



CHAUTAUQUA GAZETTE



CHQgazette.com | L. Cornell and Company, LLC **For the Love of April** Volume 2 • Issue 13 | Week of April 7, 2025

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*"Jesus said to her,
'I am the resurrection
and the life. The one
who believes in me
will live, even though
they die...'"*

— John 11:25

The Artful Heart of the Gazette: Colburn Creative's Story

Contributing Editor
Katrina Fuller

In the world of local journalism, it's often the people behind the scenes who bring the pages to life. At the Chautauqua Gazette, one of those people is April Colburn—a talented graphic designer, devoted mother and cherished member of our Gazette family.

April has worked as our ad and layout designer since 2019, shaping the look and feel of the paper with a quiet brilliance that speaks volumes. Her eye for detail, creative intuition, and steady presence are essential to every issue we print.

"April brings such heart to her work," said Chautauqua Gazette Publisher Lori Cornell. "She has a true gift for



"Chautauqua Creek"
Original Drawing by April Colburn

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



April attended college on an art scholarship. Pictured here working on a sculpture.



April and her sister, Lara Kravet



Mark and April, married February 21, 1998

Finding Life After Loss: The Promise of Easter

Marketing Director
Shannon Nixon

Grief is a universal language understood by all. It is a darkness that stretches long after the light has gone. It is love's shadow...it's echo, reverberating in the parts of us we lost. Grief is not a stranger to any one of us. It is the imprint of what is deeply meaningful to us. We do not "get over" loss. We learn,



Photo Credit:
Sheila McCarthyWebster

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23

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

Distributed in Ashville, Barcelona, Bemus, Cassadaga, Celoron, Chautauqua, Clymer, Dewittville, Ellington, Falconer, Findley Lake, Frewsburg, Gerry, Greenhurst, Jamestown, Kennedy, Lakewood, Maple Springs, Mayville, Niobe, North Clymer, North Warren, Panama, Randolph, Ripley, Sherman, Sinclairville, Stockton, Stow, Warren, Westfield



THIS WEEK AROUND TOWN
APRIL 7 - APRIL 13, 2025

- MON
7

Free Memory Cafe | 10 AM
National Comedy Center | Jamestown
For Info: ComedyCenter.org/MemoryCafe
- MON
7

Trivia with Brewer Drew | 7-8 PM
Wicked Warren's | Jamestown
For Info: 716-484-4070
- MON
7

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

"April is for Authors" Series | 6:30 PM
Hazeltine Public Library | Jamestown
For Info: 716-487-1281
- TUE
8

The Chautauqua County Office for Aging | 11 AM
Services: CHQAging Expo & Conference
Room 333, Gerace Office Building | Mayville
For Info: (716) 720-0251
- WED
9

"Bach's Lunch" Concert Series | 11:40 AM
Bellinger Chapel at the First Presbyterian
Church | Jamestown
For Info: 716-487-1984
- WED
9

Movies at The Reg: The Room Next Door | 7 PM
Reg Lenna Center for The Arts | Jamestown
For Info: 716-484-7070
- FRI
11

Movies at The Reg: Dog Man | 7 PM
Reg Lenna Center for The Arts | Jamestown
For Info: 716-484-7070
- SAT
12

Fredonia Easter Festival | 9 AM
Fredonia
For Info: festivalsfredonianyny.org
- SAT
12

Falconer Egg Hunt | 10 AM
Falconer Park
For Info: Find on Facebook

A Call to Support Our Beloved Team
Member, April Colburn, and Her Family

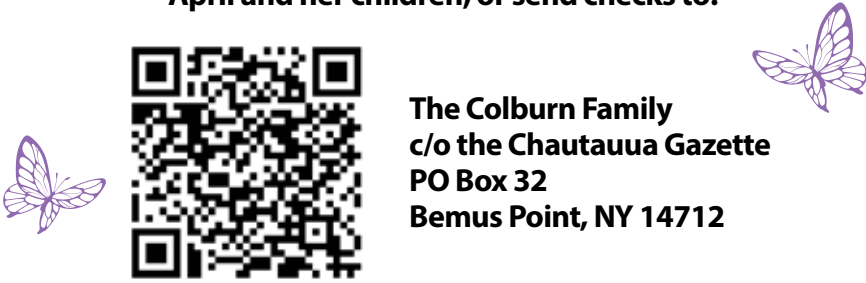
For years, April Colburn has been a major, creative force behind the Chautauqua Gazette's stunning design. She has poured her talent, dedication, and late-night hours into crafting visuals that elevate local businesses and capture the attention our readers. She has gone above and beyond to support this publication and the advertisers who rely on her artistry, all while balancing the demands of her full-time day job and raising her four children.

Now, it's our turn to support her.

April and her family recently suffered the heartbreaking loss of her husband, Mark, after a difficult hospitalization. As they navigate this unimaginable grief, the financial strain of medical bills, funeral expenses, and the challenges of moving forward without their beloved husband and father weighs heavily.

April has given so much to this paper, our business and organizational partners, and the Chautauqua community. Let's come together to give back in her time of need.

Scan the QR code below to donate to the GoFundMe for April and her children, or send checks to:



Every contribution, no matter the size, will help provide stability and relief as they heal. Thank you for showing April the same generosity and kindness she has shown all of us.

Pat's Pen with Pat Locke

- A
P
R
I
L
- April, the month often associated with the arrival of spring with the blooming of flowers, the hope of renewal and ...

Prayer for our April and her family as they find Peace.

