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## \*\*It's Fine, We Ran Earlier



*Contributing Writer*  
**Jordan Nicholson**

**A**h, St. Patrick's Day in Western New York—a spinning, whiskey-fueled, green-soaked fever dream with a bagpipe soundtrack. It's not just a holiday; it's a full-throated cultural

expression of Irish-American pride; an annual baptism in Guinness and questionable decision-making. Western New Yorkers in our hardened, snow-bitten beast of a climate, take this day more seriously than many people take their jobs. Parades roar through the streets, the molasses-colored stout pours without limit, and the bars and restaurants become designated zones of shamrock-plastered lunatics howling for another round.



**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

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*Lori Cornell*

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## Extra! Extra! Read All About It!

### *The Gazette Hits Stands in Dunkirk and Fredonia*



*Marketing Director*  
**Shannon Nixon**

**T**he Chautauqua Gazette, Chautauqua County's trusted free weekly publication, is feeling very fortunate this St. Patrick's Day season to now be available in Dunkirk and Fredonia! As part of our mission to keep communities informed and connected, we've expanded our distribution to northern Chautauqua County to provide even more county residents with access to the local

news, events, and stories that matter. Whether you're grabbing your weekly groceries or heading into town, the Chautauqua Gazette will be waiting for you each and every Monday at the brand new, blue box stands outside of Dunkirk City Hall and Fredonia Village Hall or just inside the doors at Tops Markets in the D&F Plaza.

This expansion has been met with enthusiastic support from local officials including members of Dunkirk's Development Department, Vince DeJoy and Scott Mekus, who warmly welcomed The Gazette's arrival. Fredonia Mayor Michael Ferguson also expressed excitement about the newspaper's presence and recognized the vital role it plays in keeping residents engaged with the happenings in their community and beyond.



Since purchasing The Gazette from its founder Stacey Hannon in early 2024, Publisher Lori Cornell has relished the opportunity to grow the paper in a multitude

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 15**

*"May you have all the  
happiness and luck  
that life can hold—  
and at the end of your  
rainbows may you find  
a pot of gold."*

— Old Irish Blessing

**Live CHQ. Love CHQ.  
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## \*\*It's Fine, We Ran Earlier

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

The Irish-Americans may claim it as their day, but out here, everyone's Irish by default—if you've got a taste for beer and a liver with some fight left in it, you're in the club. While South Buffalo turns into an emerald-colored battleground where local politicians, police officers, fire fighters, union representatives, and power brokers of all types descend on the old Irish neighborhoods like moths to an emerald flame, even as far South as Jamestown do we stumble shoulder to shoulder in glorious, bleary-eyed communion.

This isn't just a party; it's a declaration of defiance against the long winter. A collective middle finger to the icy oppression of Lake Erie. St. Patrick's Day in Western New York is less about history and more about survival—one last primal roar before spring creeps in to save us all. It's about family, and your grandfather's preferred method of cooking corned beef. It's about the traditions of the past in a more homogenized present. And over the next couple weeks, there are a few ways to celebrate.

On **March 15**, locals and visitors alike will lace up their running shoes \*\*and grab their putters\*\* for a day that kicks off with the St. Pat's Dash 3 Mile Run/Walk and rolls straight into the fan-favorite "Putts & Pints" Mini Golf Bar Crawl.

### St. Pat's Dash: Run Now So You Can Drink Later

The day begins at 9:30 a.m. with the annual St. Pat's Dash, a 3-mile run/walk that marks the official start of the 2025 Runner of the Year Series. This scenic "Run the Green" course is open to both dedicated athletes and those just looking to justify the beer they'll be drinking later.

Runners can register the morning of the event between 8:15 and 9:15 a.m. in the Northwest Arena lobby for \$30 (though if you want a guaranteed race t-shirt, pre-register by

February 28). Awards will be handed out at 10:30 a.m. in The Arena Club upstairs at Northwest Arena, giving participants just enough time to bask in their post-race glow—or catch their breath—before the real shenanigans begin.

### Putts & Pints: Golf, Beer, and Questionable Decisions

At noon, Jamestown transforms from a runner's paradise into a mini-golf course with a twist. The Putts & Pints Mini Golf Bar Crawl takes over five of the area's favorite bars: Haggy's 4 Below, The Cherry Lounge, Northwest Arena, Wicked Warren's, and Brazil Lounge. Each stop features a custom mini-golf hole designed to challenge players' putting skills (or lack thereof) as they sip their way through town.

Participation costs \$20 per person or \$80 per team, with proceeds supporting

Chautauqua Striders. Not only will teams get to enjoy a day of friendly competition, but the best mini-golfers will take home a cash prize and a St. Patrick's Day-themed award. Registration and check-in start at noon in The Arena Club at Northwest Arena, where teams can gear up for an afternoon of spirited swings and strategic sips.

### A Full Day of Fun in Jamestown

The St. Pat's Dash and Putts & Pints aren't just about racing and drinking; they're about celebrating community, supporting local businesses, and having a blast along the way. Whether you're starting the day with a brisk run, an early pint, or both, March 15 promises to be an unforgettable day in Jamestown. So, grab your running shoes, dust off your putter, and get ready for a St. Patrick's Day weekend filled with early-spring endorphins, entertainment, and maybe just a little bit of Irish luck. Just be safe and don't drink and drive. \*\*Fires Starters Pistol\*\* Slainte!



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Editorial with Lori Cornell

# Happy March



Owner & Publisher  
**Lori Cornell**

As the Irish Proverb goes, "*May the Road Rise to Greet You, May the Sun Always be at Your Back...*"

Hold up.

What sun?!

As we count the days to spring break and hold on to the promise that the sun will do more than just poke out for a few hours each week, St. Patrick's Day celebrations are no doubt a much-needed "shot in the dark" this time of year. The Irish patron himself reminded the downtrodden people of Ireland to hold onto hope, support one another and look to the "Holy Trinity" in faith.

So don your green and glitter and hit the town this festive weekend, not just for your own "sun", but in support of our local small business community as well.

It's my first full winter as a new business owner myself and my first chance to experience the literal "dead of winter" that we know intrinsically, but that I had never before felt on a balance sheet firsthand. And this winter - with the exceptional cold and extra snow - was especially tough on our local economy. I have heard over and over again a panged angst from restaurateurs, retailers and more: "It's been a very slow winter for us, Lori..."

For the estimated 95 percent of businesses in the greater Chautauqua County area that aren't connected to skiing and snowmobiling: they need us now! They are working hard to "Meet us Again" with specials and live entertainment, and even putting greens! Perhaps we can start regarding March less as the annoying hump month between snow and sun and more for the fun and opportunities it holds in and of itself. From Mardi Gras to St. Patrick's Day to Maple Weekends, Lenten Fish Fries and March Madness, let's stop hibernating. Get out, enjoy and, as always, support your favorite local businesses!

They are our community's sun.

## This Week Around Town

TUESDAY, MARCH 11

**Memory Cafe with Bill Ward**

12 PM - 1:30 PM

The Reg Lenna Center For The Arts  
Jamestown  
For Info: 716-484-7070

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12

**"Bach's Lunch" Concert Series**

11:40 AM

Bellinger Chapel at the First Presbyterian Church | Jamestown  
For Info: 585-455-2859

**Movies at The Reg: Sherlock Jr. with R.E.M. Monster and New Adventures**

7 PM  
The Reg Lenna Center For The Arts  
Jamestown  
For Info: 716-484-7070

THURSDAY, MARCH 13

**Women in Networking (WIN)**

**Chautauqua Program | 11:30 AM**

Carnahan Building, Room 120  
Jamestown Community College  
For Info: 716-338-1024

**Total Lunar Eclipse Special Program**

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

**One-Off Thursday | 6 PM**

Wicked Warrens | Jamestown  
For Info: Facebook - Wicked Warren's  
Jamestown

**THURSDAY, MARCH 13 (10 AM - 5 PM) FRIDAY, MARCH 14 (10 AM - 5 PM) SATURDAY, MARCH 15 (10 AM - 3 PM)**

**Closing Sale!**

Country Woods Country Store & Antiques | Jamestown  
For Info: 716-483-1276

FRIDAY, MARCH 14

**Movies at The Reg: One of Them Days | 7 PM**

The Reg Lenna Center For The Arts  
Jamestown  
For Info: 716-484-7070

SATURDAY, MARCH 15

**Chainsaw Safety Workshop**

9 AM - 11 AM

CCE Cattaraugus -28 Parkside Drive  
Ellicottville  
For Info: 800-343-7527

**St. Pat's Dash 3 Mile Run/Walk**

9:30 AM  
Northwest Arena | Jamestown  
For Info: lexi@chqstriders.org

**Putts & Pints Mini Golf Bar Crawl**

12-5 PM  
Northwest Arena | Jamestown  
For Info: lexi@chqstriders.org

**Turn The River Green Jamestown Riverwalk | 10 AM**

For Info: 716-499-4065

**St. Patricks Day Food & Drink Specials**

Wicked Warrens | Jamestown  
For Info: Facebook - Wicked Warren's  
Jamestown

**Diggin Roots Band | 9 PM**

The Wine Cellar | Jamestown  
For Info: facebook.com/jamestownwine  
cellar

SUNDAY, MARCH 16

**Guppy's St Patrick's Party**

4:30 PM - 10 PM  
Guppy's Restaurant & Tavern/Bemus Point  
For Info: facebook.com/guppystavern

## CHAUTAUQUA GAZETTE

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Happy  
St. Patrick's  
Day



"Wishing you a pot o' gold and all  
the joy your heart can hold."

