



Photo Credit: Pat Smith

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Volume 2 • Issue 15 | Week of April 28, 2025

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*"To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow."*

— Audrey Hepburn

 **BEMUS IS** *Blooming*  **MEET US IN THE MIDDLE**  
**MAY 3-4** 

## Hands in the Dirt, Head in the Sun, Heart with Nature



Photo Credits:  
Sheila McCarthy Webster

Hyacinth with Raindrops



Hellebore



Lily of the Valley

### *Featured Writer*

#### **Pat Smith**

Chautauqua County Master Gardener

**G**ardening is a cherished activity that offers physical, mental and emotional benefits for all ages. It brings joy, relaxation and a way to connect with nature. As spring approaches, after an especially hard Western New York winter, gardeners are thinking of planting and growing. Weary of snow, cold, rain and gray, they

are eager to lighten hearts, minds and bodies in the garden.

There is an ever-expanding collection of articles, books and videos on gardening: from secrets to growing the juiciest, tastiest tomatoes or the most vibrant and eye-popping cornflower to how-to's on composting and eco-friendly gardening and information on planting natives to help save the planet. No matter how long you have gardened or how much you know, there is always more

to learn, a new seed variety to plant or a fascinating new tool to purchase.

The emotional and mental health benefits of gardening are published, debated by some and confirmed anecdotally by many. Perhaps not ironically, May is prime gardening time and also Mental Health Awareness Month (MHAM). The MHAM color is green, which symbolizes new life, renewal, and growth - all terms associated with gardening.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 21**

### **Pat's Pen with Pat Locke**

## Home & Garden

### *Contributing Writer*

#### **Pat Locke**

As the days grow longer and the air warms, spring arrives with an irresistible urge to refresh and renew. It's the ideal time to breathe new life into your home, inside and out. Whether you're planning a weekend project or a full-on makeover, your efforts will pay off with that satisfying feeling of accomplishment, plus plenty of compliments on your curb appeal.

### **Start with the Exterior**

Fresh mulch, neatly edged flower beds, and trimmed hedges can beautify your home's look in no time. If you're tackling a bigger project, like installing new fencing or a custom garage door, **Sixt Lumber** offers durable options, while **Warren Overhead Door** specializes in garage door repairs and installations. And when it comes to fencing supplies, gate panels, or premium lawn and garden essentials, **Church Street Supply** has everything

you need to bring structure and style to your outdoor space.

For homes with vinyl siding, a quick pressure wash removes winter grime, and if it's time for an upgrade, **Grant Lumber** carries top brands like Mastic and CertainTeed. Don't forget the little things—a fresh coat of paint on your front door or shutters (maybe a soft spring hue?) make a major

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 9**



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# This Week Around Town

MONDAY, APRIL 28

**Author Series: Timothy Buck | 6:30 PM**  
Hazeltine Public Library | Jamestown  
For Info: 716-487-1281

**Trivia with Brewer Drew | 6 PM - 8 PM**  
Wicked Warren's | Jamestown  
For Info: 716-484-4070

**Chautauqua's Got Talent | 7 PM**  
The Spire Theater | Jamestown  
For Info: 716-450-7357

TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY  
APRIL 29-30

**Trail Guide Training | 9:30-11 AM**  
Audubon Community Nature Center  
For Info: AudubonCNC.org/Events

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30

**Movies at The Reg: Bob Trevino Likes It 7 PM**  
The Reg Lenna Center for The Arts  
Jamestown  
For Info: 716-484-7070

THURSDAY, MAY 1

**Mexican Madness Kickoff**  
Guppy's | Bemus Pt.  
For Info: 716.386.4422

FRIDAY, MAY 2

**Movies at The Reg: Death of a Unicorn 7 PM**  
The Reg Lenna Center for The Arts  
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For Info: 716-484-7070

SATURDAY, MAY 3

**Workers' Memorial Day | 11 AM**  
Erlandson Overview Park | Frewsburg  
For Info: (716) 753-4644  
**Kentucky Derby Watch Party | 5:30 PM**  
Mayville VFW Post 8647  
For Info: 716-753-2444

**DMV Special Hours: Real ID Deadline Assistance | 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM**  
Hall Clothier Building | Mayville  
For Info: (716) 753-4229

**3rd Annual Gardening Symposium 8 AM - 12:45 PM**  
Jamestown Community College's Carnahan-Jackson Building  
For Info: 716-664-950

**Interactive Festival | 11 AM - 3 PM**  
Downtown Warren, Pa.  
For Info: Facebook.com/FreeBooksForKidsTown

**Le Nozze di Figaro | 1 PM**  
Fredonia Opera House Performing Arts Center  
For Info: fredopera.org

**Film: The Friend | 7:30 PM**  
Fredonia Opera House Performing Arts Center  
For Info: fredopera.org

SATURDAY, MAY 3 & SUNDAY, MAY 4

**Bemus is Blooming**  
Bemus Point  
For Info: visitbemuspoint.com

SUNDAY, MAY 4

**Bethel Lutheran Church 100th Anniversary Celebration | 10 AM**  
Bethel Lutheran Church | Jamestown  
For Info: (716) 661-9050

Editorial with Lori Cornell

## Strong Roots



Owner & Publisher  
Lori Cornell

I have a vivid memory of being an irritated adolescent planting a family tree together in my childhood backyard, while my parents broke out singing “The Tree Song.” I don’t know if it was the trauma from their “weirdness” that made this song stick in my brain, or the fact that my parents were actually right: the lyrics did provide a meaningful message. In either case, the song pops in my head from time to time. This week, as we celebrate our “Home & Gardens” edition, is one of those times.

“The Tree Song” lyrics by Ken Medema, in part, are as follows:

I saw a tree in the city streets  
Where buildings blocked the sun  
Green and lovely, I could see  
It gave joy to ev'ryone  
"How do you grow so straight and tall?"  
I said to my downtown tree  
This is the song that  
My tree friend sang to me:  
I've got roots growing down to the water  
I've got leaves growing up to the sunshine  
And the fruit that I bear is a sign of the

life in me  
I am shade from the hot summer sundown  
I am nest for the birds of the heavens  
I'm becoming what the Maker of trees has blessed me to be  
A strong young tree  
A strong young tree  
A strong young tree

The song is clearly not actually about trees. It’s a metaphor. While not a tree in the literal sense, the Chautauqua Gazette is a living, growing thing that is rooted in the community through our readership and our supporters. As the still fairly new publisher of the Chautauqua Gazette, I take seriously my role to help lead and preserve this community asset. We have few greater partners than our local business and organizational community. Our “Friends Around Town” seen in every single edition on page 30 (and on page 3 for your added visual this week!), as well as our other every-week contributors including: Doubletree-Jamestown, Evans Liquor and Storer’s Container Service are strong examples of such “roots”. Their confidence in, and support for, our community’s weekly newspaper, makes it possible for our “tree” to grow and flourish.

We are very grateful to these and all of our business and community partners...and, of course, loyal readers! We welcome you each to be a part - what a beautiful tree we are together.

Our community. Our foundation.  
Our roots.

## CHAUTAUQUA GAZETTE

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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 the Greater Jamestown 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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“You must fail  
at gardening  
to master it.”

- Unknown



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In Loving Memory

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Cathleen Abers-Kimball, 68  
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Falconer Funeral Home

John Michael Harrington, 51  
Dunkirk  
Peterson Funeral Home

Marilyn L. Eckman, 94  
Kiantone  
Peterson Funeral Home

Leona B. Anderson, 92  
Jamestown  
Lind Funeral Home

Frank L. Pocza, 88  
Bemus Pt.  
Lind Funeral Home

April 19

Warren Piazza, 79  
Gerry  
Lind Funeral Home

Dorothy Sharp, 81  
Jamestown  
Lind Funeral Home

April 20

Richard Nelson Sr., 93  
Jamestown  
Lind Funeral Home

Richard Nelson Sr., 93  
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Lind Funeral Home

April 21

Stephen Robinson, 76  
Sinclairville  
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Sawyer Jaxson Scoma, 7  
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Lind Funeral Home

April 22

James F. Wirges, 91  
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Arthur H. "Arkie" Nelson, 87  
Lakewood  
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Sherriald Surrena II, 57  
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April 23

Mark Kirschman, 72  
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Unitarians Consider: Can We Find Joy In Dangerous Times?

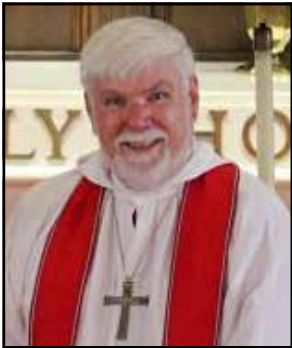


Unitarian Universalist minister Rev. Alex Holt speaks virtually at the UU Congregation of Jamestown's 10:30 a.m. hybrid service this Sunday, May 4. Of his message, he says, "How do we find joy in such times as this? It might be tempting to feel guilty for feeling joy in dangerous conditions. Consider the words of the late Rev. Gordan McKeeman: 'Deep calls unto deep, joy calls unto joy, light calls unto light....' How, then, do we find the spirit of joyfulness as well as determination?" All are welcome to the service and the coffee hour that follows at 1255 Prendergast Avenue. To participate virtually, use the link at UUJamestown.org/calendar.

Submitted Photo

Faith Matters

Bethal Lutheran Celebrates 100 Years of Faith



Featured Writer

Rev. Rob Allport-Cohoon  
Bethel Lutheran Church

Faith matters. That seems an appropriate opening. Bethel Lutheran Church on Third Street in Jamestown celebrates 100 years of faith on May 4th. We are not the oldest church in Jamestown, we are not even the oldest Lutheran church in Jamestown, but we have had a faith filled community worshipping at Bethel since it began 100 years ago.

Tradition is an important part of what makes Bethel Lutheran the church that it is. Our faith is based on the Word of God, in both the Old and New Testaments. That is foundational. Our faith was further defined in the 16th century when Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses on the door of All Saints' Church in Wittenburg, Germany, the church affiliated with the University of Wittenburg where Luther was the professor of moral theology.

The emphasis of Lutherans since his day has been upon grace as contrasted with works, especially works of the law. For me personally, the key has been a passage from the letter of the Apostle Paul to the church in Ephesus, one of the churches that Paul helped establish. In Ephesians, chapter 2 verses 8 and following, we read, "...by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast (NRSV)."

It is understood by Lutherans that we are born sinners in need of salvation.

It is also understood that there is no way that we could ever do enough good (works) to counter our sinful nature and be reconciled to a perfect God. It is simply by the grace of God that we are saved through faith. And our faith is simply the faith to receive this precious gift of God who reconciles us to Godself through the person and work of Jesus Christ. And since it is simply a matter of receiving this gift from God, there is nothing for us to boast about.

Some have misconstrued this emphasis on grace to mean that we need do nothing else, but in the same passage from the letter to the Ephesians reminds us, "For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life (NRSV)." While we don't have to do anything to receive salvation, why wouldn't we want to do the good works that God has prepared for us to do as children of God?