Resilience and Renewal as Rain falls from the sky like tears of grief yet bringing ...

Inspiration to face each day filled with ...

Love from family and friends like a gentle breeze, a soft embrace.

"Bloom where you are planted." While the phrase isn't a direct Bible verse the phrase encourages us to thrive and blossom where we are, regardless of whether we feel we've been "planted" in the right place or not. It's really about finding peace and contentment in our current circumstances. While the exact origin is debated, the phrase is often associated with Saint Francis de Sales who is known for his writings on the topic of spiritual direction in our lives, especially during times of grief when we seek strength and understanding.



Contributing Writer
Pat Locke

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Editorial with Lori Cornell

For the Love of April



Owner & Publisher
Lori Cornell

On March 28, our senior graphic designer, April Colburn, lost her husband, Mark, at only age 50. He had suffered complications from a respiratory illness. It was unanticipated and sudden, and after multiple weeks on life support, she was unable to even say a conscious goodbye. They were married 28 years with four sons, Sebastian, Aidan, Gabriel, and Michael.

"For the Love of April" is this edition's theme.

We endeavor to help bring comfort to the Colburn family, to assure them with some small token of hope, that they are loved and supported by a community of friends and colleagues.

As we embrace the coming of Easter - the hope of springtime - we invite our readers to share the light of the season, and their love...of April.

Because that's who we are. A community that cares and wraps its arms around those in need. Every year, we come out of winter, the darkness and cold and jump feet first into spring once again. When members of our community are down, we step up and bring light. Just look at the centerfold in this week's edition with the outpouring of generous business ads benefitting the Colburn family. We cannot thank you all enough: it's pure Easter in print. And we have every confidence that the kickstarter campaign that we are simultaneously announcing on this adjacent page will be just as responsive.

In the Christian tradition, Lent is the season transformation. While the Gazette is proud to appreciate our readers of many different faith backgrounds, this Christian perspective may offer us all an important metaphor for hope and a reminder to seek the light, the springtime in our own lives - maybe best by supporting others who need it most first.



Family Portrait by April Colburn
www.colburncreativdesign.com



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Graphic / Layout DesignerApril Colburn
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Contributing Editor.....Katrina Fuller
Marketing Director.....Shannon Nixon
Technical DesignMarc Scapelitte
Contributing Writer.....Pat Locke
Faith MattersCameron Lienhart
Featured Writer.....Paul Leone
Featured Writer.....Rachel Brown
Featured Writer.....Linda Kent

MAILING ADDRESS
PO Box 32
Bemus Point, NY 14712

PHONE
716-720-1845

EMAIL:
cornell@CHQgazette.com

WEBSITE:
CHQgazette.com

SOCIAL MEDIA
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SUBMISSION DEADLINES
Thursdays at 5:00 pm

DISTRIBUTION
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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In Loving Memory

March 26

David P. Nelson, 72
Dewittville
Lind Funeral Home

March 29

Thomas E. Moser, 84
Cheektowaga
Lind Funeral Home

Dr. Thomas F. Schutte, 89
Brooklyn
Lind Funeral Home

Franklin Patterson, 83
Kennedy
Lind Funeral Home

Eva K. Abbott, 100
Jamestown
Falconer Funeral Home

Perscilla M. (Calanni) Cosme, 68
Jamestown
Falconer Funeral Home

Jennifer L. Abers, 40
Jamestown
Peterson Funeral Home

March 30

Judy Kay Stow
Riccardi's Family Funeral Home

March 27

John Swan, 65
Jamestown
Lind Funeral Home

Philip C. Roller, 84
Jamestown
Lind Funeral Home

Charles "Chunk" Hough, 68
Jamestown
Riccardi's Family Funeral Home

March 31

Floyd C. Bacon, Sr., 81
Corry, PA
Lind Funeral Home

March 28

Mark S. Colburn, 50
Jamestown
Distasio Funeral Home



Peterson Funeral Home

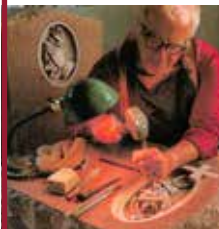
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Faith Matters

Hope-filled Grief



Featured Writer

Cameron Lienhart
Senior Pastor
Conduit Ministries

Over the course of 20 years of pastoral ministry I have officiated maybe hundreds of funerals. This is a sacred trust, an honor and privilege and extraordinary responsibility. Over these years I have recognized a few preconceived notions about loss, death, grief, and the Christian belief in eternity that require—gentle—correcting.

Often, when Christians experience the loss of a loved one, an accompanying thought they have is, "I can't be sad. I can't grieve. I should be happy that my loved one is now in God's eternal presence. I have to put on a happy face." On the surface, I understand the sentiment. But beneath the surface is the misguided and non-biblical belief that Christians do not—or should not—grieve the loss of a loved one.

In his letter to the Thessalonian church the Apostle Paul said, "Brother and sisters, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of mankind, who has no hope." (1 Thessalonians 4:13) Paul's exhortation to this church was not an admonition that Christians should not grieve at all. His reminder was that we grieve

differently. When the Christian grieves, they grieve in the midst of a deeply-rooted hope.

Hope is not wishful thinking, but rather a sure and certain confidence that the promises of God in Jesus Christ will be fulfilled, even if we aren't experiencing it now in the present. We don't "wish" these promises will be in the future, we possess *hope* that they will be in the future. Paul goes on to say in the next verse, "We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him." (1 Thess. 4:14) We hope in the promise that the death and resurrection of Jesus secures the future of all those who put their faith and hope in him.