- Unknown



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In Loving Memory



February 26

Bernadine T. Carlson, 95  
Jamestown  
Lind Funeral Home

February 27

James Murphy, 72  
Jamestown  
Lind Funeral Home

Ross Snyder Jr., 42  
Jamestown  
Lind Funeral Home

Sara Lynn Weinstein, 86  
Lakewood  
Lind Funeral Home

James W. Baer, 94  
Jamestown  
Lind Funeral Home

Jimmie L. Williams, 63  
Busti  
Riccardi's Family Funeral Home

February 28

Perscilla E. Calanni, 98  
Jamestown  
Falconer Funeral Home

Arthur N. Bailey, 89  
Jamestown  
Lind Funeral Home

February 28 (continued)

Roger E. Wynn Sr., 68  
Jamestown  
Lind Funeral Home

March 2

Brian K. Lewis, 56  
Jamestown  
Riccardi's Family Funeral Home

Patricia Osterhoudt, 60  
Lakewood  
Riccardi's Family Funeral Home

Deborah L. Rexford, 67  
East Randolph  
Falconer Funeral Home

March 3

Jane LaMar, 80  
Jamestown  
Lind Funeral Home

Ann R. Thomas, 90  
Sinclairville  
Lind Funeral Home

Marie Westerlund, 94  
Jamestown  
Lind Funeral Home

March 4

William S. Gullotti, 96  
Jamestown  
Lind Funeral Home



# Faith Matters

SHARE THE LIGHT LENTEN SERIES

## Celtic Saints & The Church of the Wild



Featured Writer  
**Rev. Luke F. Fodor**  
Saint Luke's Church

St. Patrick’s Day is more than a day to drink green beer: it’s a day to look into the true nature of life. One of the unique elements of the Celtic Saints and spirituality is its deep sensitivity to the ecological and natural world. This is not simply a ‘green’ sentimental fascination with the animals and tree-hugging, but rather full embrace of the life and depth cycles of ecology.

The lives of the Celtic saints such as Brendan, Patrick, Columba and innumerable others, who viewed life as a perilous peregrination back to God, provide such an example. They often left comfort to travel and share the Good News of God’s love for the world. In leaving behind friends, family and all comforts, these saints of God embraced a life of devout asceticism. They showed us that we can “aspire to encounter nature untamed, unpacified and unromanticized, with all of its ambiguities, with all its death-driven violence, as a gift from the Giver of every good and perfect gift” (H. Paul Santmire, “Celtic Saints and the Ecology of Death,” dialog 41 (2002), 304).

In our local community, there are a number of groups working hard to steward our natural resources,

including the Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy and the Audubon Community Nature Center (ACNC). Their important work brings people outside and into the moment of ultimate concern to appreciate the delicate balance between life and death. Whether it’s couples on a stroll at the Roger Tory Peterson Institute (RTPI) grounds after an art event, a children’s summer camp experience at ACNC, or the important work to keep Chautauqua Lake healthy, all of the environmental groups in our area are designed to help us choose life as we see the role death plays in supporting it. Death creates compost and compost creates life.

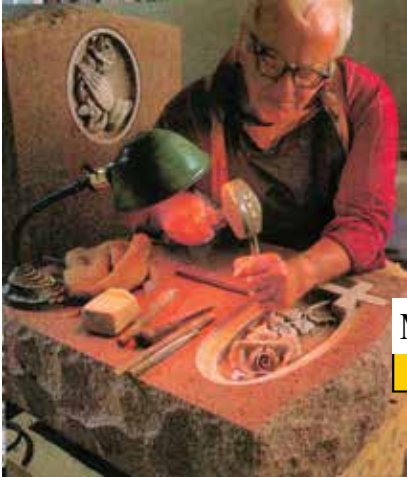
At St. Luke’s we also take this work seriously. It’s one of the reasons we launched our "Church of the Wild" service to re-wild our souls as we celebrate church on a monthly hike in our natural environment. Feel free to join our next hike on the Fred J. Cusimano Eastside trail on Saturday, March 29th at 10 am. We will gather at the East Overland trail parking lot, at the intersection of Harris Hill Road and West Hill Road in Gerry.

*The Chautauqua Gazette is proud to feature different faith leaders from throughout Chautauqua County each week, in an effort to connect and inspire. We endeavor to provide a variety of religious and faith perspectives well-aligned with our diverse community and values. If you are a faith leader and wish to contribute, please contact publisher Lori Cornell at [cornell@CHQgazette.com](mailto:cornell@CHQgazette.com).*

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# Small Business Development Center and CHQ Chamber to Host Women in Networking Program March 13



Beth Starks



Susan Marker

Article Contributed by

**Heidi Woodard, BSW, MSOL**  
Administrative Support Specialist,  
Jamestown Small Business  
Development Center

For over fifteen years, the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at Jamestown Community College has hosted the Women in Networking (WIN) Chautauqua program every month. This program is for business owners and individuals working in the business sector. The program is also sponsored by Community Bank and open to all.

The next WIN program will take place Thursday, March 13 at 11:30am at JCC in collaboration with the CHQ Chamber. This month's focus is the impact of childcare on the workforce. Join us to learn more about the childcare trends and strategies that are currently affecting the workforce. Many Chautauqua County employers have indicated childcare as a main barrier for potential hires impacting their employee recruitment, retention, and productivity. As we all work together to make Chautauqua County a leader in early childhood education and economic development now and in the future, there are important new strategies/initiatives that will assist us. Real childcare solutions for employees and employers are more important than ever & they are available here in Chautauqua County!

Our speakers will include Beth Starks, Founding Consultant with Flourish Leadership Consulting and Executive Director, Chautauqua Lake Child Care Center and Sue Marker, Chautauqua Child Care Council Director, Chautauqua Opportunities, Inc.

Beth Starks is a consultant, founder, and executive leader in the non-profit / Early Childhood Education sector. An international keynote presenter and professional development provider, she has

provided inspiration and educational opportunities for thousands. Beth has operated her childcare business for almost 20 years. Her core expertise rests in start-up planning, regulatory navigation, financing opportunities, strategic planning, board development and customer relations. Direct personal leadership has also been a cornerstone of her business career, emphasized in her passion for individualized growth and coaching.

Susan Marker is currently the Child Care Council Director for Chautauqua County, NY. She has a wealth of experience in both nonprofit and for-profit management. She began her career at Chautauqua Opportunities in 2008 where she served as a Child Development Specialist from 2008 to 2014, then as the Child Development Coordinator from 2014 to 2016. From 2016 to 2018, she held the position of Child Care Council Director and went on to become the Head Start Deputy Director from 2018 to 2020. Since 2020, she has resumed her role as Child Care Council Director. Prior to her career at Chautauqua Opportunities, Inc. she operated a thriving in-home childcare business for ten years and worked as a Certified Montessori teacher, focusing on children aged 3 to 5 for 10 years.

Lunch will be provided at 11:30am, and the program will begin at noon. The cost to attend the lunch in person is \$18 with check or credit card. This event will take place at Jamestown Community College, Carnahan Building, Room 120. To make a reservation or for more information on this monthly program, contact the SBDC at 716-338-1024 or go to our website at [www.sbdcc.org](http://www.sbdcc.org).

The SBDC Women in Networking program was developed for women to exchange ideas, experiences, and address challenging issues. The SBDC has helped to build productive business relationships that benefit women throughout the region with this program.

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Dan Warren to Transition to  
Afternoon Timeslot on WHUG Radio

New National Programming to Air on Monday

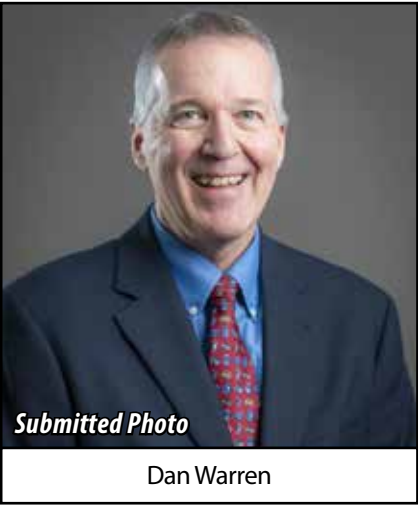
Article Contributed by

**Andrew Hill**  
General Manager  
Media One Radio Group

After more than two decades of hosting WHUG Radio’s popular morning show, Dan Warren is making a shift in his radio career. Warren has decided to transition to the afternoon timeslot, paving the way for the new *Murphy, Sam, and Jodi* morning show, which currently airs on stations across the country.

“I’m ready to sleep in a little later in the morning,” says Warren. “I love radio, I love our listeners, and I’m excited to continue broadcasting to the country music fans across the southern tier – only on the way from work instead of to work.” Raised in Dunkirk, Warren began his radio career in high school and has since worked in several markets, including WDOE in Dunkirk, WBUZ in Fredonia, WPHD in Buffalo, and WCCF in Punta Gorda, Florida. He has been a staple in the Jamestown radio market since 1985. “This is a great radio listening community. It’s been an honor to have been on such heritage radio stations over the years and I’m thankful for the opportunity to stay on the air and do what I love to do.”