This is the faith that has come down to us today as members of Bethel Lutheran Church. And along with our faithfulness to the New Testament tradition as expressed so well by the Apostle Paul, we also celebrate with a traditional liturgy of prayers, Scripture reading, preaching, and most importantly Holy Communion which we celebrate on the first Sunday of every month along with special Sundays throughout the church year like Reformation Sunday which celebrates our faith as Lutherans on the last Sunday in October. Indeed, faith matters.

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.

100th Anniversary  
Congratulations to  
Bethel Lutheran Church for  
celebrating 100 years in faithful  
service to the Jamestown  
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Falconer Teens Participated in Earth Day Youth Summit Focused on Tobacco Litter



Submitted Photos

Falconer students Abigail Rexroad, Finley Darr and Lilli Szal-Williams joined youth from tobacco control and prevention organizations from across Western New York and the Finger Lakes to learn the environmental impact of tobacco products and the tobacco industry’s manipulative and deceptive marketing tactics that attract and addict youth to nicotine.



“Tobacco doesn’t just negatively impact our health, it also endangers our environment,” said Abby Rexroad, a student at Falconer High School who attended the Youth Summit. “Tobacco including vapes (e-cigarettes) waste makes its way into the environment and pollutes water, air and land with toxic chemicals.”



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# Zonta Club of Jamestown Makes Donation to ANEW Center



Submitted Photo

Major Kim Merchant from the Salvation Army accepts a donation from the Zonta Club of Jamestown member Roberta Anderson for the ANEW Center. The ANEW Center is Chautauqua County’s domestic violence and rape crisis program that empowers individuals and the community to end violence and begin anew.

# Chautauqua County Office for Aging Services Launches 2025 Spring Health Initiative to Support Community Wellness



Submitted Photo

New Health Kits, Vital Sign Monitoring Tools, and Vaccine Awareness Efforts Underway

Article Contributed by

Justin Gould

Media Information Officer  
Chautauqua County Government

The Chautauqua County Office for Aging Services (CCOFAS), through a partnership with USAging and the Aging and Disability Vaccine Collaboration (ADVC) grant, is offering free Spring Health Kits designed to help individuals monitor vital signs and communicate effectively with healthcare providers.

Additionally, the initiative includes vaccine education, community outreach, and preparations for the 2025 flu clinics—all part of a broader effort to promote preventative healthcare and reduce medical risks for older adults and vulnerable populations.

“We have worked to offer onsite vaccinations, share information, and provide access to local resources that people can rely on to manage their health,” said Chautauqua County Office for Aging Services Director Dana Corwin. “Our goal is to help the community understand the various services, programs, and benefits available, our mission is to guide, connect, and advocate for services and supports to help older adults remain in our community.”

The ADVC grant was brought to Chautauqua County by USAging, with the initial campaign titled “You’ve Got This.” The following year, USAging received the Immunization Neighborhood Champion Award from the National Adult and Influenza Immunization Summit (NAIIS).

“Through this grant, we have been able to provide over 5,000 vaccines to individuals over the age of 18, with a significant focus on older adults and those with disabilities and caregiving needs,” said Corwin.

The Chautauqua County Office for Aging Services (CCOFAS) has partnered with local senior housing facilities, local cable television shows, community centers, independent pharmacies, commercial pharmacies, and the Chautauqua Center to deliver critical seasonal flu and vaccine information. This collaboration aims to help individuals understand the risks and benefits of receiving vaccinations to protect their health.

“Many diseases—such as diabetes, heart disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, strokes, and infections (including pneumonia caused by bacteria or viruses like influenza, COVID-19, and RSV)—can significantly affect health,” explained Dr. Michael Faulk, Chautauqua County’s Chief Medical Officer. “A strong public health approach, community involvement, and healthcare led preventative efforts can reduce medical visits, medications, expensive hospitalizations and the overall burden of healthcare costs in our county.”

Chautauqua County Office for Aging Services is pleased to offer the 2025 Spring Health Kits to anyone over the age of 18, who has a health situation that may need monitoring of vital signs to aid in communicating with their health care practitioner. The kit contains a flier for all recommended vaccines for your health, a wrist blood pressure cuff, a digital thermometer, a pulse oximeter that measures blood oxygen levels, and a 32-ounce reusable CHQ AGING water bottle to remind everyone to stay hydrated when feeling ill, tissue pack, and pill box.

CCOFAS has 500 kits available. They will be distributed to all three of offices located in Mayville, Dunkirk, and Jamestown, New York. They will be available on April 21, 2025, at each of these offices for a first come first served until they are all gone. CCOFAS staff will collect your name and basic information.

“Planning for 2025 Flu clinics is underway to make getting your annual Flu vaccine easy for our older adults, caregivers, and front-line workers in our community,” said Corwin. “You’ve got this and Chautauqua County Office for Aging Services has you. Stay healthy and well- take care of yourselves.”

This project is supported by the Administration for Community Living (ACL, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)) through USAging as part of a financial assistance award to USAging totaling \$74,999,835 with 100 percent funding by ACL/HHS. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official view of, nor an endorsement, by USAging, ACL/ HHS or the U.S. Government.

# Chautauqua County to Host Annual Workers Memorial Service

Article Contributed by

Justin Gould

Media Information Officer  
Chautauqua County Government

On Saturday, May 3, 2025, Chautauqua County will once again pay tribute to the men and women who have lost their lives or been injured while on the job during the 24th Annual Workers Memorial Program. The solemn event will take place at 11:00 a.m. at Erlandson Overview Park, located at 465 Oak Hill Road in Frewsburg, NY.

This year's gathering holds added significance, as 2025 marks the 25th anniversary of this annual remembrance event (the 2020 ceremony was canceled due to the pandemic, making this the 24th held gathering). The program is organized each year by the Chautauqua County Workers’ Memorial Committee, which remains committed to honoring those who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving their communities.

This year’s keynote speaker will be New York State Senator George Borrello, representing New York State’s 57th Senate District. A lifelong Chautauqua County resident and advocate for workers and families, Senator Borrello brings a personal understanding and deep appreciation for the contributions of working people across the region.

“We invite all community members to attend and remember our friends, co-workers, and loved ones who were

injured or killed while simply doing their jobs,” said Chautauqua County Executive Paul M. Wendel Jr. “This is a day to reflect on their lives and reaffirm our commitment to safer workplaces.”

The Chautauqua County Workers Memorial Site at Erlandson Park serves as a lasting tribute to “all” Chautauqua County workers who have been injured or killed on the job. The site features the Workers Memorial Gazebo, a Memorial Monument, and a Brick Walkway inscribed with names of those lost.

This collaborative project is made possible through the ongoing support of the Jamestown Area Central Labor Council, Dunkirk Area Central Labor Council, Chautauqua County Government, Chautauqua County Parks Commission, and numerous generous sponsors and contributors.

During this year's ceremony, a special dedication will also be held for members of the Workers’ Memorial Committee who have passed away and whose dedication helped shape the memorial into what it is today.

All are welcome to attend and take part in this meaningful tribute. For those unable to join in person, the event will be livestreamed on Chautauqua County’s official YouTube page.

Let us remember the dead – and fight for the living.



Kentucky Derby Watch Party



Submitted Photo

Pat Cook, Ann O'Dell, and Barbara Kent

Article Contributed by

Linda Spaulding

Mayville/Chautauqua Lion's Club

A Kentucky Derby Watch Party will be held at 5:30 pm on Saturday, May 3, 2025, at the Mayville VFW Post 8647. The Mayville/Chautauqua Lions Club will host the event which will include a wide screen TV, a special Derby style buffet, and a prize for the best hat. A \$20 donation at the door and a 50/50 raffle will help the Lions support a local Veterans group dealing with stress related issues.

Last year our Derby Party was a great success. Folks dressed in bright colors and cheered on their favorite horses with friends while enjoying a full buffet including chicken wings, salads, fried shrimp and cupcakes. Coffee, tea and

water will be provided. This year, remember that outfit creativity is the key - so anything goes. To enhance the excitement, non-alcoholic and alcoholic beverages can be purchased from the bar including special Mint Juleps.

All proceeds will be donated to the Dwyer Peer Support program that helps Veterans cope with the effects of PTSD & TBI. It is a confidential program, created in 2013, that allows Veterans to meet with other Veterans in a secure comfortable atmosphere without fear of reprisal.

So, come and join us for fun and excitement watching the 151st Kentucky Derby. Wear your wide brimmed hat and embrace vibrant colors. It will be a day to just have fun. We can't wait to see you there.

Miracles near Cherry Creek

Drabble by John Brantingham

Today's miracle is that last night's rain melted the snow. All that water flowed downhill until the marsh flooded all the way up to where I stand at the side of the road, little waves lapping my shoes and the call of a heron echoing off tree trunks around me. Today's miracle is the tiny rings of raindrops on the surface of the marsh and the dance they make in my eyes. Today's miracle is me, here, in this place thinking about rain and herons and marshes. Today's miracle is the living now, seeing the moment for what it is.

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

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SUDOKU

4								
	9			8	1			
					3		1	6
	1	7						
			5		6			
					4		2	5
				2	5			
	2					1	8	
	3		4		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	
								11				12		
13	14							15				16		17 18
19							20			21	22			
23										24				
				25						26				
27	28	29								30			31	32 33
34													35	
36				37	38	39	40			41	42	43	44	
				45						46				
47	48	49								50				51 52 53
54										55				
56								57	58				59	
													62	
				60				61						
				63				64					65	

CLUES ACROSS

1. English TV station  
4. It fuels cars  
7. Where ships dock (abbr.)  
10. Indigenous people of Thailand  
11. Midway between northeast and east  
12. Small Milky Way constellation  
13. Fritz \_\_, Austrian chemist  
15. A Brit's grandmother  
16. Colombian city  
19. Visualize  
21. Charged  
23. People's assets  
24. Informative books  
25. Jeer  
26. You can do it with your horn  
27. Agents of your downfall  
30. Central Uganda city  
34. Supervises flying
35. Type of tree  
36. Alfalfa  
41. Dishwasher soap brand  
45. Hall where military eats  
46. Ancient Greek City  
47. Speaks incessantly  
50. Discuss again  
54. Extreme greed  
55. Adopt or support  
56. Fantasy writer Russell  
57. Seize  
59. Early Mesoamerican civilization  
60. Noted pet detective Ventura  
61. Automobile  
62. Georgia rockers  
63. Color opposite green  
64. Amount of time  
65. Attempt

CLUES DOWN

1. Sheep sound  
2. Some can be emotional  
3. Inflammation of colon lining  
4. Origins  
5. Comedienne Gasteyer  
6. Perceived by the senses  
7. A place to play ball  
8. Occur before  
9. Animal body parts  
13. Thanksgiving dessert  
14. Root mean square (abbr.)  
17. 1960s teen idol Bobby  
18. Promotional materials  
20. One point east of northeast  
22. Piers Anthony protagonist  
27. Popular sports league  
28. Cologne  
29. Partner to cheese
31. Constrictor snake  
32. Not good  
33. Supplement with difficulty  
37. Hug with fondness  
38. Enforced again  
39. Small amount of time (abbr.)  
40. Substance  
41. Anterior parts of the brain  
42. Brews  
43. Where ships load cargo  
44. Holiday season singer  
47. " \_\_ humbug!"  
48. Monetary unit of Macao  
49. Popular children's book elephant  
51. Glutinous  
52. Function  
53. Old world, new  
58. Swiss river



# Butch Gutknecht Benefit

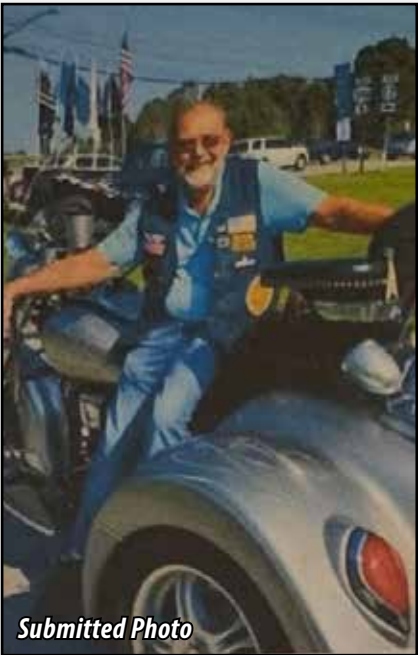
Brothers By Choice, in collaboration with the family of Butch Gutknecht, is hosting a Spaghetti Dinner Benefit to support Butch on May 18, 2025, at the Celoron Legion, 26 Jackson Avenue, Jamestown, NY 14701.