This belief in hope allows us to simultaneously grieve the loss of someone we love (something we see Jesus do in John 11:33-36) and live into the hope that there is true life beyond this life for those who have faith in Jesus.

It is not *either* Christian hope or worldly grief. It is different grief. Hope-filled grief. This is the message of the scriptures.

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.



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In Loving Memory

Mark S. Colburn

June 26, 1974 - March 28, 2025

Mark Scott Colburn, a devoted family man and skilled craftsman, passed away peacefully in Erie, PA, on March 28, 2025, at the age of 50. Born on June 26, 1974, in Jamestown, NY, Mark's life was a testament to his strength, warmth, and loving spirit.



Predeceased by his father Michael Colburn Sr., brother Michael Colburn Jr., stepmother Debra Bankhead, grandfather John Colburn, and Grandmother Alice Scott, Mark's legacy continues through his cherished family. His wife, April Colburn, and their four sons, Sebastian Ray, Aidan Michael, Gabriel Scott, and Michael James Colburn III, will forever hold him in their hearts. His mother, Mary (Randy) Rowland; stepmother, Susie Sage-Colburn; siblings Debbie Rowland, Matt Rowland, Carrie Mozes, and Kevin Colburn; grandmother Ethel Colburn; as well as numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins, will miss Mark's kindness and infectious laughter.

Mark's early education at Pine Valley Central Schools laid the groundwork for his lifelong career in construction and paving. His dedication to his work was as strong as his commitment to his family. Mark often found joy and relaxation in playing video games. He was also known for his culinary skills, particularly in crafting delicious Mexican dishes—a love he often shared with his loved ones.

Swimming and camping were among Mark's favorite ways to spend time with his family, creating countless cherished memories. His love for the outdoors and the simple pleasures of life will be fondly remembered by all who knew him.

Mark's story is one filled with love, laughter, and the precious days spent with his family. His radiant spirit and enduring love for his family will continue to guide them in the years to come.

Relatives and friends may visit DiStasio Funeral Home 478 Route 83 South Dayton at Balcom Corners Saturday April 12, 2025 from 11PM to 1PM where a funeral service will immediately follow.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Salvation Army Food Pantry 83 S. Main Street Jamestown, NY 14701



My mother is my hero, she has always been there for me through my dad's passing and every crossroad beyond. No matter what, she always made it happen, protected us and made sure our home was happy. She instills positivity in me often and gives me strength to get through any day. I Love My Mom!

- Adian Colburn

Landslide

Song by Fleetwood Mac, 1975

I took my love, I took it down
Climbed a mountain and I turned around
And I saw my reflection in the snow covered hills
'Til the landslide brought me down

Oh, mirror in the sky, what is love?
Can the child within my heart rise above?
Can I sail through the changin' ocean tides?
Can I handle the seasons of my life?
Mmm

Well, I've been 'fraid of changin'
'Cause I've built my life around you
But time makes you bolder
Even children get older
And I'm gettin' older, too

Well, I've been 'fraid of changin'
'Cause I've built my life around you
But time makes you bolder
Even children get older
And I'm gettin' older, too
I'm gettin' older, too

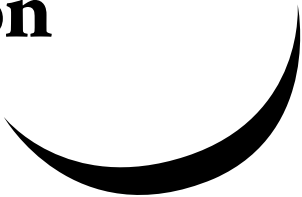
Ah, take my love, take it down
Oh, climb a mountain and turn around
And if you see my reflection in the snow covered hills
Well, the landslide will bring it down
And if you see my reflection in the snow covered hills
Well, the landslide will bring it down
Oh, the landslide will bring it down



Cheshire Moon

Sonnet by Paul Leone

A Cheshire moon over water,
Blithe, equivocal, or smiling,
Or mocking this earth theater,
As if to my breath replying.
Silence, save for hollow windblow,
Out from a farther night-edge,
A rippling, lapping here below,
The wonder of confused urge.
This time I paused before I spoke,
I parodied the flippant moon,
I listened that the wind evoke
The ecstasy that once I'd known.
That time I was a little boy
Unable to contain my joy.



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Martonis to Present "19th Century Chautauqua County Potteries" at Fenton History Center



Submitted Photo

Event Contributed by
Vincent Martonis

The Fenton History Center in Jamestown will be the location for Vincent Martonis' program on 19th Century Chautauqua Co. Potteries, Wednesday, April 9, 1:00.

For the first time ever, the Fenton will have all 5 of their Caleb Mathews (Gerry) pieces on display, as well as their 2 Fenton pottery pitchers and 2 Fenton jugs. Martonis will display Mathews, Fenton & Whittemore (Mayville, Jamestown, Fluvanna), and Haven & Kenyon (Sheridan) pieces to supplement the

PowerPoint program Martonis will show.

Martonis will have all 3 of his pottery books there. His Fenton book will be published prior to the program. All 3 books are priced below cost and all feature a minimum of 15 color photos.

Time marches on! Martonis' last pottery program at the Fenton was in 1988! Come and hear what I learned over the past 37 years!

History note: the Fenton History Center is housed in the historic and beautiful Gov. Reuben E. Fenton brick mansion. Yes, Reuben was related to Jacob and William Fenton, the potters.

The Big Pond near the Pennsylvania State Line

Drabble by John Brantingham

Today, with the pond iced over and snow on the ice and prints in the snow, I realize that the little islands in the pond shelter mink because the prints go out but don't come back. They must swim there to find safety when it's warm, or maybe to watch for prey or me when I walk by.