The *Murphy, Sam, and Jodi* show is described as a dynamic blend of pop culture and listener participation, creating a deep emotional connection with listeners. Jodi, a relatable mom juggling family, work, and friendships, shares the spotlight with her husband, Murphy, and



Sam, the fun-loving personality who stirs things up. The program will air weekdays from 5:00 – 10:00 AM and will be followed by the new Gallo Go-Round from 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM, familiar local voice Matt Warren will now be heard from 1:00 – 3:00 PM, Dan Warren from 3:00 – 7:00 PM and B-Dub Radio from 7:00 – Midnight.

The new *Gallo Go-Round* is hosted by Texas Hall of Fame broadcaster Dan Gallo, who promises to provide a topical, timely and relevant radio program that has been called quirky and corny. Gallo has gotten close to a lot of Country Music’s biggest stars over the years and collected a massive number of the stories they’ve shared with him. His unique and highly relatable content will have the local radio audience sitting in the car with the motor running, waiting until he is done.

For more information on Media One Radio Group programming visit [www.mediaonegroupradio.com](http://www.mediaonegroupradio.com).

SUDOKU

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	9	5					2	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: Advanced

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4			5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13			14			15			
16					17		18			19			
20							21			22			
				23		24				25			
26	27	28	29				30						
31							32						
33										34	35	36	37
					39	40	41		42	43			
			44	45				46					
							48						
49						50			51		52	53	54
56						57			58				
59						60				61			
62						63					64		

CLUES ACROSS

1. Unsheared sheep

5. Rock TV channel

8. Streetcar

12. Concerning

14. Expression of recognition

15. Greek goddess of youth

16. An iPad is one

18. Adult beverage

19. Manning and Wallach are two

20. Makes a petty verbal attack

21. Tyrion Lannister’s nickname

22. Pointed ends of pens

23. Wristwatches

26. Body part

30. Made a mistake

31. Adjusted

32. Turkish honorific title

33. Yell
34. Historic Alabama city

39. Cub

42. Type of sea bass dish

44. To call (archaic)

46. Unfortunate

47. Separate oneself from others

49. Hero sandwiches

50. Former OSS

51. Open spaces in a forest

56. Innermost brain membranes

57. Fortune

58. Hunting expedition

59. Doomed queen Boleyn

60. Peyton’s little brother

61. Type of wrap

62. Scottish tax

63. Soviet Socialist Republic

64. An increase in price or value

CLUES DOWN

1. Works of body art

2. Abba \_\_, Israeli politician

3. A desert in Asia

4. Eat greedily

5. Doomed French queen

6. Beat

7. One who survives on blood

8. As a consequence

9. Counted on

10. Acquired Brain Injury Behavior Science

11. Unclean

13. One who does not drink

17. Wild ox of the Malay Archipelago

24. \_\_ student, learns healing

25. Bacterial skin infection

26. Expresses surprise

27. What one says on a wedding day

28. Crony
29. Where you entered the world (abbr.)

35. Unit of length

36. Side that is sheltered from the wind

37. More (Spanish)

38. Autonomic nervous system

40. Violent troublemakers, originally in Paris

41. Statements that something is untrue

42. Greek alphabet letter

43. Suspends from above

44. Popular types of cigars

45. Girls

47. U.S. philosopher and logician

48. Nocturnal hoofed animal

49. Relaxing spaces

52. From a distance

53. Form of Persian

54. Amounts of time

55. Trigonometric function

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(2) Reuban w/ choice of side

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

**Medicare Savings Program:  
A Lifeline for Eligible Seniors**

*Article Contributed by*  
**Chautauqua County  
Office for Aging Services**

In New York there is no resource limit.

**How to Apply**

As healthcare costs continue to rise, the Medicare Savings Program (MSP) is offering much-needed financial relief for eligible seniors and individuals with disabilities in New York. This state and federally funded initiative is designed to help individuals with limited income and resources pay for some or all of their Medicare premiums, deductibles, and co-payments.

The MSP is vital for many residents across the region, providing an opportunity for individuals to better manage their healthcare expenses. According to the New York State Department of Health, there has been an increase in the number of applicants seeking assistance in New York.

**What Is the Medicare Savings Program?**

The Medicare Savings Program is available to people who are eligible for Medicare and meet certain income and resource limits. The program consists of different categories, including:

- **Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB):** Covers Medicare Part A and Part B premiums, deductibles, coinsurance, and copayments.
- **Qualified Individual (QI):** Pays for the Part B premium.

For many seniors, paying the Medicare premium can be a financial strain, especially when combined with other medical expenses. The Medicare Savings Program helps ease this burden, allowing individuals to maintain their health insurance coverage without depleting their savings.

**Eligibility Criteria**

To qualify for the Medicare Savings Program in New York, applicants must meet certain financial thresholds. For instance:

- For the QMB program, an individual’s monthly income must be at or below \$1,752, or \$2,371 for a couple.
- The QI program has slightly higher limits at \$2,355, \$3.1or but is subject to limited funding each year.

Additionally, applicants usually need to meet certain resource limits, which are set by the state.

Individuals interested in applying for the Medicare Savings Program can do so through several ways. You can print an application at: <https://www.health.ny.gov/forms/doh-4328.pdf> or call the Chautauqua County Office for Aging Services NY Connects Helpline at 716-753-4582. If you are in need of enrollment assistance, please contact NY Connects or the Medicare Rights Center helpline 1-800-333-4114 or visit [www.medicareinteractive.org/mspny](http://www.medicareinteractive.org/mspny).

For MSP enrollment you will need to complete an application as well as to provide required documentation. You will need a copy of your Medicare card, proof of income (Social Security award letter, pensions, retirements and pay stubs), proof of your date of birth, proof of residency and any premiums other than your Medicare premiums that you may pay.

The Medicare Savings Program is becoming an increasingly essential resource. The aging population often faces fixed incomes, and healthcare costs can be a significant burden. For some, this program has been a lifeline, ensuring they can access the necessary healthcare services without the added stress of unaffordable premiums.

**Looking Ahead**

As the senior population continues to grow, local advocacy groups are calling for increased awareness and access to the Medicare Savings Program. Efforts are underway to educate seniors about their eligibility and encourage more people to apply.

With healthcare costs rising, programs like the MSP are crucial in ensuring that no senior has to choose between paying for medication and covering basic needs. Individuals who think they may be eligible are urged to act now and explore the potential benefits of this important program.

For more information on the Medicare Savings Program and how to apply, visit the New York State Department of Health website or call the Chautauqua County Office for Aging Services NY Connects Helpline at 716-753-4582.



# JCC Workforce Development Partners with Jamestown BPU on Building Automation Systems Program

Article Contributed by  
Jamestown Board of  
Public Utilities

The Jamestown Board of Public Utilities (BPU) has provided Jamestown Community College (JCC) a \$50,000 grant for successfully developing and implementing a Building Automation Systems (BAS) Program in its Workforce Development Division at both the Jamestown and Olean Campuses. The program is part of the Retool WNY initiative launched through the Accelerate the Southern Tier program, a multi-year grant funded by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA).

The funding is the culmination of four years of work in curriculum development, recruitment and training of faculty, student recruitment and the successful completion of the program by 23 students in the last half of 2024.

“NYSERDA’s funding has certainly played a pivotal role in advancing our program, particularly in the areas of clean energy and automation,” said Grant Umberger, Director of Workforce Development at the Jamestown Campus. “A number of initiatives that are now underway on our campuses are built on the success of the NYSEDA grant and will add to the range of training opportunities in clean energy and skilled trades,” he continued.

JCC Vice President for Workforce Development Holger Ekanger commented, “The need for the BAS program was initially identified through a feasibility study funded by the Ralph Wilson Jr. Foundation that focused on potential new programs targeting middle-skills, middle-wage jobs in four sectors:



Submitted Photo  
Jamestown BPU Deputy General Manager – Electric Kris Sellstrom and Business Development Coordinator Ellen Ditonto present a State grant to JCC’s Workforce Development Department. Seated, front, l-r, are JCC President Daniel DeMarte; Ditonto; and JCC Vice President of Workforce Development Holger Ekanger. Back Row (l-r) JCC Workforce Development Director, Jamestown Campus, Grant Umberger; Sellstrom; and JCC Building Automation Systems Instructor James Weiss.

agribusiness, clean energy, culinary & hospitality, and robotics & automation. A large number of employers participated in the study, and many have stayed engaged.”

Ekanger continued, “As an example, Siemens Smart Infrastructure connected us to national initiatives and resources and made a commitment to interview and ideally hire program graduates. The BPU partnership through the NYSEDA funding is a perfect example of a collaborative response to industry needs.”

BPU General Manager David L. Leathers pointed to the community’s need for building maintenance staff with training and certification in integrated building controls. “As companies look to connect their lighting, HVAC, security and fire systems into a single control system, there will be an increased need for BAS technicians. This certificate program is important to the success

of our regional manufacturers and hopefully will help attract and retain technicians in our area,” he said.