Butch Gutknecht has always been there to help others and now the community is coming together in support of him. Butch has faced significant health challenges, including the removal of part of his lung. Recently, he received the devastating diagnosis of Stage 4 non-small cell lung cancer – Adenocarcinoma following tests at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center in Buffalo. As he and his family navigate this difficult journey, they are in need of financial assistance to help cover mounting medical and living expenses.

The success of this benefit depends on contributions from generous sponsors. Donations not only support Butch but also serve as an excellent promotional opportunity for businesses. Contributions can be made in the following forms:

- Physical merchandise
- Food or baked goods donations
- Gift certificates for products and services
- Monetary donations

A basket auction will also be held during the benefit. Those interested in



donating a basket are asked to submit them by May 16, 2025. Baskets can be dropped off at 27 Lovell Avenue, Jamestown, or mailed to Amanda Echard, 1392 Route 394, Falconer, NY 14733. Arrangements for pickup can also be made.

Checks can be made payable to Robert Gutknecht c/o Linda or Jay Gutknecht and mailed to 1356 Keller Road, Warren, PA 16365.

For more information or to arrange a donation, please contact Linda and Jay Gutknecht at 814-730-2283 or 814-706-1350 or Amanda Echard at 716-450-9800.

# Chautauqua Striders 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Golf Scramble May 16



Article Contributed by  
**Kaitlyn Bowen-Burns**  
Director of Communications  
and Development  
Chautauqua Striders

Chautauqua Striders is thrilled to announce the 33rd Annual Golf Scramble, set to take place on Friday, May 16, 2025, at South Hills Country Club in Jamestown, NY. This premier fundraising event supports the organization's mission to provide academic, athletic, mentoring, and social-emotional development programs for youth across Chautauqua County.

The day's schedule includes:

- **8:00 AM** – Registration, coffee, and breakfast
- **9:00 AM** – Shotgun start
- **2:00 PM** – Food, drinks, and awards ceremony

Participants can look forward to a variety of on-course challenges, including four hole-in-one opportunities with high-stake prizes, as well as contests for longest drive and closest to the pin. Additional festivities feature a 50/50 raffle, basket raffle, silent auction, and more. Complimentary beer, food, and snacks will be available at the turn, with a full bar inside. All golfers will receive giveaway items.

Team registration is priced at \$400, which includes a foursome, cart, breakfast, beverages, food, snacks, and a chance to win prizes. An optional Bonus Play Package is available for \$100, offering 2 red

tees, 4 mulligans, 40 raffle tickets for the 50/50 cash drawing, and 40 raffle tickets for gift baskets.

Sponsorship opportunities are also available:

- **Eagle Sponsor (\$2,000):** Includes 2 teams of four golfers, hole sponsorship, social media recognition, and business logo displayed on banner, website, press release, and giveaway items.
- **Birdie Sponsor (\$1,000):** Includes 1 team of four golfers, hole sponsorship, social media recognition, and business logo displayed on signage, website, and press release.
- **Par Sponsor (\$750):** Includes 1 team of four golfers, social media recognition, and business logo displayed on signage and website.
- **Hole Sponsor (\$150):** Business logo displayed at one hole and on the website.
- **Friends of Striders Donation:** Recognition on the website.

Chautauqua Striders is also seeking basket raffle and silent auction donations from local businesses.

Proceeds from the event will benefit Chautauqua Striders' programs.

For more information, to register a team, or to become a sponsor, please visit [chqstriders.org/golf-scramble](http://chqstriders.org/golf-scramble) or contact Lexi Lindamer, Director of Athletics, at [lexi@chqstriders.org](mailto:lexi@chqstriders.org) or (716) 489-3481.

# HOME & GARDEN Trivia

1. What common household item was originally called a “carpet sweeper”?
2. What is the most popular color for front doors in America?
3. Which U.S. state has the highest percentage of single-family homes?
4. What was the first home appliance to be powered by electricity?
5. What is the common household vegetable is also a flower?
6. What is the fastest-growing plant in the world?
7. What is the most commonly grown vegetable in U.S. home gardens?
8. What chemical in grass causes the “fresh-cut lawn” smell?
9. What is the only fruit with seeds on the outside?
10. What gardening tool was invented in 1814 by Joseph Whitworth?

1. The vacuum cleaner 2. Black 3. Idaho 4. The iron (1882) 5. Broccoli (GLV) 6. Tomatoes 7. Bamboo (up to 35 inches a day) 8. Green leaf volatiles 9. The strawberry 10. The lawnmower

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Home & Garden

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

impact. Feeling bold? Try a statement color or even wallpaper on an accent wall to bring that seasonal energy indoors.

Outdoor Living, Elevated

Create an inviting space with updated patio furniture, weather-resistant pillows, and string lights. If you're dreaming of a stone patio or a fire pit to gather around, **Stone & Outdoor Living** has natural stone for hardscaping, while **Kingsview Paving & Excavating** can handle your driveway refreshes or new walkways. Add a water feature or wind chime for ambiance—or if you're prepping a garden, **Troyer's Greenhouse** and **Haff Acres Farm** are local go-tos for plants and nursery supplies. And for fresh-cut flowers or farm-fresh produce to brighten up your outdoor gatherings, **Peterson Farm** is a must-visit.

Brighten Up Indoors

Houseplants aren't just trendy, they boost air quality and your mood. Swap heavy drapes for sheer curtains to let in more light, or refresh your floors with new carpet or hardwood from **Moran's Floor Store**, which also offers furniture and window upgrades. If your windows themselves need replacing, **B & H Windows** and **Grant Lumber** (with brands like Simonton) have energy-efficient options. And if spring cleaning uncovers a junk pile, **Storer's**

**Container Service** can handle trash removal or even excavation for bigger projects.

Tackle Those "Someday" Projects

Declutter closets, pantries, or the garage—then donate items or host a yard sale. If you're finally ready for an add-on or kitchen remodel, **Stone Hill Homes** has you covered with renovations, in addition to their complete custom builds. Need a land survey before breaking ground? **White Land Surveying** can help. For appliance upgrades, **Acme the Appliance Store** offers everything from refrigerators to washing machines, and while you're picking up a new vacuum or Amish Polywood furniture from **Falconer Vac Shack**, you can also get quick and inexpensive screen repair services at the same time! And let's not forget the essentials—**Ehmke Well Drillers** ensures your water supply is solid, while **Hometown Flooring** in North East, PA can help you upgrade your home with immaculate new flooring and second-to-none installation. Spring is all about new beginnings, and your home is the perfect place to start. Whether you're sprucing up the garden, refreshing your interiors, or finally tackling that big project, these ideas—and local businesses—can help your home bloom beautifully this season. Enjoy the spring energy!

Ron McEntire Memorial Organ Concert

Article Contributed by

St. Lukes Episcopal Church

The public is invited to a wonderful organ concert. Organist Judy Congdon will present this concert on FRIDAY, MAY 2, 6:30 PM, at St. Luke's Episcopal Church (401 N. Main Street, Jamestown NY), entitled "Memories of Ron McEntire in Music." This concert is sponsored by the Mozart Club of Jamestown and St. Luke's Episcopal Church. There is no charge for the concert; instead, a free-will offering will be taken to thank the musician. Ron McEntire, a talented musician and exceptional human being, served during his final years, as Organist/Director of Music at St. Luke's Church. He was responsible for restoring, revoicing, and adding digital upgrades to their Aeolian-Skinner 1957 organ, on which Dr. Congdon will perform. Prior to St. Luke's, Ron served as Organist at Christ First United Methodist Church for nine years while he traveled back and forth to Houghton College for his master's degree studies. Dr. Congdon was Ron's organ teacher at Houghton University as he fulfilled his lifelong dream of completing a Master of Music degree in organ following his retirement from a financial services career. The program will include works by J. S. Bach and Cesar Franck that Ron played during his final decade, along with works by several American composers that capture aspects of Ron's life and ministry.

Judy Congdon has served since 1991 as Professor of Organ and



Dr. Judy Congdon

College Organist at Houghton University (formerly Houghton College) in Houghton, NY. Her present and former students include many successful church musicians and music educators, now leading their own thriving music programs. She has two doctorates, one in Organ Performance and Literature (Eastman School of Music) and one in Worship Studies (Robert Weber Institute). In addition to her teaching duties, Dr. Congdon has served as a church organist/music director for over 45 years, has been a speaker at several conferences, and has had a rich performance career. She has been a featured performer on five CD's.

Mozart Club of Jamestown is the oldest surviving music club in New York State, formed in 1879 by Governor Fenton's daughter and friends. Its goals include providing music scholarships for promising area High School Seniors, offering a venue for area musicians to perform, and allowing members, guests, and, on occasions such as this, the public, to enjoy good music. Musicians and music lovers are invited to join Mozart Club. (<https://www.mozartclub.org>)

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# Hawkins Awarded Esteemed Goldwater Scholarship



Sydney Hawkins at a microscope in the Science Center.

Article Contributed by

**Lisa G. Eikenburg, APR**

Associate Director of Marketing and Communications / Assistant Editor, Fredonia Statement

State University of New York at Fredonia junior Biology major Sydney Hawkins has been awarded a prestigious \$7,500 Goldwater scholarship for the 2025-2026 academic year.

Ms. Hawkins is one of just 441 college students chosen from a nationwide pool of 1,350 students for the Barry M. Goldwater scholarship.

Like more than half of recipients, Hawkins, a graduate of Chautauqua Lake Central School, intends to pursue a research career in the life sciences. Students majoring in engineering, mathematics and computer science were also represented among successful scholarship recipients. Virtually all plan to obtain doctorates.

Hawkins is the second SUNY Fredonia student to receive a Goldwater scholarship.