The secret world of mink is laid out before me. I use my telephoto lens but can't see anyone on the island. I'm glad for that. The minks don't want me to watch them. I have no desire to be a voyeur.

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



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Tuesday, April 8
(1) Our own BBQ Pork on Round Roll w/ choice of side | \$10.95 + tax
(2) Homemade Macaroni & Cheese w/ roll & butter | \$10.95 + tax

Wednesday, April 9
Homemade Chicken & Biscuits w/ real mashed potatoes
Full: \$11.25 + tax | Half: \$8.25 + tax
*\$.50 extra for separate packaging

Thursday, April 10
Rigatoni w/ choice of our own Meatballs or Sausage in our own Red Sauce
Full: \$10.95 + tax | Half: \$7.95 + tax

Friday, April 11
Tuna Melt w/ choice of side
\$10.95 + tax

Monday, April 14
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(2) Sloppy Joe w/ choice of side
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SUDOKU

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

Here's How It Works:

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

Level: Beginner

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10									
11					12							13							
14									15					16	17				
		18								19								20	
					21		22						23						
						24		25	26	27			28						
					29			30				31			32				
					33		34		35										
36	37	38			39			40			41								
42			43			44			45										
46									47		48								
49					50	51				52			53	54	55				
	56						57		58									59	
				60					61										
					62									63					

CLUES ACROSS

1. Garden tool

5. A way to preserve

11. Gratitude

14. Domestic sheep

15. Simpler

18. Cavities containing liquid

19. Large fish-eating bird

21. Ocular protection index

23. Phil __, former CIA

24. Icelandic poems

28. Pop

29. Device

30. Actor Rudd

32. A pituitary hormone

33. Focus on an object
35. Corpuscle count (abbr.)

36. Young women's association

39. Not shallow

41. Doctor

42. Furniture

44. Hindu male religious teacher

46. Highly spiced stew

47. A way to communicate

49. Almost last

52. Astronomer Carl

56. Small horses

58. A slender tower with balconies

60. A disrespectful quality

62. Fully shaded inner regions

63. Short convulsive intake of breath

CLUES DOWN

1. Popular Sunday dinner option

2. Oil cartel

3. Agile

4. Greek goddess of discord

5. Genetically distinct variety

6. Indicates badly

7. Popular Mr. T character

8. Consumed

9. Chinese dynasty

10. NFL great Randy

12. Within

13. Palm trees

16. Fungal disease

17. Tall, slender-leaved plants

20. Affirmative! (slang)

22. A passport is one

25. Two outs in baseball (abbr.)

26. Swiss river

27. Deferential
29. Where a bachelor lives

31. Portable computer screen material

34. A crying noise of a bird

36. Sticky, amorphous substance

37. Starchy dish of dried tubers

38. Type of acid

40. Partner to "Ma"

43. 16 ounces

45. The Bay State

48. A well-defined track or path

50. Substitution

51. Defined period

53. Group of toughs

54. Region

55. Famed Scottish Loch

57. Blood relation

58. Not around

59. Recipe measurement

61. Father to Junior

Holy Week

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~ EASTER SUNDAY - EUCHARIST SERVICE AT 10AM ~



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Bethel Lutheran Celebrates 100th Anniversary



Submitted Photo

Article Contributed by

Christine Prinzi

Bethel Lutheran Church

Bethel Lutheran Church, 904 West Third Street, will be celebrating the church's 100th Anniversary. A special Worship Service will be held at 10:00 am on Sunday May 4, 2025, led by Rev. Robert Allport-Cohoon and Rev. Lee Miller II, bishop of the Upstate New York Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

This will be followed by a luncheon in Gustafson Hall. Reservations for the luncheon can be made by calling the church office at 716-661-9050 by April 14th.

Plans for a "mission church" to be located on the west side of Jamestown were started in 1923 by the Augustana Lutheran Church. The first worship service was held Easter Sunday, April 12, 1925 in a wood frame chapel. Ground was broken on July 22, 1928 for the new church, which was dedicated on December 1, 1929.

Currently the members of Bethel have been preparing for the 100 Anniversary with several projects. Bulletin Boards throughout the church highlight events

and members in church history. A special banner for the altar has been designed and will be in place for the Anniversary. The quilting group has been creating special decorations for the luncheon in Gustafson Hall. Members have given Temple Talks about various aspects of the church, including the Choir and Bell Choirs, the Preschool, and Alices' Forum adult Sunday School Class. These have brought back memories of not only events but of members who contributed much to the church with their efforts. A new sign was installed on the lawn, highlighting the church's dedication to Ministry, Music and Mission.

With the closure of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Lakewood Bethel has welcomed new members who have brought their history and faith as Lutherans with them. Members of the Temple Hessed Abraham also use the Fellowship Room for their worship services twice monthly. Recently a Soup Luncheon was held to kick off an effort to raise funds for Lutheran World Relief Disaster Assistance to the wildfire and flood disasters in our country. Bethel members also support neighborhood food cupboards, provide quilts made by the Piecemakers Quilt Group to area agencies, and other service projects.



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WIN in Business Hosts “Personal Branding with Purpose” Luncheon Featuring Marketing Expert Shelley Jack

Article Contributed by

Courtney Curatolo

Small Business Development Center at Jamestown Community College

The Small Business Development Center at Jamestown Community College invites business professionals, entrepreneurs, and community members to its upcoming WIN in Business luncheon event, featuring guest speaker Shelley Jack, founder of SheBe Marketing, presenting: "Personal Branding with Purpose."