BPU Deputy General Manager-Electric Division Kristofor Sellstrom assisted the JCC team with the BAS program design as part of the Retool WNY initiative, that grew out of the “Accelerate the Southern Tier” grant.

“This program provides an excellent opportunity for maintenance workers and technicians to gain important new skills,” Sellstrom said. “The career opportunities and earnings potential in the BAS field are impressive. Manufacturers and large commercial building owners will continue to integrate building controls, adding to the potential for job growth in this area.”

NYSERDA Director of Commercialization Stephen Bravo said, “NYSEDA investments act as a market catalyst to commercialize

clean energy technologies and develop long-term implementation support. We are pleased with the success of this partnership between the Jamestown Board of Public Utilities (BPU) and Jamestown Community College (JCC) in creating workforce development and training opportunities for the next generations of workers needed to advance and maintain innovative building automation systems.”

The training kits required for the BAS classes are portable, allowing JCC the flexibility to provide this training at any of its campus sites. There are 120 hours of hands-on training in the program, with a focus on installation, repair and maintenance of computer-based control systems. The program is ideal for individuals responsible for commercial or residential building maintenance or those working in the electrical, HVAC or plumbing trades.

The next BAS cohort is scheduled to start March 18 with class meetings on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Details can be found on the JCC website: <https://www.sunyjcc.edu/workforce/manufacturing/building-automation-systems>

The BPU is planning a Retool’25 Conference on June 3 that will feature discussions on energy efficiency and clean energy manufacturing. The conference will be held at the Chautauqua Harbor Hotel with co-sponsors NextCorps and Scale for ClimateTech. For details, contact BPU Business Development Coordinator Ellen Ditonto at [businessdev@jamestownbpu.com](mailto:businessdev@jamestownbpu.com).

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LIVE CHQ CHOOSE CHQ

## Join CHQ A Community Fair

Article Contributed by  
Chautauqua Region  
Community Foundation

With the weather signaling that spring is on its way, it's the perfect time to look for new opportunities to engage in the community.

More than a year ago, Heather Kinal developed a vision for this event after watching the documentary, "Join or Die," which is based on Robert Putnam's book Bowling Alone. "The film highlights the positive impact that getting involved with social clubs and community organizations has on our health and well-being," said Heather Kinal, JoinCHQ organizer and leader of Chautauqua Connection Collective. "Our country is suffering from an epidemic of loneliness and community is the answer."

On March 29, at the Reg Lenna Center for the Arts, Chautauqua Connection Collective, Live CHQ, Choose CHQ, and the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation will host "Join CHQ" a community fair intended to build connections and opportunities. "Our goal is to build a greater sense of belonging and purpose at the individual level

so that our entire community gets stronger," added Ms. Kinal.


The doors will open at noon with the screening of "Join or Die" at 1pm. Immediately following the film, a short, locally produced documentary will be shown that features local clubs, groups, and leaders. Following the screenings, representatives from various clubs and non-profit organizations will be available to provide information about membership and volunteer opportunities throughout the region.

"Heather brought this wonderful vision to us, and we immediately asked how we could help," said Tory Irgang, Chautauqua Region Community Foundation Executive Director. "We believe that coming together and getting involved locally is the answer to almost any challenge and are excited about the impact Join CHQ will have."

Join CHQ is free and welcomes individuals seeking a new way to engage in the community. If you are a local club, group or nonprofit interested in reserving a table at the event contact Heather Kinal at [heather@rootedmtbfest.com](mailto:heather@rootedmtbfest.com).

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## SUNY Professor to Share Experience as Volunteer in Honduras



Submitted Photos

Dr. Ted Lee collects a water sample from a storage tank to be analyzed for the presence of bacteria.

Article Contributed by

### 1891 Fredonia Opera House Performing Arts Center

The 1891 Fredonia Opera House Performing Arts Center will present SUNY Fredonia Distinguished Teaching Professor Dr. Ted Lee who will give an illustrated lecture about his experiences as a volunteer in rural Honduras. The program will be held on Tue., Mar. 11, at 7 p.m.

A SUNY Fredonia study abroad program initiated in 2019 has provided impactful experiences for students who work with Honduran physicians, interpreters, and others to provide primary care to residents in rural parts of the impoverished Central American country. Lee organizes the annual brigades that assist with the delivery of basic medical services.

The impact of the experience for students is to see a portion of what life is like for individuals in a country lacking basic resources that many take for granted in the U.S. Seeing healthcare conditions in Honduras and interacting with children at an orphanage, along with compiling daily journals of their experiences,

are among key takeaways. From this program students formed a club to support children living at the orphanage where they stay; and work has expanded to include a non-student group that provides continuity of care in the same communities.

Dr. Lee also has participated with an Ohio group that provides water filters to families so they have access to potable water. The talk will provide an overview of his experiences in Honduras, the impact of the work on the communities and the volunteers, and ways to support these efforts. Admission to the lecture is free. Opera House programming is made possible, in part, by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.

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



Students take part in the medical brigade during a recent volunteer trip to Honduras. Each brigade, or station, had a specific function, such as taking vitals to prepare the patient to see a physician, or distributing medicine after the patient was evaluated.

## Make Your Calendar for Hazeltine Public Library's Popular Author Series

Article Contributed by

### Hazeltine Public Library

Hazeltine Public Library is pleased to announce the 10 authors that will be part of their popular ‘April is for Authors’ series. Beginning April 7 and continuing each Monday until June 16, a local author will be at HPL to talk about their book, their writing process and the highs and lows of being an author. “we started these programs several years ago to give local writers exposure” said library director Katie Smith, “they were very well received and we quickly expanded to a spring and fall offering. Often the authors are household names but it isn’t unusual to find your friend, neighbor, teacher is a talented individual with published works to their name!” The evenings all begin at 6:30 and are FREE and open to everyone. There are no residence requirements and a library card isn’t required for admission.

“The authors will have copies of their work for sale and are happy to personalize and sign a copy”, said Smith. “We appreciate reservations but they are not required. These presentations take place in our Community Building adjacent to the library but we do have the ability to move into the library if the weather doesn’t cooperate.”

The Hazeltine Public Library is located at 891 Busti Sugargrove Rd, Jamestown, NY 14701, phone 716.487.1281. There is off street parking available and both the library and community building are accessible.

The following authors will be part of the spring 2025 series:

**April 7: Trenton Lutes** a graduate of Hartwick College in Oneonta is a multi talented individual with a writing focus on science fiction. His Terra-Healers series is a work in progress; but his also finds time to paint and garden.

**April 14: Jason Bussman** is one of our new authors. Bussman teaches writing at two WNY Universities and has been writing since the 1st grade. He writes about how growing up in the 80s and 90s shaped in attempts at navigating fatherhood.

**April 21: Mark Sasse** another new author, Sasse works as the Arts Programming Administrator at Jamestown Community

College and directs shows at the Scharmann Theatre. His novels are independently published and his genres include historical fiction, magical realism and contemporary adventure.

**April 28: Timothy Buck** a graduate of Falconer High School and SUNY- New Paltz has written a series of novels dedicated to crime/fiction. He is currently working on an untitled 10th novel in the “Connection Series.”

**May 5: Marcy O’Brien** is a locally recognized weekly newspaper columnist. She is a self proclaimed late bloomer since writing became her 7th career, well into her dotage! She has won several writing competitions for her columns and human interest lifestyle writings.

**May 12: Joan Wahl** a lifelong resident of Chautauqua County with a degree in Music Education from Mercyhurst. She is a fan of the TV show ‘Nashville’ and her meetings with the cast and crew were the inspiration for a series of novels.

**May 19: Dawn Swanson** is a returning presenter and bringing us the further adventures of Charlotte! Dawn is an author, wife, mother, grandmother and director of the Kennedy Free Library.

**May 26: MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY**

**June 2: Lana Keller** joining us for the first time featuring her works of poetry. She was born and raised in WNY and discovers joy and healing through writing poems.

**June 9: Adrienne Ploss** is a local history and genealogy enthusiast who has written about her family history on Hickory Hurst Farms. Her initial book is titled “Go Back, You Forgot the Flowers” and starts the family history.

**June 16: Walt Pickut** a New Jersey native, former editor, now enjoying a writer’s life in Chautauqua County. Pickut writes free lance for health and medicine and has authored a real life spy story.

Authors interested in being added to the list and considered for the fall series are invited to contact the library at 716.487.1281 or send an email to [director@hazeltinelibrary.org](mailto:director@hazeltinelibrary.org).





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Celebrities with Irish heritage

Article Contributed by  
Metro Creative

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JHS To Present “Les Misérables”  
on March 13, 14, & 15

Production Participating In Shea’s Wonder Awards



Article Contributed by  
Jamestown Public Schools

Jamestown High School will present “Les Misérables: School Edition” on Thursday, March 13, and Friday, March 14 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, March 15 at 2 and 7 p.m. in the Merton P. Corwin Auditorium of JHS, at 350 E. 2nd Street.

Based on the novel by Victor Hugo, the musical, with music by Claude-Michel Schonberg and lyrics by Herbert Kretzmer is under the direction of Lauren Scharf, with vocal direction by Melissa Beichner, choreography created by Jennie Caruso, and pit orchestra direction by Meghan Murray.