Hawkins will enter her senior year at SUNY Fredonia having completed successive summer research internships working alongside

Visiting Assistant Professor Allison Hrycik in the study of harmful algal blooms in Chautauqua Lake.

The first internship investigated the relationship between benthic and pelagic algae in the lake. Hawkins was offered a co-authorship on Hrycik's pending publication of the study. During the second internship, Hawkins calculated the biovolume of the cyanobacteria *Gloeotrichia echinulata*, a prominent harmful algal bloom component in the lake.

Both internship placements were part of the Jefferson Project, a multi-year program affiliated with the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute that examines water quality and harmful algal blooms in that lake and other bodies of fresh water.

Hawkins is currently evaluating results of that research in the lab of Dr. Courtney Wigdahl-Perry of the Department of Biology. She will present findings from that research at the Student Research and Creativity Expo on May 1 on campus. Her career goal is to become a research scientist at a university and also teach at that level.

Hawkins initially learned about the Goldwater scholarship program in a STEM seminar as part of the SUNY Fredonia Honors Program.

# National Superhero Day



Contributing Writer

**Ryan Chambers-Leonard**

Chautauqua Gazette's Student Journalist

When someone says "Superhero," you probably think of Spider-Man, Batman or even Leonardo from Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. Honestly, same here. Yet every year, "National Superhero Day" rolls around- and I'm reminded how large of an umbrella the term "superhero" really is. It includes *far* more than just superheroes; such as first responders, healthcare professionals and educators. I have to imagine it feels pretty good to be compared to someone like Spider-Man.

Nevertheless, I would be willing to bet that a lot of youth don't really know why those people are compared to fictional wonders. Hear me out for a minute: think about how *terrifying* some of the things are that members of our community do *daily*. Doctors that operate on patients in life or death scenarios, firemen who literally *run down* fires as if they're in the NFL, and teachers who have to try and explain math or grammar to exhausted teenagers. All things that a lot of us wouldn't have the guts to do ourselves. To me, being a "hero" is simply the act of self-sacrifice for the benefit of your community. While being "simple," it's an incredibly difficult thing to do. Not to mention the *years* of schooling or training you need for most of these jobs.

On the other hand, I would make a very strong argument for the importance of fictional heroes even into our adult years. While the concept of adults enjoying superheroes has been somewhat stigmatized in the last few decades (thanks social media), they're one of the driving forces for real life superheroes of any kind. Remember as a kid, when you would find a character and say, "They kind of remind me of myself," or "I want to be like them when I grow up?" Well, I'm happy to tell you that this can be *exactly* what inspires people to foster a desire to help others when they grow up. The way I see it, why should we judge others

for holding onto that joy and inspiration when they get older? I've adored the *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* book series since I was barely waist high to my sister, who also introduced the series to me. Yet, I still adore *Percy Jackson* as if I'm still that same young kid. Even in *his* own series, Percy is criticized for his "fatal flaw," which is noted to be "excessive personal loyalty." In other words, he would potentially sacrifice the objective in order to save those he cares about. Even though literal *gods* criticized Percy for this, I always admired him for it. My takeaway has *always* been that Percy's growth throughout the series was solely due to his compassion for others, and I have always tried to apply that to my own life. Percy was *my* (along with many others) inspiration growing up, and is one of a million potential inspirations. Superheroes can offer *truly* valuable life lessons, so here's your reminder *not* to shun your childhood favorites as you get older.

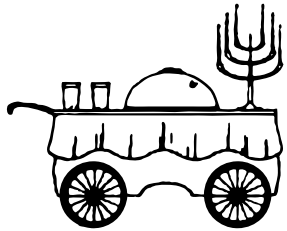
In any case, if you were wondering who to thank for this day, you can thank the Marvel Comics staff from 1995. Surprisingly recent, but from a particularly unsurprising source. With the Marvel Cinematic Universe generating around \$31 Billion in the box office, and the DC Extended Universe generating about \$7 billion, it's not a reach to say the age of fictional superheroes is still going very strong. While you can't *literally* support the aforementioned fictional superheroes, there are plenty of people in your local community you *can* actively support. The people who served as inspiration for you when you were younger, and those who serve as inspiration for our youth now. The teachers, firemen, doctors and nurses, and so many more. Without them- we wouldn't have the wonderful community that we do.

**Editorial note:** Among our impressive team of volunteer writers includes Ryan Chambers-Leonard. At only 16-years-old, this Chautauqua County student writes well beyond his years and takes great care to research interesting topics for our readers. We are proud to showcase his talents.

*"The glory of gardening: hands in the dirt, head in the sun, heart with nature. To nurture a garden is to feed not just the body, but the soul."*

- Alfred Austin





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## Opera House Presents Two Events this Weekend



Submitted Photos

Le Nozze di Figaro

Article Contributed by

**Rick Davis**

Executive Director  
1891 Fredonia Opera House  
Performing Arts Center

The 1891 Fredonia Opera House Performing Arts Center presents two events this coming weekend. These are the Live at the Met transmission of Wolfgang Mozart's opera, *Le Nozze di Figaro*, on Sat., May 3, at 1 p.m., and the new film "The Friend," starring Bill Murray and Naomi Watts, on Sat., May 3, and Tues., May 6, at 7:30 p.m.

Live at the Met is an award-winning series of live, high-definition opera transmissions to theaters around the world from NYC's Metropolitan Opera as they are happening live on the Met Stage. Mozart's timeless comedy, *Le Nozze di Figaro*, returns to the Met as Conductor Joana Mallwitz, in her Met debut, takes the podium to conduct a stellar ensemble cast that includes American bass-baritone Michael Sumuel as the clever valet Figaro, Ukrainian soprano Olga Kulchynska as the wily maid Susanna, Canadian baritone Joshua Hopkins as the skirt-chasing Count, Italian soprano Federica Lombardi as his anguished wife, and French mezzo-soprano Sun-Ly Pierce as the adolescent page Cherubino.

*Le Nozze di Figaro* is a remarkable marriage of Mozart's music at the height of his genius and one of the best libretti ever set. The production runs three hours, 45 minutes, with one intermission.

In "The Friend," writer and teacher Iris (Watts) finds her comfortable, solitary New York life thrown into disarray after her closest friend and mentor (Murray) dies suddenly and bequeaths her his beloved 150 lb. Great Dane. The regal yet intractable beast, named Apollo, immediately creates practical problems for Iris, from furniture destruction to eviction notices, as well as more existential ones, his looming presence constantly reminding her of her friend's problematic choices in both life and death. Yet as Iris finds herself unexpectedly bonding with



The Friend

the animal, she begins to come to terms with her past, her lost friend, and her own creative inner life.

The *Detroit News* calls the film "rich and emotionally complex; and it's insightful about the relationships in our lives, both of the human and dog variety." Rated R for language, and a sexual reference, "The Friend" runs two hours, three minutes.

Live at the Met is part of *Arts in the Afternoon* at the Opera House, which is sponsored by Dr. James M. & Marcia Merrin; Live at the Met is underwritten with support from Daniel S. Kaufman and Timothy W. Beaver. The Opera House Cinema Series is sponsored by Lake Shore Savings.

For more information or for tickets, visit [www.fredopera.org](http://www.fredopera.org) anytime, or visit or call the Box Office at 716-679-1891, T-F, noon-4:30pm.

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).

*Arts in the Afternoon*

The Metropolitan Opera **LIVE**

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MOZART  
**LE NOZZE DI FIGARO**

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# Heritage Ministries Announces the Return of Annual Golf Classic

Article Contributed by  
Heritage Ministries

Heritage Ministries, the largest trusted provider of skilled nursing care in Chautauqua County, of therapy, memory care, rehabilitation, assisted living, and independent living, is thrilled to announce the anticipated return of its annual Golf Classic. After a brief hiatus, the cherished event is back, promising a day of camaraderie, competition, and community support.

The 2025 Heritage Golf Classic will take place July 25, 2025, at Blueberry Hill Golf Club in Russell, PA. This event, a long-standing tradition for Heritage Ministries, brings together residents, families, staff, and community partners for a day of fun on the greens, all while raising vital funds to support the organization's mission of providing compassionate care to seniors.

"We are overjoyed to bring back our Golf Classic," said Lisa Haglund, President and CEO of Heritage Ministries. "This event is more than just a day of golf; it's a celebration of community and a testament to the support that allows us to continue providing care to our residents. We are grateful for the enthusiasm and support we've received in the past from our sponsors and participants, and hope that they will come alongside us this summer."

The Golf Classic will feature:



- **18 Holes of Championship Golf:** Enjoy a challenging and scenic course perfect for golfers of all skill levels.
- **Contests and Prizes:** Participate in various competitions, including longest drive, closest to the pin, and more.
- **Delicious Food and Refreshments:** Enjoy a BBQ lunch and refreshments.
- **Networking Opportunities:** Connect with community members, business leaders, and Heritage supporters.

Funds raised through the Golf Classic will directly benefit resident activities, facility enhancements, and charitable care. These funds play a crucial role in enhancing the quality of life for seniors residing within Heritage Ministries communities.

Sponsorship opportunities are still available, offering businesses and individuals the chance to showcase their commitment to supporting seniors. For more information on sponsorship packages or to register for the event, please visit [www.heritage1886.org/golf](http://www.heritage1886.org/golf).

"We invite everyone to join us for a day of fun and philanthropy," added Pastor Leecroft Clark, Director of Pastoral Care. "The surrounding community's participation will make a significant difference in the lives of the seniors we serve."

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Bemus is Blooming Returns May 3-4 to Celebrate the Start of Spring A Village-Wide Open House in Bemus Point

Article Contributed by Kelley Marker Bemus Point Business Association

Spring is in the air and Bemus Point is officially back in action. Bemus is Blooming returns May 3 and 4 with a full village-wide open house to celebrate the start of the season. This isn't just one event—it's a whole weekend of fresh arrivals, local flavor, and that lakeside energy we've all been waiting for.

Shops are reopening, patios are buzzing, and specials are popping up all over town. Skillmans is stocked with new Spring 2025 collections and offering up to 75% off select items from last year. Petals & Twigs Gifts and Children's Shoppe is reopening for the season with in-store discounts, while Bemus Point Pottery is celebrating their opening weekend with spring sales and a free gift with purchase. Over at Lakeside Arts & Furniture, you'll find refurbished furniture, local art, and Tuscan Take & Make kits to bring home a little flavor. Alpacaville is hosting "Paca Stories" and letting kids plant their own flowers in paca soil—perfect for families and absolutely photo-worthy.

Several village favorites are opening their doors for special tours and experiences. The Lawson Center will be open both days from 11 to 3, showcasing their brand new line of branded merchandise. The Bemus Point Historical Society is open Saturday from 11 to 3 for those wanting a peek into the past. The fire hall will be open Saturday too, serving up grilled hot dogs with signature firehouse sauces, chips, and swag for the kids. The Bemus Point Volunteer Fire Department is raising funds for new gear, so come hungry and help support a great cause. You can also enter their raffle for a chance to win \$250 in grocery gift cards. Splash Suites is giving guests a look inside their lakeside accommodations, and The Landing is hosting a rare open house for the public to explore their private club grounds.