This engaging session will take place on Thursday, April 10, 2025, at Jamestown Community College, Carnahan Building, Room 120, located at 241 James Ave., Jamestown, NY.

Event Schedule:

- 11:30 AM – Lunch served and networking begins
- 12:00 – 1:00 PM – Guest Speaker Presentation
- Cost to attend: \$18 (payable by check or credit card)

WIN in Business is a monthly program open to anyone working in the small business sector. It offers a welcoming space to exchange ideas, share experiences, and address common challenges over lunch. Each session begins with participant introductions—where attendees are encouraged to share one thing about their business—followed by a presentation from an experienced guest speaker. Bring your business cards and take advantage of this valuable opportunity to connect with other professionals in the community.

In “Personal Branding with



Submitted Photo

Shelley Jack

Purpose,” Shelley Jack will guide attendees in exploring personal branding as a reflection of our values and identity—not just design elements. Through this interactive session, participants will reflect on how their personal brand aligns with their goals in work, family, and community, and gain practical tools to strengthen their presence and purpose.

Shelley Jack is a marketing strategist, educator, and founder of SheBe Marketing, where she helps clients across industries—from manufacturing to nonprofit—refine their brand identity and integrate it into effective marketing strategies. She also brings years of experience teaching marketing, branding, and organizational communications in higher education, and holds an M.S. in Integrated Marketing Communications and a B.S. in Communications.

This program is sponsored by Community Bank, NA. Pre-registration is required. To reserve your spot or learn more about the WIN in Business program, contact the SBDC at 716-338-1024 or visit www.sbdcc.org.

Welcome All!

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER DAY SERVICES

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The Rev. Mark E. Swanson, Pastor
Brian A. Bogey, Organist/Choirmaster
Kimberly King, Worship Leader & Coordinator of Contemporary Worship

PALM SUNDAY SUNDAY OF THE PASSION April 13

9:00 AM Contemporary &
11:00 AM Traditional Services



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

- Holy Wednesday Service with Pastor Mark E. Swanson at 12 noon in the Chapel. Luncheon to follow in the Church Parlors
- Maundy Thursday Service at 12 noon in the Chapel
- Good Friday Service at 12 noon in the Chapel

EASTER SUNDAY

9:00 AM CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP
with Communion led by the Sacred Fire Praise Team
10:30 AM SPECIAL EASTER MUSIC PRELUDE MUSIC
Including Organ, Piano, Brass, Bell Choir, Solo Bells & Vocal Solos
11:00 AM EASTER DAY TRADITIONAL WORSHIP
with Communion
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Jamestown C&MA Church



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www.jamestowncmachurch.org

Reverend Daniel Groh

Palm Sunday - April 13

9:30 a.m. - Breakfast
10:30 a.m. - Worship Service with Children's Hosanna Parade, followed by Easter Egg Hunt

Good Friday - April 18

4-7 p.m. - Prayer Stations
Join us for a time of reflective prayer (come any time between 4-8 and you will find prayer stations throughout the church building).

Easter Sunday - April 20th

10:30 a.m. - Worship Service
Nursery and Children's Church Available



Christ First UMC
663 Lakeview Avenue | Jamestown NY
(716) 664-5803 | clstumcgmail.com

Holy Week Services with Rev. Susan Hadley

Palm Sunday
April 13th @ 10:00 am | Worship in the Sanctuary

Maundy Thursday
April 17th @ 7:00 pm | Worship in the Sanctuary

Good Friday
April 18th @ 1:00 - 3:00 pm | Open Meditation in Christ Chapel

Easter Sunday
April 20th @ 10:00 am | Worship in the Sanctuary



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Peace, Hope and Joy with Linda Kent

Life Losses

Featured Writer
Linda Kent

I've had my share of painful losses in my life, a broken marriage, illnesses, and the inevitable loss of family members and friends. They are part of our human experience. They're hardly welcomed but are unfortunate happenings that we must all learn how to deal with.

My father passed away from cancer years ago. He battled it for a year without success. It was devastating for my family and me. The loss of my father was painful and deep. However, his response to his illness showed me how to face adversity head on, with courage and grace.

I also lost my brother to cancer several years ago. This loss was harder as he lived out of state, and I wasn't able to see him before he passed. His illness lasted only seven weeks. Again, I saw courage, grace, and humor as he

struggled.

Later that same year, one of my best friends lost her fight with cancer. I saw her courage as she fought to stay with us and loved her more.

All these deaths were heartbreaking. How could life possibly go on after something so devastating? How do you get past something so final? In the beginning, the loss was so fresh, and the painful feeling of cold emptiness would paralyze me. I would then push myself to remember the good times, and the tears and pain would lessen.

Eventually the pain softened and life as it now stood went on. Time was softening the pain. Though I thought it was impossible, I embraced the loss as part of me. Loss isn't something we can get away from. It happens whether we want it or not.

It's the way we handle this truth that determines how we survive. In my case, my faith helps as I know I will see them again; death is not the end. But until that time comes, I choose to remember the good, the love, and the relationships that are now gone. I honor their lives by choosing to celebrate them in my heart, where they will always be cherished and loved.

Jamestown Board of Public Utilities

Announces Easter Schedule

Schedule Contributed by
Jamestown Board of
Public Utilities

JAMESTOWN
bpu
BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

The Jamestown Board of Public Utilities (BPU) offices will be closed on Friday, April 18, in observance of Good Friday. The Customer Service Office will reopen for business at 9 a.m. Monday, April 21.