“When selecting a show for this spring, Melissa (Beichner) and I were immediately drawn to Les Misérables. We felt we had the students and the support necessary to pull off a show of this magnitude. Our students have been working incredibly hard to be able to successfully present this show to our community this March.”

In nineteenth-century France, Jean Valjean is released from years of unjust imprisonment but finds nothing in store for him but mistrust and mistreatment. He breaks his parole in hopes of starting a new life, initiating a lifelong struggle for redemption as he is relentlessly pursued by police inspector Javert, who refuses to believe Valjean can change his ways. Finally, during the Paris student uprising of 1832, Javert must confront his ideals after Valjean spares his life and saves that of the student revolutionary who has captured the heart of Valjean's adopted daughter.

Epic, grand, and uplifting, Les Misérables School Edition packs an emotional wallop that has thrilled audiences worldwide. This author-approved edition has been abridged to a running time of just over two hours while beautifully maintaining the integrity of this musical masterpiece.

Jamestown High School’s musical program has also been nominated again for the Shea’s Wonder Awards. The program, which JHS participated in last year, is designed to “celebrate and support the arts in high schools, foster excellence in musical theatre, and provide valuable educational opportunities for students.”

If nominated, the students would be able to perform selections from the show on stage at Shea’s Performing Arts Center in Buffalo in May.

The production includes nearly 100 students in the cast, pit orchestra, and production crew, led by student stage managers Lilly Johnson and Zoe Haskins and assistant stage managers Jaylynn Carlson and John Johnston

General admission is \$10 and can be purchased at the door or online at [our.show/jhslesmis](http://our.show/jhslesmis) with an additional service fee.

The production is presented through an arrangement with Music Theatre International.

ST. PATRICK’S DAY  
Trivia

- 1. What color was originally associated with St. Patrick?
- 2. What famous river in the U.S. is dyed green every year in celebration of St. Patrick’s Day?
- 3. In what year did St. Patrick’s Day become an official public holiday in Ireland?
- 4. What is the traditional Irish meal often eaten on St. Patrick’s Day in the U.S.?
- 5. What famous Irish dance show gained worldwide popularity in the 1990s?
- 6. What do the three leaves of a shamrock traditionally represent?
- 7. What country was St. Patrick originally from?
- 8. What document written by St. Patrick is one of the primary sources of information about his life?
- 9. Which country has the most people of Irish descent outside of Ireland?
- 10. What religious denomination first recognized St. Patrick’s Day as a feast day?

1. Blue 2. The Chicago River 3. 1903 4. Corned beef and cabbage 5. Riverdance 6. The Holy Trinity 7. Roman Britain (modern-day UK) 8. The Confessio 9. United States 10. The Catholic Church





# MARTZ-KOHL OBSERVATORY

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martzobservatory.org

## Total Lunar Eclipse Special Program

*Tom Traub to Present March 13, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.*

*Article Contributed by  
Martz-Kohl Observatory*

In his upcoming talk, Tom Traub will inform the public about tonight's Total Lunar Eclipse (also known as a "Blood Moon"). The program will talk about eclipses in general and what the public can expect to see and how to observe this rare, beautiful event. This is the first Total Lunar Eclipse since November 8, 2022, that will be visible and well-placed high in our night sky. It will be our best Total Lunar Eclipse for several years to come. The Moon will start to enter Earth's shadow at 11:57 p.m. on the 13th, but it will take about 45 minutes before it will be noticeable. At 1:09 a.m. on the 14th, the Moon will enter the Earth's umbral shadow, and a partial eclipse will be visible. The Moon will be totally covered

from 2:25 a.m. till 3:31 a.m., being 45 degrees up in the SSW sky. The Moon will continue in partial eclipse till 4:47 a.m. and finally leave the Earth's shadow at 6:00 a.m. The observatory will be open that night to watch the eclipse in its entirety. So, if you don't want to stay up all night, just come for the program, then go home and set your alarms.

The Martz-Kohl Observatory, located at 176 Robbin Hill Road, Frewsburg, NY, is operated by the Marshal Martz Memorial Astronomical Association, Inc., a non-profit organization devoted to the amateur astronomer. The emphasis of the association is observational astronomy, well-rooted in education outreach and enjoyment of the starry skies.

## "The Human Nature of Lunar Dust Risk Communication"

*Torin McCoy to Present Wednesday,  
March 19, 2025, at 7:30 p.m.*

*Featured Writer  
Laurie Livingston  
Board Member  
Martz-Kohl Observatory*

Understanding the risks posed by lunar dust to human exploration is a complex challenge that extends beyond technical concerns. In his upcoming presentation, Torin McCoy will talk about how the human element—risk communication and perception—complicates efforts to manage these hazards. Attendees will gain insight into lunar dust challenges while exploring the often-undervalued concepts of balance, credibility, and discernment. These ideas, essential to NASA's work, resonate equally in our daily lives, offering lessons for a post-COVID world where effective risk communication is more critical than ever.

Mr. McCoy has spent decades exploring how hazards impact human health and performance. Initially focused on soil contamination on Earth, his career took a celestial turn when he joined NASA in 2003. At Johnson Space Center, Mr. McCoy became fascinated by the history and challenges of lunar dust and its risks to human exploration. His work has highlighted the intricate ways individuals and organizations process risk-related information and the importance of balance, credibility, and trust in decision-making processes.

Mr. McCoy serves as a scientist and exploration integration leader with NASA's Human Health and Performance Directorate. A Texas native, he earned degrees from Texas A&M University and Clemson University and began his career working for the State environmental



Torin McCoy

agency in Texas. There, he studied contaminants in the food chain and tackled hazardous waste issues on Superfund sites.

Outside of work, Mr. McCoy cherishes time with his wife of 32 years and their two grown children. An enthusiastic lover of the outdoors, he enjoys hiking, studying trees, exploring Indian artifacts, and delving into history.

This talk will be shown on the big screen at the Martz-Kohl Observatory and available online via Zoom. You are encouraged to come to the observatory to virtually meet Torin McCoy and join in our always lively Q&A after his talk. If the weather permits, there will be public viewing opportunities. More info: <https://martzobservatory.org>

The Martz-Kohl Observatory, located at 176 Robbin Hill Road, Frewsburg, NY, is operated by the Marshal Martz Memorial Astronomical Association, Inc., a non-profit organization devoted to the amateur astronomer. The emphasis of the association is observational astronomy, well-rooted in education outreach and enjoyment of the starry skies.

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Extra! Extra! Read All About It!  
The Gazette Hits Stands in Dunkirk and Fredonia

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE



Fredonia Mayor Mike Ferguson with Chautauqua Gazette Owner & Publisher Lori Cornell.



Dunkirk Development Director Vince DeJoy and Events Specialist Scott Mekus.

of new ways. In addition to adding new distribution sites in Fredonia and Dunkirk, she has spearheaded several initiatives aimed at making The Gazette more accessible and convenient for readers. A brand-new website was launched last year and in the coming weeks, the Gazette will officially begin a mailed subscription service allowing out-of-town and homebound readers to receive the paper right

in their mailbox. We invite the people of Dunkirk and Fredonia to embrace this opportunity and make picking up a copy of the Chautauqua Gazette a part of their weekly routine. As we continue to grow and evolve, our commitment remains the same: to bring you the news that matters most to our community. Live CHQ, Love CHQ, Read CHQ.

On the Road from Forestville to Sinclairville

Drabble by John Brantingham

I shouldn’t have driven tonight, but I’m on the road from Forestville to Sinclairville. The snow on the road is six inches thick. My headlights land for a moment on the turnoff to the road where I hike in the summers.

It is down a gravel road that hasn’t been plowed since November, and I’m sure the trail has disappeared into the woods.

It’s only whitetails out there now and maybe some kid ambitious for solitude like I was, in his snowshoes a flashlight on. He’s in love with the storm blowing about him, the ice crystals nipping his face.

This poem was sponsored by a grant from New York State Council on the Arts. Johnbrantingham.com

“It’s not easy being green.” - Kermit the Frog



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Shamus O'Donnell Live 5:00–6:30PM & 7:30–9:00PM  
Trivia Showdown 6:30–7:30PM

**Saturday, March 15th - 9PM**

**Diggin Roots Band**

**The Wine Cellar**  
**Jamestown, NY**



Silent Film Scored to R.E.M. and *One of Them Days* to Show at Reg Lenna Center for The Arts



Submitted Photos  
A scene from *Sherlock Jr.*



A scene from *One of Them Days*.

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

A classic film and modern music are paired in *Buster Keaton's Sherlock Jr. with R.E.M.'s Monster and New Adventures in Hi Fi – A Silents Synced Film* (Wed., March 12 at 7 p.m.) A film projectionist longs to be a detective, and puts his meager skills to work when he is framed by a rival for stealing his girlfriend's father's pocketwatch. This classic 1924 silent film is tracked to R.E.M.'s albums *Monster* and *New Adventures in Hi Fi*. *Sherlock Jr.* is unrated and is 72 minutes long.

Best friends and roommates Dreux (Keke Palmer) and Alyssa (SZA) are about to have *One of Them Days* (Fri., March 14 at 7 p.m.) When they discover Alyssa's boyfriend has blown their rent money, the duo finds themselves going to extremes in a comical race against the clock to avoid eviction and keep their friendship intact. *One of Them Days* is rated R and is 97 minutes long.