Dining is where things really get fun! Bemus Point Golf Club & Tap House is going big with Cinco de Mayo specials, a Saturday Derby Party from 5 to 9, and Sunday Brunch from 10

to 1. Guppy's is back with their 6th Annual Mexican Madness, featuring Coconut Shrimp Tacos with Mango Salsa, \$8 Margaritas and Mojitos, and \$6 Tequila Lemon Drops. The Green Door Tavern kicks off Derby Day at 4 on Saturday and follows it up with a full Sunday Funday of backyard games, league signups, and food and drink specials.

Lake Life Café is serving seasonal Iced Honey Lattes with Lavender Cold Foam and inviting guests to build their own bouquets at the Blooming Flower Cart. The Bemus Point Inn is open for the season with breakfast served all day and \$6 mimosas. Ellicottville Brewing is back too, launching new menu items and offering Saturday brunch. Over at 14 Main, food and drink specials are running all weekend, while Splash is back with a refreshed menu, specialty cocktails, and those famous lake views. Village Casino is serving Mahi Mahi Tacos, Strawberry Salad, and \$3 Drunken Bean shots. And Coppola's is right in the center of it all, ready with pizza and wings whenever you need a bite.

Don't miss a stop at Bemus Point Market to check out their upgraded outdoor seating and choose from over 40 Perry's Ice Cream flavors. And while you're walking the village, swing into The Happy Cow for their grand opening—tastings, giveaways, frozen yogurt, and springtime treats await. One of Bemus Point's newest businesses, The Illustrious Order of Makesmiths (located at 6 Main Street) isn't quite open yet, but they'll be giving sneak peeks to those curious enough to stop by.

Whether you're here for the Derby hats, brunch cocktails, ice cream by the lake, or just the joy of seeing familiar doors open again, there's something blooming for everyone in Bemus.

Follow along on Facebook and Instagram for updated specials throughout the weekend. Details at visitbemuspoint.com

For more information, updates, or to get involved, visit www.visitbemuspoint.com/events/bemus-is-blooming-2025/ or follow @visitbemuspoint on social media.

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# Chautauqua County Health Department Turns 60



Submitted Photos

Current Chautauqua County Health Department staff



Dr. Lyle D. Franzen  
Chautauqua County's first Public Health Commissioner

Article Contributed by

**Justin Gould**

Media Information Officer  
Chautauqua County Government

Chautauqua County recognizes another major public health milestone in 2025. Last month we shared that 100 years ago, in 1925, the County hired its first public health nurse. As we continue celebrating public health in Chautauqua County on the cusp of National Public Health Week April 7-13, 2025, we announce the 60th anniversary of the formation of the Chautauqua County Department of Health (CCDOH).

“We are excited to celebrate this milestone and applaud our predecessors for paving the way to improve health outcomes in Chautauqua County,” states Chautauqua County’s Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Michael Faulk. “I am proud to serve alongside some of the most professional, passionate, and dedicated public health staff, who truly are doing amazing work in our county. We are also fortunate to have many community partners including local hospitals, health centers, doctor’s offices, and agencies with similar goals of improving the public’s health, all working together to protect and promote the health of all people in our community.”

County Executive Wendel emphasized the significant strides made in public health, saying, “I am honored to live in a community with so many agencies working together to improve the health of its residents. Chautauqua County is stronger than ever and I am equally excited for this opportunity to highlight some of those accomplishments by diving into the local history of public health. Today we celebrate the Chautauqua County

Health Department and applaud our partners for their unwavering commitment to work together to improve the health of our county.”

The County began official steps to formalize the new department in August of 1964 upon the recommendation of a special study committee formed in 1960, the County Board of Supervisors voted to establish a County Health District. With the subsequent approval of the cities of Jamestown and Dunkirk, the Board of Supervisors named a nine member Board of Health to supervise the operations of the newly created Department of Health.

On November 12, 1964, the Board of Health appointed Dr. Lyle D. Franzen to serve as the County’s first Health Commissioner to lead the newly formed Department of Health.

The department officially began operations on January 1, 1965 with central offices in Mayville and branches in Dunkirk and Jamestown. Public Health personnel previously assigned by the county to local

health district responsibilities were reorganized within the CCDOH, and additional staff were added for a total of 26 professionals. Local health districts and officers continued to function during the initial stages of the reorganization to ensure maintenance of service levels.

The Chautauqua County Sanitary Code was adopted on February 18, 1965, by the Board of Health. The local code allowed the county to set public health standards by way of rules and regulations not listed in the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) sanitary code.

Chautauqua County was the 25th county in New York State to organize a County Department of Health. Establishing the CCDOH created some financial advantages for the county. The department’s budget for 1965 totaled \$372,611. Under previous arrangements, health districts within the county were primarily funded locally. The formation of the new CCDOH allowed the county to receive state reimbursement at a rate of 50 percent.

Chautauqua County Public Health Commissioner/Director	Term Served
Dr. Lyle D. Franzen .....	1967-1973
Dr. Lionel L. Richardson .....	1973-1974
Dr. Luis Suarez .....	1973-1974
Dr. Arnold F. Mazur .....	1974-1976
Dr. Sidney Finkelstein .....	1976-1981
Dr. Ronald Passafaro .....	1976-1981
Dr. Robert Berke .....	1982-2008
Christine Schuyler .....	2009-2022
Dr. Michael W. Faulk .....	2022-2023
Lacey Keefer Wilson .....	2024-present

In 1970, the Hall R. Clothier Building, labeled as the Health and Social Services Building, was complete at a cost of \$2.2M. The CCDOH took home to this building on the fourth floor, where it remains to this day. A tuberculosis clinic was located in the basement level and other offices were occupied by Social Services, Mental Health, Veteran’s Service Agency, and Radio Shop.

Since the consolidation of health related functions, the number of programs, services, and the personnel to run them have all grown. In 1977, the CCDOH was responsible for health law enforcement, disease surveillance, and health education, in addition to providing conventional health services, and the list of environmental health programs lengthened to two dozen with the notable addition of duties related to maintaining ambient air quality standards for the county. Furthermore, in 1977, the CCDOH expended nearly \$1.8M and employed eighty-five people in attending to the health needs of county residents.

The NYSDOH requires county health departments employ a Public Health Commissioner or Director. As one can imagine, over 60 years, a number of Commissioners and Directors have served in this roll.

Dr. Berke remarkably served as Public Health Commissioner in Chautauqua County for 26 years. During his tenure with the CCDOH came many noteworthy milestones and events in public health. In a recent interview



Chautauqua Physical and Occupational Therapy  
Pediatric Rehab Department @ The Chautauqua  
Center Receives CRCF Grant to Enhance Early  
Intervention Home Visits with Therapy Tools



Submitted Photo

The Chautauqua Physical and Occupational Therapy pediatrics team have used a generous grant from the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation to purchase toys to use as tools for children’s occupational therapy during in-home sessions.

Article Contributed by  
**Matthew Hanley**  
Marketing Director  
The Waterfront Foundation  
@ The Chautauqua Center

The Chautauqua Center, Inc. is proud to announce that its Chautauqua Physical and Occupational Therapy Pediatric Rehab Department has secured grant funding to provide and utilize high-quality pediatric therapy toys as tools for early intervention and preschool home visits. These tools will enhance occupational therapy (OT), physical therapy (PT), and speech-language pathology (SLP) services, ensuring young children receive critical developmental support within their home environments.

Thanks to a generous grant from The Chautauqua Region Community Foundation, The Chautauqua Center, Inc. was able to acquire more than \$2,000 worth of broad-ranged, specialized therapy toys. These tools are designed to improve motor skills, sensory development, communication, and overall growth in young children. Our dedicated therapists will utilize these toys during home visits, implementing

engaging and effective strategies to help children achieve their full potential.

“We are incredibly grateful for this funding, which enables us to deliver high-quality therapy resources directly to the homes of children who need them most,” stated Susan Green, Pediatric Rehab Supervisor. “Early intervention is vital to a child’s development, and these tools will significantly impact their progress and future success.”

“We are pleased to be able to support this project through our General grant opportunity that is intended to meet emerging needs.” Stated Elizabeth Jones, Community Impact Officer at the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation. “By helping expand the supply of therapeutic toys for home visit bags, we’re ensuring that more children and families have access to the tools they need to support meaningful progress through occupational, physical, and speech therapy.”

For further information about our pediatric rehabilitation services, please contact the Chautauqua PT, OT & SLP Pediatric Gym at 716-705-6150 or visit tcchealth.org.

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Photo by: Kim Weber



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## Celebrating our Community's Public Health Milestones in Recent History:



- In 2007 the Chautauqua County Health Department (CCHD) continued to improve upon public water infrastructure by conducting a comprehensive water system evaluation to identify strengths, weaknesses, and improvements needed by the 100-year-old systems currently providing drinking water to many residents.
- The H1N1 influenza pandemic began in 2009 with the first Chautauqua County case reported in April. Later in the year and into 2010, the CCHD expended over 7,000 man hours to provide education and vaccination. 24,715 doses of H1N1 flu vaccine were administered by CCHD to County residents through school-based and public clinics.
- In order to ensure services are performed in a sanitary manor to prevent disease and infection, the CCHD updated its sanitary code in 2015 to include regulation of tattoo shops and body artists.
- A local law was brought before the county Legislature by the Chautauqua County Board of Health to raise the legal age to purchase tobacco products in Chautauqua County to 21. The local law passed in April 2016, three years before the New York State law went into effect in 2019.
- Oversight of the Chautauqua County Coroner Program was transferred from the County Legislature to the CCHD in 2018. The infrastructure of the coroner program has thrived with a focus on cost-savings, cross-agency collaboration, and overdose death investigations.
- The COVID-19 pandemic reached the United States and Chautauqua County in 2020. Staff worked tirelessly to keep up with the changing state mandates and to deliver clear and concise information to residents.
- The Chautauqua County Jail's Medical Unit, staffed by the CCHD, received National Accreditation in 2023. The Correctional Health Team offers a public health approach to care that includes reproductive health care, immunizations, preventive screenings, chronic disease management, and a Substance Abuse Recovery and Re-entry Program.
- The CCHD's new Mobile Health Vehicle arrived in 2023 providing another way to meet the needs of the community. The new vehicle was deployed in 2024, servicing 42 mobile health clinics at various locations around the county.

## Chautauqua County Health Department Turns 60

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18



Submitted Photo

1970 Hall R. Clothier Building rendering

with Dr. Berke, he recollects achievements that we will highlight in another article next week.

Today the CCHD employs a staff of fifty-two people to manage NYSDOH mandated environmental and community health services attending to the health needs of county residents. They have consolidated clinic services to Mayville and partner with the county's Federally Qualified Health Center, The Chautauqua Center, to offer residents clinical services in both Jamestown and Dunkirk. The Health Department provides a wide range of environmental health services related to promoting water quality, food safety, rabies control, lead paint abatement, and services for many other environmental health improvements, interventions, and supports. The community health division provides maternal, infant and child health services, immunizations, infant

and child early intervention services, and community health education and outreach with a focus on substance use and overdose prevention, sexual health education, chronic disease prevention, and overall health promotion. The Department employs sixteen additional staff to provide medical services to inmates at the County Jail and run the County's Coroner Program.