Garbage and recycling will be picked up on its regular weekly schedule with no collection changes. The recycling products for April 14-18 are cardboard and boxboard.

Customers who need to pay bills on the holiday may do so online at www.jamestownbpu.com by clicking "My Account" on the

home page. They may also make payments by phone at 716-661-1660, ext. 3.

Customers may leave checks or money orders (no cash) after hours in drop-off boxes located in the BPU Customer Service Office parking lot down the D driveway, 92 Steele Street; outside City Hall on Tracy Plaza; and inside the vestibule of the Jamestown Police Department entrance on Second Street.

Customers may call 716-661-1640 after business hours to report trouble in all BPU Divisions. During business hours, utility trouble may be reported to 716-661-1660.

Hope Haven Women's Center Opens in Jamestown, NY

*Providing Critical Support for Single, Adult
Women Experiencing Homelessness*



Article Contributed by
Peg Ortel
Systems Compliance
and Marketing Specialist
Chautauqua Opportunities, Inc.

Chautauqua Opportunities, Inc. (COI) is pleased to announce the opening of Hope Haven Women's Center, an 18-bed homeless shelter dedicated to providing a safe and supportive environment for single, adult women experiencing homelessness. Located at 303 Lafayette Street in Jamestown, New York, Hope Haven will offer much-needed resources and services to help women regain their independence and stability.

Hope Haven Women's Center is designed to meet the unique needs of women facing homelessness, offering a variety of services, including emergency shelter, case management, housing assistance, and access to community resources. This new facility aims to create a safe space where women can heal, rebuild, and work toward securing permanent housing and a brighter future.

"We are thrilled to finally open the women's shelter, start providing services and ultimately filling this critical need in our community," said Diane Hewitt-Johnson, Chief Executive Officer of Chautauqua Opportunities, Inc. "The number of women experiencing homelessness in our community over the past several years has significantly increased. COI responded through this much-needed project."

A Grand Opening ceremony is planned for later this spring to celebrate the many community partners who have contributed

to Hope Haven's development. The renovation at 303 Lafayette Street started in March and completed in December of 2024. The facility includes 12 independent apartments, a large common room, laundry facilities, and office space for supportive services.

The opening of Hope Haven Women's Center comes at a critical time, as homelessness among women continues to rise in Chautauqua County and across the country. The center is committed to offering not only a safe space but also personalized care plans to address the individual needs of each woman it serves. Through a combination of short-term shelter, long-term support, and advocacy, Hope Haven seeks to empower women and break the cycle of homelessness.

Placements at the Hope Haven Center must be arranged through the Department of Social Services. Women experiencing homelessness are encouraged to contact the local DSS for assistance with emergency shelter.

Chautauqua Opportunities, Inc. has been a cornerstone of community support in the region for 60 years. As part of its ongoing mission to alleviate poverty and improve lives, COI recognizes that homelessness is a complex issue requiring a comprehensive approach. Hope Haven is one of the organization's many efforts to ensure that those in need are provided with the resources, care, and compassion they deserve.

Zonta Club of Jamestown Supports Royal Family Kids Camp



Submitted Photo

Dawn Columbare from Zonta Club of Jamestown and Kaylie Lindstrom from Royal Family Kids Camp.

Article Contributed by
Zonta Club of Jamestown

The Zonta Club of Jamestown proudly announces its recent \$700 donation to the Royal Family Kids Camp, reinforcing its commitment to supporting local initiatives that uplift and empower children in need.

The Royal Family Kids Camp is dedicated to providing a week of overnight life-changing summer camp experience for children in foster care and/or other challenging situations. Through its structured programs, the camp offers a safe and positive environment where children can build confidence, develop meaningful relationships, and create cherished memories.

The mission of Zonta Club of

Jamestown is to empower and improve the lives of women and girls in our community. The club is honored to support the Royal Family Kids Camp, which provides a transformative experience for children who need it most.

The donation will help fund camp activities, educational programs, and essential resources to ensure each camper has an unforgettable and enriching experience. By partnering with Royal Family Kids Camp, the Zonta Club of Jamestown continues its legacy of service and advocacy for vulnerable populations in the region.

For more information about the Zonta Club of Jamestown and its initiatives, visit zontajamestown.org or contact the club at P.O. Box 913 Jamestown, NY 14702

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Honoring April, Celebrating Hope

As spring brings life back into the world, we pause to honor the life and light of those around us.

We’re especially grateful for **April Colburn**, whose creativity has not only brightened countless pages of The Chautauqua Gazette but many of our customer’s days.

This Easter, as we remember the promise of new life through Christ’s resurrection, we also **lift up April** with our love, prayers, and support.



Because He lives, we have hope.
Let’s carry that hope—
for April, her children, and each other.



Chicks Hatched in Small Animal Science Program at E2CCB



Submitted Photo

Small Animal Science students are pictured with several chicks recently hatched at the Hewes Educational Center. Clockwise, from left, are Syerra Yeskey of Frewsburg, Kalie Smith of Jamestown, Kaleigh Paul of Frewsburg, Madyson Frank of Southwestern, and Lily Eklund of Frewsburg.

Article Contributed by

Eric Tichy
Public Relations Specialist
Erie 2-Chautauqua-Cattaraugus BOCES

The Small Animal Science program at the Hewes Educational Center recently welcomed its newest two-legged members to Erie 2-Chautauqua-Cattaraugus BOCES.