Upcoming Movies at The Reg include Best Actress nominee Fernanda Torres in the Oscar winner for Best International Feature *I'm Still Here* (March 19 at

7 p.m.), and the rock documentary *Becoming Led Zeppelin* (March 26 at 7 p.m.)

Tickets for most Movies at The Reg are \$8 in-person at the box office and \$10 online (reglenna.com) & by phone - 716.484.7070. Family showings are \$7 in-person

at the box office and \$9 online & by phone. Special engagements are priced differently. The theater and box office at The Reg are located at 116 E. 3rd St. in Jamestown, NY. The box office is open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 12 - 5 p.m. and one hour before movies and events.

CRAFTS ARE A LUCKY BET FOR ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

Article Contributed by  
**Metro Creative**

While it certainly can be fun to visit a pub and raise a pint in honor of St. Patrick's Day on March 17, such efforts are not necessarily a family-friendly way to commemorate the patron saint of the Emerald Isle. Thankfully, there are plenty of activities for children and adults that focus less on imbibing and more on hands-on fun so everyone can be involved equally. Crafting often fits that bill. The following are some unique craft ideas to celebrate the spirit of St. Patrick's Day. Many of these projects include items you may already have around the house.

**Leprechaun hats**

With a little green paint, green card stock and construction paper in black and gold, anyone can create miniature leprechaun hats. Paint the toilet paper tube green, then wrap the bottom in a strip of black and place a gold "buckle" made out of a rectangle of gold or yellow paper. Glue the tube to a round of green card stock, and voila, you have a perfect leprechaun hat for decorating a room or table.

**Easy rainbow craft**

Grab some fruity O-shaped cereal and let kids sort the colors into red, orange,

yellow, green, and purple. Glue rows of these colored cereal rings onto a piece of white cardstock to make the rainbow. At the base of the rainbow, glue some cotton balls to serve as the clouds.

**Beaded bracelets**

Visit a craft store and stock up on small green, white and gold beads, as well as some bracelet wire or poly string. Spend a few hours making bracelets that everyone can wear with their green attire for St. Patrick's Day. The bracelets also can be given as gifts.

**Shamrock slime**

Those who can find green glitter glue and shamrock confetti can turn their favorite slime recipe into one worthy of St. Patrick's Day.

**Pots of gold**

If you have leftover plastic witches' cauldrons from Halloween, paint them gold and use them to store foil-wrapped chocolate coins. Otherwise, tie green helium-filled balloons to the cauldron to make a perfect centerpiece.

St. Patrick's Day crafts get the entire family in on the fun of celebrating the Emerald Isle.

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"May your heart be light and happy, may your smile be big and wide, and may your pockets always have a coin or two inside."

- Irish Proverb





CHAMBER CORNER

Article Contributed by

Daniel J. Heitzenrater

Chautauqua County Chamber of Commerce  
President and CEO

Business Doesn't End at a Line on a Map

Business does not begin and end at a line on a map. We noted that recently in a joint announcement with the Warren County Chamber of Business and Industry about an event we are co-hosting at Audubon Community Nature Center. But it's also true more broadly, among municipalities, counties, states, and countries. Tariffs are likely to cause significant harm to our local economy.

Business organizations almost across the board are opposed to tariffs. The US Chamber of Commerce has specifically urged a "swift end" to 25% tariffs on goods from Canada and Mexico. These tariffs will undoubtedly harm local businesses, notably manufacturers, agriculture, and construction, but also our small businesses and hospitality industry.

The National Association of Manufacturers has noted that one-third of all US imported manufacturing inputs come from Canada and Mexico, and that a 25% tariff on those countries will add an estimated \$144 billion a year to the cost of manufacturing in the United States. But it's not just manufacturing that will take a hit from tariffs. Almost all businesses will feel the economic impact.

The US Chamber of Commerce has noted that Mexico and Canada are the two largest individual trading partners with the United States. The total of US goods traded with Canada was an estimated \$762.1 billion in 2024, while goods traded with Mexico were estimated at \$839.9 billion. These goods support 13-million American jobs. In 2022, New York businesses exported nearly \$106.3 billion worth of goods overseas supporting approximately 2.8-million jobs in the Empire State. Canada is one of New York's largest trading partners, with total trade between New York and Canada reaching \$42.6 billion in 2022.

Locally, we're aware manufacturers source raw materials like steel and aluminum out of Canada, and some plants have sister facilities or other suppliers in Mexico and Canada

who will have major disruption to their processes. Other industries will be impacted by reciprocal tariffs, such as a local juice processor who ships a large amount to China, and whose single largest customer is in Canada. Retaliatory tariffs on their exports to Canada and China will increase the cost to their customers, forcing hard decisions that may have a major impact on their bottom line. Small businesses are not immune to negative consequences of tariffs, with a restaurant sharing they expect costs on packaging items from containers, to straws, to parts and equipment that may not be produced domestically.

Western New York, including Chautauqua County, has a robust tourism economy, with thousands of tourists coming here annually from Canada. At the Peace Bridge alone, border crossings from Canada to the US have dropped by 11% since the tariff talk began. A neighboring ski area in Cattaraugus County saw a 25% decline in Canadian tourist traffic this winter. Just last year tourist traffic in this region bounced back to pre-pandemic levels, and now that is jeopardized. That potentially means fewer dollars for hotels, restaurants, attractions, and retail spending in our communities. Small businesses especially operate on thin margins and are reluctant to increase prices on their friends and neighbors.

We join the calls by the National Association of Manufacturers, the US Chamber of Commerce, and more regionally the Buffalo Niagara Manufacturers Alliance and the Manufacturers Association of the Southern Tier to end the tariffs and seek a more stable and predictable business environment to promote economic growth.

Women in Networking: Child Care Impact on Workforce

The Small Business Development Center, Community Bank, and the CHQ Chamber are proudly partnering on the next Women in Networking Event with the focus on Child Care Impact on the Workforce. This event will be held Thursday, March 13 and is open to everyone. You are encouraged to attend to learn more about childcare trends and strategies currently affecting the workforce. Many Chautauqua County employers have Many Chautauqua County

employers have indicated childcare is a main barrier for potential hires impacting their employee recruitment, retention, and productivity. Now there are some new strategies and initiatives to help.

The presenters will be Beth Starks and Susan Marker. Beth is the founding consultant with Flourish Leadership Consulting and Executive Director of the Chautauqua Lake Child Care Center. As a consultant and leader in the non-profit and early childhood education sector she has provided inspiration and educational opportunities for thousands. She has also operated her childcare business for almost 20 years. Susan is the Child Care Council Director for Chautauqua County. She has a wealth of experience in both nonprofit and for-profit management. She began her career at Chautauqua Opportunities.

This event will be held at the Small Business Development Center at JCC, 241 James Avenue (Carnahan Center). The luncheon will begin at 11:30 at a cost of \$19. The presentation is from noon-1pm. Please bring business cards for networking. Preregistration is required. For detail email sbdc@mail.sunyjcc.edu.

Hanover Committee to Hold Sip & Celebrate

The CHQ Chamber's Hanover Committee invites local businesspeople to a special evening of networking and camaraderie at Merritt Estate Winery in Forestville, Thursday, March 13. Sip & Celebrate is a fun way to close the winter season and mingle with other regional businesspeople. There will be complimentary snacks from Merritt Estate Winery along with pizza from Villaggio Italiano, and a cash bar from the winery. There will be a 50/50 drawing and some prize raffles. There is no charge for Chamber members. For non-members the cost is \$10. Advance registration is appreciated for planning purposes. You can register online through the Chamber's web calendar at

www.chqchamber.org.

Chambers to Hold Collaborative Event at Audubon

Audubon Community Nature Center, located at 1600 Riverside Road, Jamestown, will host the CHQ Chamber and the Warren County Chamber of Business and Industry in a collaborative Business After Hours Event, on Thursday, March 20 from 5-6:30pm. This event will be a preview for Audubon Lights, which kicks off its three-weekend run the following evening. Audubon Lights features a half mile-long trail of lights after sunset including luminaries on the trail edges, illuminated trees, and special light displays at various points along the trail.

All local businesspeople are invited to attend this special networking event, which will include complimentary appetizers and beverages, with tips to benefit the Audubon Community Nature Center's mission of connecting people to nature. Bring business cards for networking and door prize drawings.

CHQ Chamber member organizations can send two people free of charge to all Business After Hours events. Non-members or anyone above the two-person limit will be \$10. Registration for CHQ Chamber members is open online now through the Chamber's web calendar at www.chqchamber.org. Members of the Warren County Chamber of Business and Industry should email Savannah Casey at szimmerman@wccbi.org to register free of charge. Advanced registration is strongly encouraged by March 14.

Business After Hours at Audubon Community Nature Center is sponsored by Anchor Advisors, DFT Communications, Jamestown Community College, Kinetic Business, Media One Radio Group, Northwest Observer, The Post-Journal, Southern Tier Brewing Company, Superior Tire & Rubber Corp., United Refining Company, and Whirley DrinkWorks!