Stay tuned for more information about the history of the Chautauqua County Health Department as they are uncovered during National Public Health Week.

**References:** 1960-2023 Journal of Proceedings of the Chautauqua County Legislature; 1960-2023 Annual Reports of the Chautauqua County Department of Health; November 13, 1964 Jamestown Post Journal; History of Chautauqua County New York 1938-1978; A Bicentennial History Project published by the Chautauqua County Historical Society



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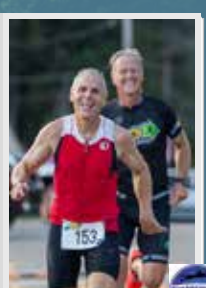
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Hands in the Dirt, Head in the Sun, Heart with Nature

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE



Serviceberry



Crocus



Pieris Japonica



Iris

I find visits to greenhouses therapeutic. The more packed with vegetables, herbs and flowers, the better. The combination of color, variety, and earthy scents brings me joy and optimism for a terrific growing season. That doesn't always happen as pests, diseases, poor soil and environmental factors can hamper our best efforts. There is a saying that—"to garden is to believe in tomorrow." So, each spring we begin full of excitement and the promise of success.

One of the wonderful things about gardening is that you can plant anywhere -in large plots, or in small pots. You can grow perennials or vegetables, herbs or annuals, in raised beds, or vertically on a trellis. There are window ledges and boxes, back porches or a hydroponic system. The possibilities are truly endless. There are also community gardens, hospital, nursing home and school gardens. If you want to garden, there is space for you to do it.

Another wonderful aspect about gardening is you can do it at any age. There is a growing movement to engage children in gardening and many schools have established gardens. In the Jamestown Public Schools District, there are gardens at Persell Middle School, Washington Middle School, Jefferson Middle School and Bush Elementary School. If you want to see firsthand the impact a school garden can have, I encourage you to watch the JPS Facebook video which highlights the ways a garden is a teaching and community-building tool, while also providing physical activity and helping children develop

problem-solving skills. The student interviews are especially compelling. Reference: <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/18/vs/Z4T621/>

For a few years I volunteered at the Audubon Kitchen Garden and it was a delight to watch the campers and other young visitors taste a purple runner bean, or open and pop a peapod. What child hasn't brought home a bean seed in a paper cup that they planted at a children's gardening session at the library or in their school or church. They all leave those sessions lovingly clasping their cup and are enthralled when the seeds sprout and grow.

As a mature gardener myself, I have been fascinated by the range of tools and techniques available to gardeners of any age. Mobility challenges, declining strength and flexibility, do not have to dampen your passion for gardening, or interrupt the physical and psychological benefits it brings.

There are several accessible or adaptive gardening tools such as kneeling benches and pads which make it easier to kneel and stand, reduce strain and provide a stable base. Most are lightweight, have a pocket for tools, fold for storage and can be used as a seat or flipped over for use as a kneeler. One of my grandsons gave me one of these benches for Christmas a few years ago, and it enables me to get up and down off the ground with some semblance of dignity.

Ergonomic gardening tools are designed to reduce strain on the hands and wrists. Look for tools with cushioned handles, extended lengths and lightweight materials. These tools

help maintain a comfortable grip and reduce the effort required for tasks like digging, pruning and weeding and make gardening tasks more manageable.

Resources on this topic include: The Lifelong Gardener by Toni Gattone, or the much older Accessible Gardening Tips and Techniques for Seniors and the Disabled by Joann Woy.

Raised garden beds are also an excellent option so you can garden while standing or sitting. And container and vertical gardens are ideal for small spaces; they offer flexibility and can be moved as needed.

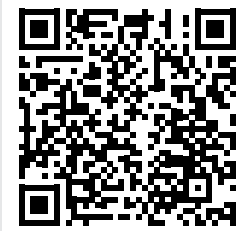
By utilizing the right tools, techniques and adaptive strategies, gardening can remain a source of joy and enrichment for years to come.

For those desiring answers to their gardening questions, the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Chautauqua County's Master Gardeners operate a Help Line, which can be reached by calling 716-664-9502 Ext.224, emailing your questions to [chautauquamg@cornell.edu](mailto:chautauquamg@cornell.edu), or you may visit in person on Wednesdays, 12 - 2pm during the growing season (April – September). The Extension is located at Jamestown Community College's Carnahan Center, 525 Falconer Street in Jamestown.

Additionally, the Master Gardeners will be hosting their third annual gardening symposium on May 3, 8am - 12:45pm at the JCC location. There will be two keynote speakers – Sarah Sorci of Sweet Flag Herbs and Sally Cunningham "the garden lady", as



Birdhouse



Scan to view a YouTube video featuring the Jamestown Public Schools Garden Club

well as a panel of JPS School Garden Leaders. Additionally, the symposium will feature displays, garden-themed door prizes, and free pH soil tests for those who bring in soil samples. For complete registration information, including cost, call the office at 716-664-9502 Ext. 224 or go to [chautauqua.cce.cornell.edu/gardening](http://chautauqua.cce.cornell.edu/gardening).

I leave you with one of my favorite gardening quotes: "The glory of gardening: hands in the dirt, head in the sun, heart with nature."

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*"Gardening is the art that uses flowers and plants as paint, and the soil and sky as canvas."*

– Elizabeth Murray



# 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Gardening Symposium Scheduled for May 3

## Featured Writer

Pat Smith

Chautauqua County Master Gardener

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Chautauqua County's Agriculture Program is excited to announce an upcoming educational opportunity for gardening enthusiasts. New and experienced gardeners are invited to the 3rd Annual Gardening Symposium, organized by the CCE-Chautauqua Master Gardener Volunteers. This event is scheduled for May 3rd, from 8am to 12:45pm at Jamestown Community College's Carnahan-Jackson Building, located at 241 James Street, Jamestown, NY.

The 3rd Annual Gardening Symposium will feature engaging speakers and provide a wonderful opportunity to connect with fellow community members and Master Gardener Volunteers. Registration is now open and required - visit [chautauqua.cce.cornell.edu](http://chautauqua.cce.cornell.edu) or call 716-664-9502 to sign up. Early registration is available through April 25th for a general admission fee of \$25. After April 25th, the registration fee increases to \$30 per person. Master Gardeners from any county receive discounted admission at \$15 before April 25th and \$20 after, respectively.

CCE-Chautauqua Master Gardener Volunteer and Chair of the Symposium Committee, Pat Martonis, shared her excitement about this year's event. "We are excited to feature two dynamic keynote speakers and a panel of educators who have introduced the joys of gardening to children."

The first keynote speaker is Sarah Sorci of Sweet Flag Herbs, presenting "Native Herbs for the Home Garden." Sarah is an herbal educator, writer, and therapeutic gardening facilitator based in Jamestown, NY. She offers classes and educational resources on growing native and perennial herbs, creating herbal concoctions, sustainable foraging, and cultivating ancestral connection through the plant world. Sarah holds certificates in herbal medicine and horticultural therapy. She also manages the Beautiful Blooms Garden Program at Aspire of WNY in Lakewood and teaches an online course titled "Native Culinary Herbs."

In speaking about her upcoming presentation, Sorci said, "A number of native plants serve as culinary herbs, but they're oddly absent from nursery herb departments and grocery store aisles. I'm excited to share some of my favorites to grow in my Chautauqua County garden."

The second keynote speaker is Sally Cunningham, affectionately known for decades as "the garden lady" on TV, radio, and in print. Her name is synonymous with gardening throughout our region and beyond. A published author, popular speaker, and advocate for nature-friendly, ecologically sensitive gardens, Sally has also served as a Master Gardener and Cornell Cooperative Extension educator. Her multi-faceted career has taken her around the world as a tour host to flower shows and on eco-tours to destinations such as Africa and Costa Rica. The CCE-

Chautauqua Master Gardener Volunteers are thrilled to welcome her to share her knowledge and passion in her presentation, "Eco-Friendly Gardening."

To highlight the growing involvement of children in gardening - with a special focus on healthy eating - the Symposium will conclude with a panel discussion featuring JPS School Garden Leaders. These educators have created successful school gardens at Persell Middle School, Washington Middle School, Jefferson Middle School, and Bush Elementary School in Jamestown. The panel will be led by Annika Putney, a teacher at Persell and coordinator of the Persell Produce Patch Garden. A Q&A session about gardening with children will follow the panel.

Additional highlights of the event include:

- Morning hospitality and refreshments
- Gardening displays
- Multiple garden-themed door prizes ranging from books to gift certificates for the upcoming Master Gardener Plant Sale on May 17th
- Ample networking opportunities with fellow gardeners
- Free soil pH testing, conducted by CCE-Chautauqua Master Gardener Volunteer and Help Line Coordinator Peg Hite (bring a soil sample!)

Gardening enthusiasts won't want to miss out on this upcoming event, so be sure to mark your calendars for



Submitted Photo

Pat Smith

May 3rd and visit [chautauqua.cce.cornell.edu](http://chautauqua.cce.cornell.edu) to learn more.

The Cornell Cooperative Extension of Chautauqua County Master Gardener Program is a group of trained volunteers who work in partnership with CCE-Chautauqua Agriculture Staff to expand educational outreach by providing home gardeners with research-based information. This dedicated group of volunteers promotes sound gardening practices and environmental stewardship. Through educational programs, community outreach, and hands-on gardening projects, the Master Gardeners strive to enhance the beauty and sustainability of gardens throughout Chautauqua County. All proceeds from the symposium directly support Master Gardener horticulture outreach and programming in our county.

## Chautauqua County Humane Society Pets of the Week



Ron Swanson

Like Ron Swanson from the TV show *Parks and Recreation*, this dog is deep down friendly, funny and sentimental; he just can't let you see that he truly cares and like the character he enjoys the outside and being challenged with learning new things. Meet him soon at CCHS.



Kandice

Kandice is a sweet, friendly, and curious gal who loves to explore. She enjoys playing with toys, but is also content just lounging around. She is always ready for a good petting session and purrs like a little engine when she's happy. She's a social butterfly and gets along well with other cats. Meet her soon at CCHS.

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"A society grows great when old men plant trees  
whose shade they know they shall never sit in."

– Greek proverb"



Entering its 14<sup>th</sup> Year, Third Thursday Jamestown Announces 2025 Series Schedule  
A New Pre-Concert Event “Jumpstart to Third Thursday” Added to Highlight Downtown Businesses



Article Contributed by  
**Doug Sitler**  
www.sitlerhq.com

Live music and entertainment will fill downtown Jamestown with the return of “Third Thursdays Jamestown.” Every third Thursday in the months of May to September, will feature a free event at Winter Garden Plaza (313 North Main Street) from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Since 2012, the series has been an entertaining summer tradition that adds to Jamestown’s rich music and arts history. The 2025 series will feature regional and local music acts, as well as a return theatrical performance from Madness Most Discreet.