Over the course of several days, juniors and seniors witnessed the hatching of baby chicks under the guidance of instructor Seth Shields and teaching assistant Alexandria Smith. The special arrival marked the first time chicks were hatched in Shields’ class.

“We decided to do this because many of these kids didn’t get to do any kind of incubation project in middle school because of the COVID pandemic,” Shields said. “A lot of them were really interested in being able to do something like this.”

Three months ago, Shields and Smith ordered about two dozen eggs from Meyer Hatchery in Ohio. Chicken varieties included Black Copper Marans, Light Brahmas, Rhode Island Reds, Salmon Faverolles, Welsummers, and Easter Eggers.

“We figured why not give this a try,” Shields said. “We already had all the equipment, so all we had to do was purchase the eggs. We picked out different kinds of breeds that they had available.”

Shields and Smith both own chickens, which made introducing them into the Career & Technical Education program even easier.

To coincide with purchasing the eggs, students learned about the

development process of chickens. They got an up-close look at an incubator, which provides a controlled environment with regulated temperature, humidity, and automatic egg turning to help eggs hatch successfully.

Juniors and seniors also learned about egg “candling,” the process of shining a bright light into an egg to see its developing embryo.

“After all that, we kind of just waited,” Shields said. “Eventually, they just started hatching. The students absolutely loved that part.”

Students, including Kalie Smith of Jamestown, Lily Eklund of Frewsburg, Madyson Frank of Southwestern, and Jennafer Erhard of Chautauqua Lake, were able to pick up and hold the chicks, which are being kept inside the Small Animal Science classroom under a heat lamp.

Shields said the chicks will likely be kept at Hewes through the end of the school year. He said having them will give students “an opportunity to learn something a little different than they usually would with other animals here.”

He added, “These students have become really interested in them. We may even keep a couple of the hens here where they can lay a couple of eggs and be our classroom pets.”

For more information on Career & Technical Education programs available at Erie 2-Chautauqua-Cattaraugus BOCES, visit e2ccb.org/programs/career-technical-education/

The Artful Heart of the Gazette: Colburn Creative's Story

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

visual storytelling. But more than that, she brings warmth and grace to our team. She's not just a designer—she's a professional artist."

April's journey in design began with a love of art that took root early and never let go. Her sister Lara Kravette remembers how, even in high school, April was already winning state contests for her oil pastel work. "She paints, she draws, she sculpts. Her real love has always been fine art," Lara shared. "But she went into graphic design so she could work doing art. She's always had a good eye, a good brain for it."

Born in Utah, April grew up between Utah County and Albuquerque, New Mexico with her siblings, Marianne, Tom, and Lara. Lara said April is the closest sibling in age to her, which brought them closer when they were children. They found themselves playing together quite often, and that allowed April's compassion and grace to shine in their deep bond as sisters.

"She's just the world's nicest human," Lara said. "She's not a talkative human ... but she's a thoughtful person and she's very fun. When you're in her space, if you're one of her people, she's one of the most generous, nicest and



A Colburn Family Memory
Left to right: Gabe, Mark, April, Mikey, Sebastian, Sarah (friend) and Aidan

playful people. She's just fun to talk to."

April finished high school in Albuquerque before attending Eastern New Mexico University to study fine art, eventually earning her bachelor's degree in Graphic Design and Media Arts from Southern New Hampshire University. Her path has always been creative—and always courageous.

In the late 90's, April married Mark Colburn, the love of her life. A year later, they moved to Western New York to be closer to Mark's family. Together,

they built a life filled with laughter, joy, outdoor adventures and good food—a home where generosity was second nature.

"They were the kind of couple who always cooked for you," Lara said. "They'd fight over who got to cook, but neither of them wanted to clean up. If you were visiting, they were going to feed you, take you places and make you feel at home. They were true hosts."

That spirit of care and creativity runs deep in April. As a mother of four

boys—Sebastian, Aidan, Gabriel, and Michael—April has poured her heart into her family. Lara describes her as both gentle and fierce: "If you cross her kids? She's on you. Her family is everything to her."

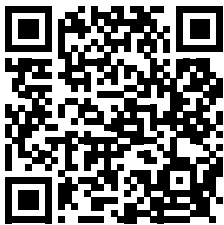
Though April may come across as shy, those close to her know the bright, playful soul she carries inside. "She's quiet, yeah, but she's fun," Lara said. "She giggles a lot. She loves games and adventures. She's curious. She'll try anything once—and she loves roller coasters. I'm terrified of heights, and she would drag me on the wildest rides, just giggling the whole time while I thought I was dying."

That sweet mischief, that deep warmth, that creative spark—those are the qualities we treasure most about April. She's more than an artist, a designer, a colleague: she's a light.

Mark's recent passing was a devastating loss for April and her family. But even in sorrow, the strength and love she carries with her remain ever present. At the Chautauqua Gazette, we are grateful for the beauty she brings to our pages—and the kindness she brings to our lives.



I am a graphic designer from Western New York. I established my own little business in 2012 specializing in gift and promotional design. I am passionate about creating designs that celebrate all of life's special moments.



Scan to see more of April's beautiful work on Etsy - Available for Purchase!

www.colburncreativedesign.com

A Call to Support Our Beloved Team Member, April Colburn, and Her Family

For years, April Colburn has been a major, creative force behind the Chautauqua Gazette's stunning design. She has poured her talent, dedication, and late-night hours into crafting visuals that elevate local businesses and capture the attention our readers. She has gone above and beyond to support this publication and the advertisers who rely on her artistry, all while balancing the demands of her full-time day job and raising her four children.