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## Chautauqua County Introduces Online Delinquent Tax Payments

**Secure & Convenient Online Payment  
Option Now Available for Taxpayers**

*Article Contributed by*

**Justin Gould**

Chautauqua County Media  
Information Officer

Chautauqua County residents now have a more convenient way to pay their delinquent property taxes. The County's Real Property Tax Division has launched an online payment system, available through the County's Real Property Tax website under the Property Tax Lookup section. This new system is designed to offer taxpayers a seamless, secure, and accessible way to manage their delinquent tax obligations.

County Executive Paul M. Wendel Jr. praised the initiative, stating, "This online payment system is another step forward in our commitment to making county services more accessible and user-friendly. By providing this option, we are giving residents the ability to make payments at their convenience without having to visit county offices in person."

The system is live now and allows taxpayers to search for parcels with delinquent tax liabilities and make payments using credit/debit cards or ACH transfers. While the bank does charge a transaction fee, users are notified of the fee amount before completing their payment. Once a payment is made, taxpayers can receive a receipt via email, text message, or both for their records.

Kimberly A. Meleen, Director of the Real Property Tax Division, emphasized the benefits of the new system, saying, "We understand that

waiting in line or mailing payments isn't always convenient. This new online payment option allows taxpayers to manage their obligations more efficiently. It's a great solution for residents who are out of town or prefer to handle their payments electronically."

The online payment system is highly secure and available for all delinquent property tax payments, except for those associated with properties in bankruptcy.

For those who need assistance navigating the online payment portal, the Real Property Tax Division staff is available by phone to guide users through the process.

At this time, the online payment system is exclusively for delinquent taxes, but it aligns with the County's broader efforts to modernize and improve service accessibility for all residents.

To access the new online payment system, visit the Chautauqua County Real Property Tax website and navigate to the Property Tax Lookup section. From there, taxpayers can search for parcels with delinquent tax liabilities and proceed with their payment.

For additional information or assistance, please contact the Chautauqua County Real Property Tax Division at (716) 753-4221.



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# Bill Ward to Perform Next Memory Café at The Reg

Article Contributed by

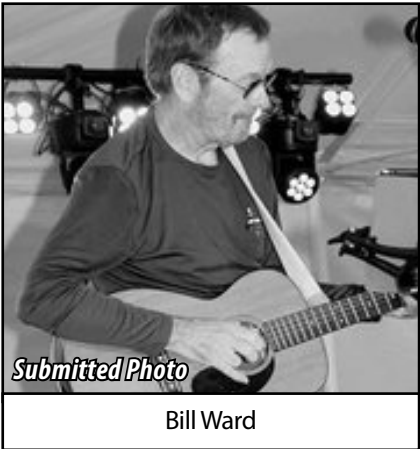
## Reg Lenna Center for the Arts

Area musician Bill Ward will be the performer at the next Memory Café at Reg Lenna Center for The Arts March 11 at 12 p.m.

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

Singer/Songwriter/Promoter Bill Ward has been a mainstay of the Western New York music scene for some time, headlining shows and appearing with some of the best bluegrass, country and Americana acts in the business. Fresh from a busy season which included his appearance at the Great Blue Heron Music Festival with the Buffalo Bluegrass All Stars, Bill Ward brings energy and eclecticism to every show and recording session.

Memory Cafés are accepting and welcoming environments to engage people living with any stage of dementia (diagnosed or not) in enjoyable, non-clinical interventions designed to enhance the quality of life for them and their care partners. It is a gathering place offering social support and connection, socialization opportunities, better health, and wellbeing to older adult participants and their care partners in an accessible environment. Occurring in a wide range of settings with a wide range of programming, memory cafés provide essential support to caregivers and their loved ones. Cafés help build social connections and friendships and bring joy, meaning, purpose and



Bill Ward

belonging to participants.

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

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

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

## PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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## PUZZLES ON PAGE 7

# Zonta Holds Expo on April 4



Members of the Zonta Club of Jamestown meet to discuss plans for an Expo to be held on April 4, 2025, from 2 until 7 p.m. at First Lutheran Church located at 120 Chandler Street in Jamestown. The Expo will provide information and resources related to sexual assault and child abuse prevention. It will include presentations, demonstrations, and information from local nonprofits and agencies as well as food, drinks, and prizes. Join Zonta for this very important information sharing event offered in conjunction with Sexual Assault Awareness Month and Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Pictured L to R are members of the Advocacy Committee from the Zonta Club of Jamestown: Carol Hay, Sarah Goebel, Sylvia Stenander, Deb Piotrowski, Bethany O'Hagan, and Jodi Swindell.



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# Mental Health Association Seeking Recovery Luncheon Sponsors



Executive Director Michael Nordin recently welcomed guests to the Mental Health Association in Chautauqua County's February Recovery Luncheon in Jamestown. Because celebrating positive milestones increases long-term recovery, the MHA holds monthly luncheons to recognize participants' progress. The MHA is seeking local businesses, churches, organizations and individuals to assist in providing these lunches, by making a meal or sharing its cost. To learn more, contact Activities/PR Coordinator Dianne Valvo at (716) 720-8098 or [Dianne.Valvo@MHACHautauqua.org](mailto:Dianne.Valvo@MHACHautauqua.org). Information about the MHA is at [MHACHautauqua.org](http://MHACHautauqua.org) and Facebook. [com/MHACHautauqua](https://www.facebook.com/MHACHautauqua).

"May your heart be light and happy, may your smile be big and wide, and may your pockets always have a coin or two inside."

- Irish Proverb



# Assemblyman Andrew Molitor, Sen. George Borrello and Local Leaders Call for Increased CHIPS Funding to Address Local Infrastructure Crisis

Article Contributed by  
Assemblyman  
Andrew Molitor

Assemblyman Andrew Molitor (R,C-Westfield) and Sen. George Borrello (R-57) today joined local leaders in urging Gov. Kathy Hochul and legislative leaders to increase state investment in local roads, bridges and culverts through the Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS). Highlighting the severe impact of inflation and rising construction costs on municipal road maintenance, they called for an additional \$250 million in CHIPS funding in the 2025-26 state budget to ensure local governments can maintain critical infrastructure.

“For the 13th consecutive session, we are calling attention to the urgent need for greater investment in our local roads,” said Molitor. “Gov. Hochul’s executive budget includes much-needed increases for the state highway system, but it does not account for the financial strain on local governments that are responsible for maintaining 87% of New York’s roads.”

According to a 2023 study by the New York State Association of Town Superintendents of Highways (NYSAOTSOH), municipalities require an additional \$2.69 billion annually—totaling over \$40 billion in the next 15 years—to adequately maintain and restore local roads and bridges. Rising material costs and inflation have significantly eroded the purchasing power of local highway maintenance programs, placing a greater burden on municipalities and taxpayers.

“Local governments spent \$2 billion on road maintenance in 2020, but due to inflation, those same dollars simply don’t stretch as far today,” Molitor added. “With national highway construction costs increasing by 70% over the last three years, it is clear the governor’s current proposal is inadequate.”



Submitted Photo

Assemblyman Andrew Molitor (R,C-Westfield) and Senator George Borrello (R-57) joined by county executives and the local highway superintendents association

Molitor also emphasized the growing concern regarding New York’s transition to electric school buses and the potential impact on local roads. He cited preliminary data indicating heavier electric buses could shorten the lifespan of town roads by 20%, leading to significantly increased reconstruction costs for municipalities.

“This state-mandated transition to electric buses comes with hidden costs that our towns and villages simply cannot absorb,” Molitor said. “Without proper investment in local infrastructure, we are setting up our communities for failure.”

Borrello echoed these concerns, saying, “For the fourth straight year, Gov. Hochul’s budget ignores the skyrocketing costs of maintaining local roads and bridges. While highway construction costs have jumped 70%, CHIPS funding remains flat—forcing local governments to do more with less. Meanwhile, billions are funneled into the failing MTA and Hollywood tax credits, while upstate roads crumble. We need an immediate \$250 million increase in CHIPS funding just to keep up. Safe roads aren’t a luxury—they’re essential to our economy, emergency

services and everyday life. It’s time for Albany to prioritize real needs over political pet projects.”

Joining Molitor and Borrello in advocating for increased CHIPS funding were Chautauqua County Executive PJ Wendell, Jamestown Public Works Director James Feldman, and Director of Public Utilities for Chautauqua County Tim Carr.

Feldman said, “Municipalities are already struggling to keep up with rising costs. If we don’t receive additional state support, we will be forced to delay or scale back critical infrastructure projects, which will only lead to bigger problems down the road.”

Carr emphasized the impact on small towns, saying, “Rural communities like ours depend on CHIPS funding to maintain our roadways. Without an increase, we’re left with tough choices that could compromise safety and economic development.”

To address these challenges, Molitor, Borrello, and local leaders are calling for:

- An additional \$250 million in

- CHIPS base aid, bringing the total to \$848 million;
- The consolidation of five state road assistance programs into two, reducing administrative burdens on municipalities; and
- An increase in the CHIPS bidding threshold from \$350,000 to \$1 million, or its elimination altogether, to allow for more cost-effective project management.