Third Thursday Jamestown is made possible by Jamestown Renaissance Corporation, Gebbie Foundation, Live CHQ, MegaSound and SitlerHQ.

Third Thursday Jamestown takes place on the Winter Garden Plaza. Attendees can view the performances by standing, sitting benches or bringing lawn chairs. The Wine Cellar’s patio is open for Third Thursday events, where patrons can enjoy a beverage while watching the performances.

In case of rain, the events will be moved to Jamestown Skate Products at 207 Pine Street.

New to Third Thursday Jamestown is the “Jumpstart to Third Thursday” pre-event supported by the CHQ Chamber. From 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., downtown businesses will be offering special promotions, unique in-store experiences, sidewalk sales and more. It will be a fun experience for Third Thursday attendees and the community can partake in leading up to the Winter Garden Plaza event.

Here is the Third Thursday Jamestown 2025 schedule:

**Thursday, May 15, 2025**  
**Madness Most Discreet**  
Spring 2025 Production of *Moonlight Revels: A Radical Reimagining of A Midsummer Night’s Dream*  
Performances at 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

Madness Most Discreet (Jamestown) will perform “Moonlight Revels,” an immersive adaptation of William Shakespeare’s *A Midsummer Night’s*. This bold new work continues the company’s mission to make



Shakespeare’s plays radically accessible and available to all. A show not to be missed.

**Thursday, June 19, 2025**  
**Tsavo Highway, St. Vith and Jade Giambrone**  
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Tsavo Highway (Buffalo) are quickly gaining recognition in the Western NY indie rock and jam scene. The band’s engaging live performances and strong songwriting skills will immediately make new fans in Jamestown. St. Vith (Finger Lakes) has strong ties to Chautauqua County and will be expressing their style of psychedelic indie rock. The evening will also feature a special set by local singer/songwriter Jade Giambrone (Jamestown).

(Jamestown) are opening the show.

**Thursday, August 21, 2025**  
**Damone Jackson Outcome and Elektra Kings**  
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

With an all-star lineup of musicians, The Damone Jackson Outcome (Buffalo) will be bringing their improvisational fusion band sound to Winter Garden Plaza. Led by award-winning percussionist Damone Jackson, this will be an amazing show. The kings of Instro Surf Spy Sci-Fi music, The Elektra Kings (Jamestown) will get the crowd groovin’ with their fun performance.

**Thursday, July 17, 2025**  
**Lazlo Hollyfeld and Smackdab**  
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

For many people, this night will be reminiscent of evenings at the beloved Mojo’s bar and music venue in downtown Jamestown. The art rockers Lazlo Hollyfeld (Buffalo) have an almost 25 year history with the furniture city. This show is so special, that hometown heroes Smackdab

**Thursday, September 18, 2025**  
**Charity Nuse Trio and Adrianna Noone Trio**  
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

This will be a powerhouse evening of female-led voices. The Charity Nuse Trio (Jamestown) will bring Charity’s songs to life. We’ll hear Charity’s solo tunes, Big Leg Emma favs and everything else in-between. Adrianna Noone (Rochester) is bringing a few friends to show the Southern Tier her stuff. Adrianna has twice performed with music star Brandi Carlile.

Mental Health Association Luncheon  
Recognizes Participants’ Progress



At the Mental Health Association in Chautauqua County’s April luncheon, Afroula Snell (left), Chautauqua County coordinator for NY Connects, described the services her organization provides. Marty Carcione baked a delicious carrot cake for the event in appreciation for all the help the MHA has given her family. Certificates were awarded to three participants who achieved employment and another for three years of sobriety. Any group or individual can support these luncheons by contacting MHA’s Activities/PR Coordinator Dianne.Valvo@MHACHautauqua.org or 720-8098. Information about the MHA is at MHACHautauqua.org and Facebook.com/MHACHautauqua.



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## Letting Children Discover Their Voices: The Vision Behind Chautauqua Book Review



Contributing Editor  
**Katrina Fuller**

In the quiet stacks of the Chautauqua Book Store, a spark was lit. A young boy, no older than six, walked hand-in-hand with his mother toward the children's section. As he veered toward a set of books that caught his eye, she gently pulled him back. "She said, 'Jonathan, those are not the right books for you. Look at these! How about this one?'" recalled Stephen Anderson, founder of Chautauqua Book Review Ltd. "He looked down, put his right thumb in his mouth, and pulled toward the books he liked, but his mother held his hand. He didn't cry or scream. Just put his head down, right thumb in his mouth, and his mother walked him to the cash register."

That quiet moment became one of three formative "roots," as Anderson described them, that inspired the creation of Chautauqua Book Review, a literary initiative aimed at centering the voices of young readers. The second root, he said, came from reading an article in The New York Times. The article focused on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) in reading comprehension given to students at grades 4 and 8, and every four years at

grade 12. Anderson said the statistics were eye-opening. In 2024, reading assessment scores at grades 4 and 8 were lower as compared to 2019.

The third, Anderson noted, was a shift in how students were reading: more students were turning to digital devices to read rather than physical books. He noted this approach to reading has continued to be "controversial," noting that critics would say that digital reading is "not sufficient" compared to print on paper.

At the heart of Chautauqua Book Review is a simple but powerful belief. "The fundamental core of Chautauqua Book Review is for students to make their own decisions as to whether to engage in reading a book of their choice and writing a review, from their own perspective," Anderson said. Every student will receive in advance of writing the book review a set of guidelines specifically for their age group. Submissions, he explained, would be grouped by age: 5-7, 8-10, 11-14, 15-18, and 19-22.

"Each age group has a different one-page guideline on how to note what you like and do not like. How to feel free to use your own writing style," he said.

The monthly editorial process will also follow a clear structure. Submissions

will be organized by age group and each section of the review will be organized alphabetically by title. The student's review will be converted to a consistent format for publishing with the same font size and San Serif font for the style of the Chautauqua Book Review.

Anderson emphasized that students would be free to choose any book that spoke to them.

"That is up to them, and it is one of the more interesting outcomes of this program. And we are sure that publishers will be interested," he said.

One student has already signed up to participate in the program: a senior at St. Lawrence University. "She has selected her book and is writing the review after exams this month," Anderson said.

He also believes in the value of learning through imperfection. Anderson said that children learn best by making decisions themselves. "That is well documented both in practical, common experience and by behavior exams and tests," he said.

Anderson encouraged teachers, parents and readers to get involved. He encourages interested parties to inquire about how they can participate and what they would like to do.

While the project remains in its early stages, Anderson said he believes in slow, intentional growth.

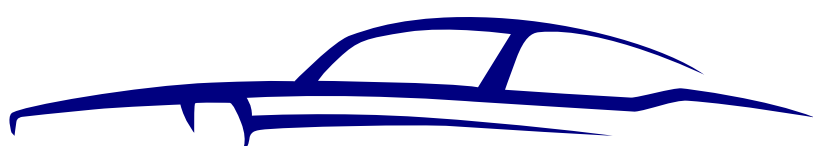
"Chautauqua Book Review will start modestly, as we do not have the funds to have a significant promotional program. And frankly, I think it is stronger if it is gradually developed, recommended, and engaged at all levels from students to teachers to parents, etc," he said. Anderson said he has a vision of long-term impact. He said it is important for students to recognize how important it is for them to undertake their own education.

"When they are responsible for our nation, they will feel confident in thinking about what they see and read, and deciding what is worth advocacy and support and commitment," he said.

Anderson's mental picture of the program is deeply intertwined with nature, much like Chautauqua Institution, the place where the idea for the program started.

"Since Chautauqua Book Review began with roots, my mental imagery is as a tree. Tree leaves consume carbon dioxide from the air, water absorbed by the roots and sunlight creates sugar through photosynthesis - my mind draws on how the earth functions and enables continuous change and development," Anderson said.

To find out more about the program or get involved, please email [chqbookreview@gmail.com](mailto:chqbookreview@gmail.com).



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# CBA Vision Celebrates Another Dining in the Dark

Article Contributed by  
**Megan Maynard**  
Executive Director  
CBA Vision Rehabilitation Services

On Friday, April 4th, CBA Vision Rehabilitation Services held its fundraising event, Dining in the Dark, at the Chautauqua Harbor Hotel in Celeron. Nearly 190 attendees took part this year, placing their blindfolds on, holding onto their dining partners, and savoring a unique meal in complete darkness. The event lets attendees experience a meal without vision, helping participants recognize their dependence on sight and the difficulties encountered by those who are blind.

Megan Maynard, the Executive Director of CBA, stated, “Dining in the Dark was established over 13 years ago to further CBA’s mission and raise awareness about visually impaired individuals, along with the various services that CBA provides in our community. It’s fantastic to see this event become a cherished tradition for many, while also drawing in new participants each year. This year, we welcomed many newcomers! I’m so happy to be able to share with such a big group what CBA does for its clients and area youth.”

CBA has continued to receive help at the event from the JCC Occupational Therapy Assistant students and the State University of New York Fredonia Medical Professions Club. These students, along with several other community members, volunteer as sighted guides for each table of dinner guests. With the CBA staff being small, these volunteers have become crucial to holding the event.



Maynard spoke at the dinner, emphasizing that while CBA’s mission is to assist those who are visually impaired, there is also a strong focus on preventive measures. “This school year, our Youth Vision Screening program has successfully screened over 5,300 children in 101 locations across Chautauqua and Cattaraugus Counties. We rely entirely on the generosity of our community through fundraisers like Dining in the Dark, as well as donations and private grants, to sustain this program. We are truly grateful for all the support we receive, which allows us to ensure that children have the best vision possible.” CBA conducts vision screenings for Pre-K through 1st grade students and refers them to several different local eyecare professionals for care if needed.

After dinner, a video presentation was shared with guests, highlighting two of CBA’s clients, Casey & Adam. The video highlighted daily life for the married couple, who are both blind. With the help of CBA’s Vision Rehabilitation program, they have been able to remain independent and active in their home, workplaces, and

communities. Casey & Adam also attended the fundraising event and spoke briefly about their experience with CBA. Guests received a surprise song from the couple, as they both are active with music and like to sing in their local church. The community can view their story on [www.cbavision.org](http://www.cbavision.org), along with other client-highlighted videos.

Gene West, President of CBA’s Board of Directors, introduced Alex Grace, a fellow Board member and the son of the late Dr. Tim Grace. Alex spoke about his father’s legacy and the Dr. Tim Grace Sight for Success Fund. He recognized that since 2019, this fund has provided thousands of dollars in financial assistance to families applying for support toward eyecare. This fund aligns with CBA’s Youth Vision Screening program, helping numerous children receive essential eye care. The fund depends solely on donations. For details on how to contribute specifically to the fund, please contact CBA.

The Louise Tefft Award was presented this year to the SUNY Fredonia Medical Professions Club,

represented by Ted Lee. The award is named after Louise Tefft, a former client and strong supporter of CBA. The club has consistently volunteered each year, which is essential for CBA to successfully host an event of this size.

