.

Local families and students consistently share the difference

Infinity makes:

“My daughter loves her teachers at Infinity and looks forward to seeing her friends every week. She loves performing and has grown so much confidence because of it!”

“Infinity has taught me tons of things like how to play piano, how to take nice pictures with cameras and how to make new friends. I would recommend Infinity to any ages.”

Individual supporters may choose to give anonymously or take part in Infinity’s “Friends of Infinity” recognition opportunities, including nameplates on the donor wall, lesson room sponsorships, and more; visible reminders that Jamestown believes in its young creators. Business donors and event sponsors are also recognized in a variety of ways.

The campaign runs through December 31, with every contribution directly strengthening programming and opportunities for the youth who call Infinity home.

“We are grateful for every donor who helps us continue this work year after year,” Hawkins adds. “You’re investing in our young people, our arts community, and our region’s future.”

How to Support the Campaign

Gifts can be made online at www.infinityperformingarts.org/support or by mail. All contributions, no matter the size, help ensure that students have access to meaningful arts learning right here in Chautauqua County.

If you have additional questions or would like to discuss sponsorship opportunities, please contact Stephanie Rogers, Executive Assistant at stephanie@infinityperformingarts.org.



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ShopLocalCHQ Gift Cards Available

Contributed by
Chautauqua Chamber of Commerce

ShopLocalCHQ Gift Cards are available all year round for a variety of giving needs, and we encourage you to consider them this holiday season as a gift for employees, clients, neighbors, service providers, or anyone who might like a little extra something to tuck into a stocking.

The ShopLocalCHQ Gift Card can be purchased from the CHQ Chamber in any amount between \$5 and \$500. Our staff is available weekdays in our office in Jamestown at 300 North Main Street and our new location in Dunkirk in the SUNY Fredonia CIED building at 214 Central Avenue.

This is the only gift card in Chautauqua County that can be used at over 160 local retailers, restaurants, attractions, and service providers for a variety of purchases – from gifts to groceries to services and experiences. There is no extra fee tacked onto your purchase. If you want a \$25 ShopLocalCHQ Gift card it will cost \$25.

If you’re buying in bulk for employee giving, we ask that you submit an order form in advance and give us a few days to prepare your order. High value transactions – over \$1,000 for individuals or over \$3,000 for companies – will take longer to process and will require an additional form to comply with anti-fraud regulations. You can find order forms and learn more about the ShopLocalCHQ Gift Card on our website at www.chqchamber.org.

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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PUZZLES ON PAGE 23

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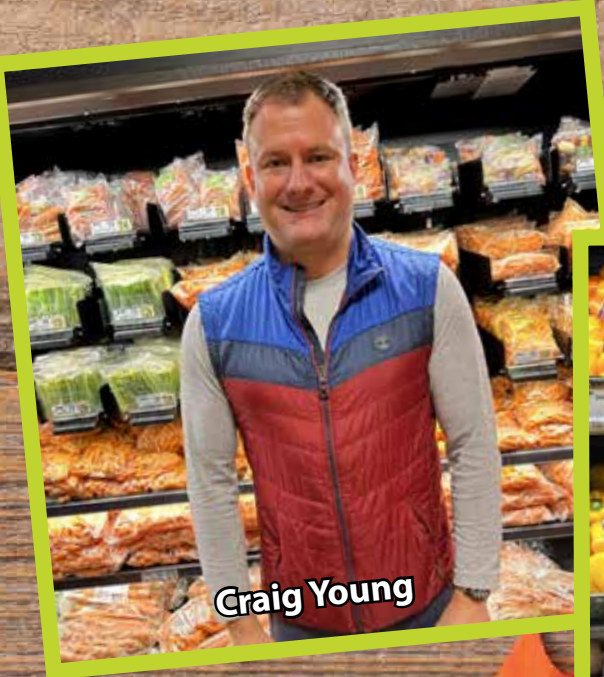
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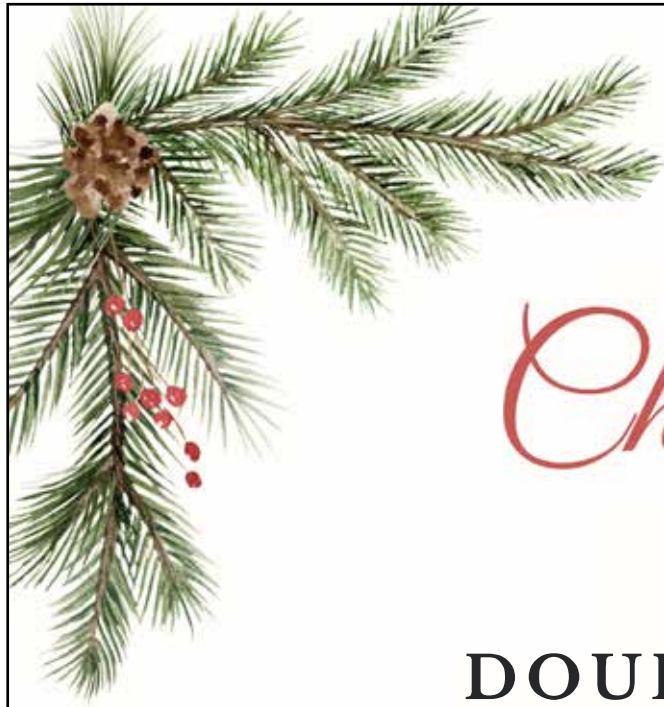


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Activity Guide

Saturday,
December 6th 2025

Fredonia First Methodist Church

25 Church Street

10am to 4pm

Craft Vendor Show

Basket Raffle

Merchandise Available

Ornament Sale by Church Youth Group

11am to 2pm

Holiday Cookie Decorating brought
to you by Chai's Chocolate & Gifts with
Harvest Chapel Church

11am to 3pm

Photo Booth with Jermaine James

2pm to 4pm

Visit with Santa & Mrs. Claus with Brooke Erick

The White Inn

52 E Main Road

11am to 3pm

Gingerbread House Decorating Workshop
with The Cakery

Small: \$18 Medium: \$23 Large: \$28

Domus Faxe

41 West Main Street

All Day

Pancake Breakfast with Santa

Literacy Volunteers/Next Chapter Bookstore with Christ Community Church

12 Park Place

10am-1pm

Kids Craft Workshop

12pm to 12:30pm

Story time with Mrs. Claus

Please consider supporting your local
Blood Drive

The Miracle of LIFE

and

Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign

The Miracle of Sharing

Darwin R. Barker Library &

Darwin R. Barker Museum

7 Day Street

12:30pm to 1pm

Story time with Santa

1pm to 2:30pm

Holiday card making

Angel necklace making and tree decorating

DeJohn's Italian Spaghetti House

26 West Main Street

11:30pm to 1:30pm

Spaghetti Lunch with Santa

1891 Fredonia Opera House

9 Church Street

Starting at 4pm

FREE Movie Showing: "The Polar Express"

Sponsored by Southern Chautauqua Federal Credit Union

Fredonia Presbyterian Church

219 Central Avenue

Friday, December 5, 2025 3:30pm to 6pm

Saturday, December 6, 2025 9am to 3pm

Sunday, December 7, 2025 12pm to 1pm

Nativity Display

Alternative Market

Barker Commons

10am to 6pm

Paul's Rocket Stoves-Hot Cocoa

Clarksburg Cider Co.

Mystic Smoke BBQ

Mazza Winery

21 Brix Winery

Tree Lighting at the Gazebo

with Santa and Mrs. Claus at 6pm

with The Fredonia Central School Carolers