“New York’s local roads are essential to our economy, public safety and quality of life,” concluded Molitor. “For every \$1 invested in CHIPS, we save between \$6 and \$14 in long-term rehabilitation costs. This is a smart investment that will create jobs, ease the tax burden on residents and ensure the safety of our roadways.”

Molitor, Borrello and their colleagues continue to advocate for a stronger state-local partnership to address New York’s critical infrastructure needs. They urge Gov. Hochul and legislative leaders to recognize the importance of increased CHIPS funding in the final 2025-26 budget.

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## Nick Langworthy

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**Congressman Langworthy Introduces Medicaid Provider Screening Accountability Act**

On Wednesday, Congressman Nick Langworthy (NY-23) along with co-lead Congressman Joe Morelle (NY-25) introduced the Medicaid Provider Screening Accountability Act, which would require states to regularly check the Data Exchange System (DEX) to determine, as part of a provider’s enrollment in the Medicaid program, that the provider is not prohibited from participating in another state’s Medicaid program.

This ensures states can identify and prevent providers who have been terminated in other states from re-enrolling from continuing to practice in their Medicaid programs. For example, if a doctor is terminated from Ohio’s Medicaid program for committing fraud or harming patients, their information is entered into DEX. Without regular checks, another state—like New York—might unknowingly allow that doctor to participate in its Medicaid program.

The Medicaid Provider Screening Accountability Act is important to help keep bad actors out of the Medicaid system, protecting both the program and the patients who rely on it. For the Medicaid program, this bill helps prevent fraud and misuse of taxpayer dollars by making sure that providers who have been kicked out of another state’s Medicaid program can’t just sign up in a new state and keep practicing.

“Preventing fraud and misuse of taxpayer dollars while simultaneously protecting Medicaid beneficiaries from dangerous or unethical

providers is my top priority,” said Congressman Langworthy in a statement on Wednesday. “This bill strengthens oversight, keeps bad providers out, and ensures Medicaid patients get care from qualified, trustworthy professionals.”

“The Medicaid program provides life-saving health coverage to millions of Americans, and it’s critical we do everything possible to keep the system operating efficiently and with accountability,” said Congressman Joe Morelle. “This common-sense legislation would help ensure families are getting the highest-quality coverage possible, all while helping to eliminate fraud and ensure higher levels of accountability within state Medicaid systems. I’m proud to join Rep. Langworthy in supporting this bipartisan legislation, and I look forward to its swift passage into law.”

Congresswoman Nicole Malliotakis (NY-11) is an original cosponsor of this legislation.

Supporting organizations include National Rural Health Association (NRHA), Greater New York Hospital Association (GNYHA), Healthcare Association of New York State (HANYS), and New York State Association of Counties, and Community Health Care Association of New York State.

“The National Rural Health Association (NRHA) thanks Representative Langworthy and Representative Morelle for their work on the Medicaid Provider Screening Accountability Act. This legislation is important for rural populations as about 20% of rural adults and 40% of rural children are covered by Medicaid. It is key that

they receive the best care possible from trusted providers,” said Alan Morgan, CEO, NRHA.

New York State Association of Counties Executive Director Stephen Acquario said, “New York’s 62 counties contribute more to Medicaid program than all other counties in the United States combined. With so much at stake for New York’s local taxpayers, we’re proud to support this bipartisan legislation that will help ensure that healthcare providers with a history of fraud and patient harm in one state can’t simply relocate to a new state to resume victimizing patients and burdening local taxpayers.”

“The Healthcare Association of New York State is pleased to support the bipartisan Medicaid Provider Screening Accountability Act as a critical step toward enhancing program integrity and patient safety across our healthcare system,” said HANYS President Bea Grause, RN, JD. “HANYS is committed to ensuring access for our patients and protecting patients from potentially problematic providers is key to that effort. We believe the commonsense measures in this bill will strengthen the Medicaid program while ensuring that only qualified, reputable providers are delivering care to New Yorkers. HANYS applauds Reps. Nick Langworthy and Joe Morelle for their bipartisan efforts.”

**Congressman Langworthy Calls for Federal Investigation into Governor Hochul’s Harmful Labor Practices Against NYS Corrections Officers; Sends Letter to Governor Urging Changes to Improve Working Conditions**

This week, Congressman Nick Langworthy (NY-23) sent a letter to Acting Labor Secretary Lori Chavez-DeRemer urging a federal investigation into the deeply concerning labor practices inside New York State Corrections facilities

that have resulted in a weeks-long wildcat strike. Congressman Langworthy also sent a letter to Governor Hochul urging her to come to the negotiating table with proposals to make meaningful changes to corrections officers’ poor working conditions and policies that have made them less safe.

The letter sent to the Acting Secretary at the Department of Labor (DOL), calls for an official investigation into New York State’s actions relating to the suspension of health insurance benefits and excessive mandatory overtime for corrections officers. Congressman Langworthy urges the DOL to determine if NYS is or is not in compliance with federal labor protections and workplace safety regulations.

The second letter was sent to Governor Hochul, who continues to undermine protections for our law enforcement officers, while coddling violent criminals. Congressman Langworthy expressed deep concern for the officers, who have been engaged in a weeks-long strike due to poor working conditions, mandatory overtime, and staffing shortages, as well as huge increases in violence against officers as a result of the HALT Act.

Congressman Langworthy’s statement: “Instead of doing something about the concerns of the men and women who risk their safety every day to keep order amongst the most violent population in society, Governor Hochul is having them arrested and taking away their family’s health insurance. It’s absolutely unconscionable and I will not stand by while they are being denied a right to reasonable working conditions and policies to keep them safe. I stand shoulder to shoulder with our corrections officers, and I will use every tool at my disposal to help deliver the change that is needed.”




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## Chautauqua County Humane Society Pets of the Week



**Gilbert**

Gilbert is a sweet, mellow fellow who enjoys a good stretch and a quiet afternoon. He is independent, but is always up for a friendly pat or two. He is very loyal and will be by your side, through thick and thin. If you're looking for a low-key, sweet, and loyal friend, He's your cat! Meet Gilbert soon at CCHS. Shelter No. RR179.

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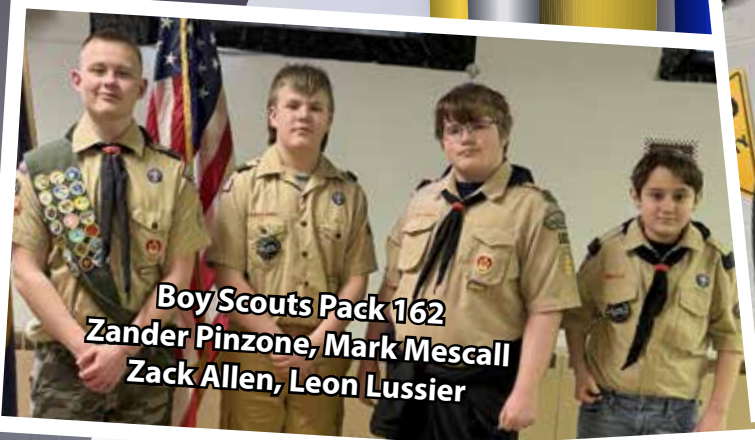


# SCOUTS AROUND TOWN

Jamestown Pack 115 held their annual Pinewood Derby on March 8th at Kidder Memorial Church. Nineteen Cub Scouts raced.

An exhibition race was also held where parents, grandparents, and siblings took part.

For more information on joining email us at [jamestownpack115@gmail.com](mailto:jamestownpack115@gmail.com) or find us on Facebook - Pack 115 of Jamestown NY



Boy Scouts Pack 162  
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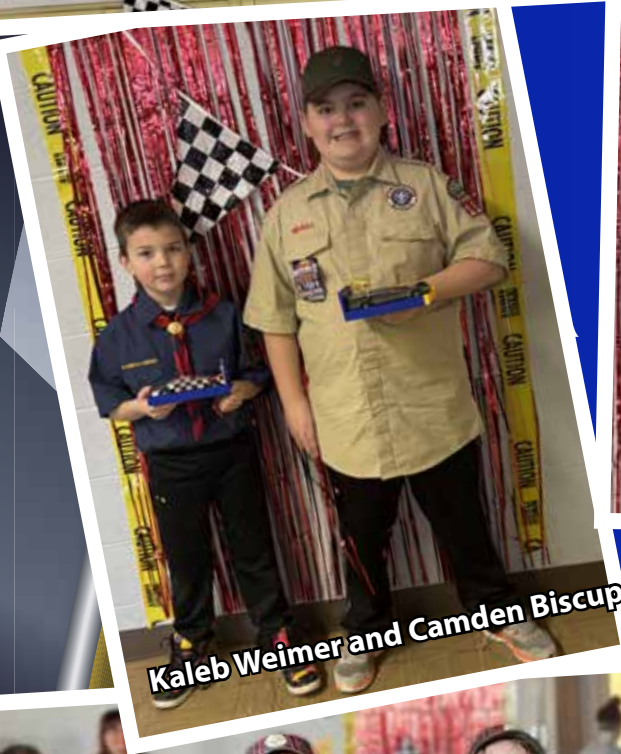
1st Place • Finn Nowling  
Elizabeth Gattman



Nolan Miller, Temperance Colter, Destiny Burera,  
Aiden Cochran, Maddie Wilkins



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Cub Scout Pack 115





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