There were also several basket raffles and auctions that took place throughout the evening. Some of the auction items included several wood items made by clients, Buffalo Bills autographed memorabilia items, a Canadaway Creek fly fishing excursion, and an autographed photo and items from local native Nick Sirianni of the Philadelphia Eagles.

Gene West, Board of Directors President, adds, “On behalf of the Chautauqua Blind Association’s Board of Directors, I want to give a shout out and a great, big ‘Thank You!’ to everyone who made this year’s Dining in the Dark event possible and successful! This annual event shows the power of community, the unity of contributors to a cause, and benefits those who are visually impaired throughout our communities. Thank you to Megan Maynard, Executive Director, her staff, our volunteers, participating board members, sponsors, and everyone else who made this event bigger than ever so that our mission may continue through Chautauqua and Cattaraugus Counties.”

You can visit [www.cbavision.org](http://www.cbavision.org) to see photos, top sponsors, and information from the event, as well as more information on CBA programs.

## Warren Has Interactive Festival 2025 and Free Comic Books Saturday, May 3



This Saturday is the third annual Interactive Festival in downtown Warren, Pa. The 11 a.m.–3 p.m. event is free and for all ages. More than 20 booths have hands-on activities and fun, with the Warren Children’s Choir performing at 10:30 a.m. Those same hours, Kids Town Books in Warren Antiques, 306 Second Avenue, is giving away 1,000 comic books – first come, first served – for National Free Comic Book Day.

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Article Contributed by

Daniel J. Heitzenrater

Chautauqua County Chamber of Commerce  
President and CEO

Help Us Grow: 31 New Members in 31 Days

At one point or another we've all been invited to "bring a friend." Whether it's a casual gathering or a group sales pitch or a community meeting, we are routinely asked to bring someone along that we think may get something out of the event: contacts, information, products, or more. Now the CHQ Chamber is asking our members to "bring a friend" as we celebrate May as National Small Business Month. Tell your fellow businesspeople about your Chamber experience and why you joined, and you can get some rewards from the Chamber.

Through the month of May, the CHQ Chamber will offer incentives to our current members when they help get a new business to join. We are looking for 31 new members in the 31 days of May, and all the benefits go to our current members. Just by referring businesses that join in May, our current members will get some advantages above their regular benefits of membership.

Here's how it will work: if a new member joins and lists your Chamber member business as having referred them, the current member will get a six-month banner ad on the CHQ Chamber website. That's a \$300 advertising value. If three new members join and list your business as the referrer, you get a six-month banner and plus two tickets to the CHQ Chamber Awards Banquet in October for a \$430 value. If five new members join and list your business as the referrer, you'll get a six-month banner ad, two tickets to the Annual Awards Banquet, plus a quarter page ad in the CHQ Chamber 2025 Membership Handbook – for a total value of \$980. These incentives are open to any current Chamber member business. Referrals can be noted either in our printed membership form or the online join form. In both forms there's a space that asks, "Please let us know who referred you for CHQ Chamber membership." You can also let our staff know you've referred a business, and we'll follow up. Just send a quick email to Membership Development Director Bob Lingle at [rlingle@chqchamber.org](mailto:rlingle@chqchamber.org).

What are the real benefits of joining the CHQ Chamber? There are

plenty for businesses of all sizes. Our mission is to build vital connections, provide professional resources, and champion our local businesses in Chautauqua County. We do that by providing opportunities that connect customers to local businesses, connect businesspeople peer-to-peer, and offering multiple services such as human resources compliance tools, ribbon cuttings for new businesses, an online business directory featuring integrated Google mapping, and more.

We help build business-to-customer connections in a variety of ways including the ShopLocalCHQ Gift Card which is accepted at over 165 businesses throughout Chautauqua County, putting over \$70,000 annually back into our local economy. The CHQ Chamber also encourages foot traffic for local businesses through initiatives such as our holiday window decorating contest now featuring a new online platform that incentivizes customers to visit small businesses countywide.

The CHQ Chamber builds business-to-business connections through Business After Hours networking events held all over Chautauqua County throughout the year. These events foster professional and personal relationships and create opportunities for local businesses and organizations to work together. Networking is built into each event the Chamber runs.

Small businesses have varied needs, but the CHQ Chamber offers resources that can be valuable for almost any business. That includes an online HR platform that meets New York State compliance requirements for all employees to be trained in sexual harassment prevention. Business Builder Workshops throughout the year present an array of topics pertinent to local businesses. Recent sessions have focused on marketing, social media, insurance, name recognition, and community engagement.

As a champion for local business, the CHQ Chamber promotes all local businesses, with an extra focus on members. Our online business directory is just part of the picture. We work in partnership with numerous organizations and governmental entities to highlight small businesses. May is National Small Business Month, and we will be personally visiting small businesses countywide as well as promoting them on social media.

Your membership is valuable, but not expensive. All these services, and more, start at just \$195 a year. This May, bring a friend, and demonstrate the value of membership in the CHQ Chamber.

Business After Hours at the Athenaeum Hotel

The next CHQ Chamber Business After Hours will be held Wednesday, April 30 at the grand Athenaeum Hotel at Chautauqua Institution. You can enjoy this beautiful setting along with complimentary appetizers and a cash bar from 5-6:30pm.

All local businesspeople are welcome. CHQ Chamber Business After Hours events are free for two people from each Chamber member organization. The price is just \$10 for non-members or anyone above the two-person limit. Registration is appreciated for our planning purposes but is not required. Registering in advance gets you on our "Who's Who in the Room" list. Registration is open now through our web calendar at [www.chqchamber.org](http://www.chqchamber.org).

Business After Hours at the Athenaeum Hotel is sponsored by the Athenaeum Hotel, Brooks-TLC Hospital System, Chautauqua Institution, Chautauqua Marina, Kinetic Business, M&T

Bank, Southern Chautauqua Federal Credit Union, Jamestown Community College, Media One Radio Group, Observer, and The Post-Journal.

Get More Eyes on Your Business

The CHQ Chamber is preparing to publish the 2025 Membership Handbook. This reference guide for Chamber members will be produced in June and distributed starting in July to 1,200 businesses countywide. It's a compendium of best practices for local businesses and a roadmap to help you improve sales, connections, employee management skills, and more.

Your business can place an ad in this valuable publication to demonstrate your leadership in the business community and underscore your commitment to our local economy.

Business card sized ads start at just \$175, with additional options for streamer ads, quarter, half, and full pages. To learn more or to place an ad contact Director of Membership Development Bob Lingle at the CHQ Chamber at (716) 484-1101 ext. 203 or by email at [rlingle@chqchamber.org](mailto:rlingle@chqchamber.org).



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## Nick Langworthy

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**Congressman Nick Langworthy Announces \$100,000 Grant for NeighborWorks Headquarters in NY-23**

Congressman Nick Langworthy (NY-23) announced a \$100,000 federal grant from NeighborWorks America to Arbor Housing and Development in Corning and the Chautauqua Home Rehabilitation and Improvement Corporation.

This grant funding will catalyze efforts to lower the cost of housing and expand the nation's housing supply, support vibrant economic opportunities, revitalize and

sustain neighborhoods to build stronger and safer communities, and create jobs.

"I'm proud to announce the NeighborWorks grant which will create jobs in our district while expanding housing supply in the area," said Congressman Langworthy. "Affordable housing remains a huge hurdle for many that live in Western New York and the Southern Tier. I am excited to see these communities get funding to help provide relief for those who are experiencing housing uncertainty."



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**Senator Borrello Introduces Legislation to Establish Financial Control Board for City of Dunkirk**

In response to the worsening financial crisis facing the City of Dunkirk, Senator George Borrello has introduced legislation (S.7497) to establish the City of Dunkirk Interim Finance Authority, a financial control board tasked with stabilizing the city's finances and restoring long-term fiscal health.

"Dunkirk is at a financial tipping point," said Senator Borrello. "With structural deficits, escalating debt, delayed audits, and a property tax increase of 84%, urgent action is needed. This legislation provides the structure and oversight necessary to ensure transparency, accountability, and a path forward for the city's recovery."

Borrello noted that the 2015 closure of the NRG power plant created a structural imbalance between the City of Dunkirk's revenues and expenditures. To ease the transition, the state provided millions in mitigation funding over seven years, with the amounts gradually decreasing, to encourage long-term budget adjustments. Despite the 'soft landing' provided by the state, the city failed to adequately adjust finances to compensate for the revenue loss.

Once the problems became apparent last year, Senator Borrello sponsored legislation with former Assemblyman Andy Goodell authorizing up to \$18.5 million in bonding to close multi-fund deficits. However, the City's liabilities now exceed \$20.5 million, according to a November 2024 audit by the State Comptroller.

"The City's challenges are not just about numbers—they're about maintaining essential services, protecting taxpayers, and restoring confidence in local government. This legislation gives Dunkirk the tools to meet those challenges head-on while maintaining its independence as a municipal entity," Borrello said.

The effective date of the legislation establishing the Finance Authority is June 30, 2025. The authority will:

- Provide fiscal oversight, approve financial plans, and monitor budgetary compliance.
- Issue bonds to finance city-related costs, including refunding existing obligations and addressing tax certiorari claims.
- Have the power to provide

financing at the city's request for eligible expenses, subject to agreements between the authority and city officials.

The control board will consist of nine members, including:

- Four members appointed by the Governor, with at least two required to be Chautauqua County residents.
- One member each appointed based on the recommendation of the Senate Majority Leader, Senate Minority Leader, Assembly Speaker, Assembly Minority Leader, and the State Comptroller, all of whom must be residents of Chautauqua County.

Members will serve without compensation but will be reimbursed for actual expenses incurred in the course of their duties.

The Authority will have the ability to issue up to \$800 million in bonds to finance specific costs, particularly tax certiorari settlements initiated after June 1, 2025. Starting in 2031, the city may request bond issuances of up to \$15 million annually to cover such liabilities, decreasing to \$10 million in 2032. The authority will dissolve once its responsibilities are complete, with all rights, assets, and property transferring back to the City of Dunkirk, ensuring a smooth return to local control.

"This isn't about taking over Dunkirk's government — it's about giving the city the tools and support it needs to regain financial stability," Borrello said. "We've seen this model work in Buffalo and Nassau County. It provides strong oversight while still keeping local leadership in the driver's seat."

The Senate bill has been referred to the Senate Corporations, Authorities and Commissions Committee. Assemblyman Andrew Molitor (R-Westfield) is introducing companion legislation in the Assembly.

"This is a critical step to restore fiscal integrity, protect taxpayers, and position Dunkirk for a stable future," said Assemblyman Molitor. "Our constituents deserve responsible governance and sustainable solutions."



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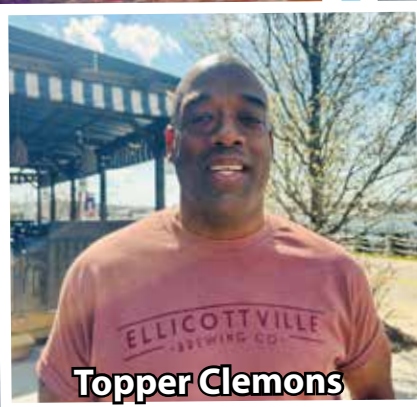
  
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