Now, it's our turn to support her.

April and her family recently suffered the heartbreaking loss of her husband, Mark, after a difficult hospitalization. As they navigate this unimaginable grief, the financial strain of medical bills, funeral expenses, and the challenges of moving forward without their beloved husband and father weighs heavily.

April has given so much to this paper, our business and organizational partners, and the Chautauqua community. Let's come together to give back in her time of need.

Scan the QR code below to donate to the GoFundMe for April and her children, or send checks to:



The Colburn Family
c/o the Chautauqua Gazette
PO Box 32
Bemus Point, NY 14712

Every contribution, no matter the size, will help provide stability and relief as they heal. Thank you for showing April the same generosity and kindness she has shown all of us.

Upcoming Movies at the Reg Lenna Center for the Arts



The Room Next Door



Dog Man



Paddington in Peru



Submitted Photos

Liza: A Truly Terrific Absolutely True Story

Article Contributed by

Len Barry

Director of Marketing & Communications
The Reg Lenna Center For The Arts

Upcoming Movies at The Reg include Tilda Swinton and Julianne Moore in Pedro Almodóvar's English language debut *The Room Next Door* (April 9 at 7 p.m.), and the animated family films *Dog Man* (April 11 at 7 p.m.) and *Paddington in Peru* (April 16 at 2 p.m. and April 18 at 7 p.m.), and the Liza Minelli documentary *Liza: A Truly Terrific Absolutely True Story* (April 23 at 7 p.m.)

Tickets for most Movies at The Reg are \$8 in-person at the box office and \$10 online (reglenna.com) & by phone - 716.484.7070. Family showings are \$7 in-person at the box office and \$9 online & by phone. Special engagements are priced differently. The theater and box office at The Reg are located at 116 E. 3rd St. in Jamestown, NY. The box office is open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 12 - 5 p.m. and one hour before movies and events.



LOST IN SPACE

Space Exploration in Transition

Contributing Writer

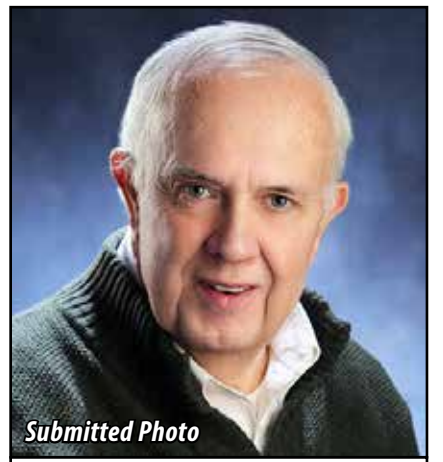
Andy Felong

Public and Media Relations
Martz-Kohl Observatory

The Martz-Kohl Observatory will host a public forum addressing the recent funding and staffing adjustments impacting NASA, NOAA, and other federal science-based agencies. With an open mind and a commitment to presenting all viewpoints, Martz-Kohl invites the community to participate in a respectful and fact-based discussion. Will the United States maintain its leadership in space exploration, reshape its space program for even more significant advancements in the future, or undergo a profound reevaluation of all its science-based programs? "We acknowledge the profound emotions surrounding these changes," stated Walt Pickut, a board member at Martz-Kohl who will moderate the discussion. "Our objective is to provide clarity and empower individuals to form their own opinions based on the facts."

Walter W. Pickut, a freelance writer and former editor at the Jamestown Gazette, holds degrees in biology and communication, human physiology, and mass communication. Walt passionately advocates for science, inspiring citizens to appreciate nature's wonders and understand its role in advancing humanity.

This presentation will be held



Submitted Photo

Walter W. Pickut

live at Martz-Kohl Observatory and accessible online via Zoom on Wednesday, April 16, 2025, at 7:30 PM EDT. We invite you to visit the observatory to meet Walt and the astronomy team at MKO. We anticipate a lively Q&A session, and your participation would be highly valued. Tours will follow. Dress appropriately for the weather as if you were outside. While the classroom is heated, the domes are not. If the weather permits, there will be public viewing opportunities. More info: <https://martzobservatory.org>

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

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and
MARTZ-KOHL OBSERVATORY
176 Robbin Hill Rd, Frewsburg, NY 14738

On Saturday Audubon Little Explorers Learn About Eggs, Small and Large



Submitted Photos

Red-winged Blackbirds lay their eggs in nests of woven grass. This Saturday, come with your 3 to 8-year-old(s) to Little Explorers, 10-11:30 a.m., and learn about all kinds of eggs. After a short indoor lesson, head outside to look for bird nests and evidence of other egg-laying animals, like turtles, frogs, butterflies, and snakes. To reserve your space by Thursday, call (716) 569-2345 or go to AudubonCNC.org/Events. The Nature Center is at 1600 Riverside Road, one-quarter mile east of Route 62 between Jamestown and Warren.



Article Contributed by
Daniel J. Heitzenrater

Chautauqua County Chamber of Commerce
President and CEO

**Essential HR
Compliance Tools**

Owners of small businesses generally go into business because they are passionate about a certain kind of product or service. This is very true for restaurateurs and retailers, as well as for providers of services like landscaping, marketing, website development, printers, and others that work in very specific fields. But often reality sets in and a small business owner is then faced with also being the accountant, HR Director, marketing director, and analyst. But rest assured, the CHQ Chamber can help with some HR needs and essential compliance tools.

In partnership with the Manufacturers Association of the Southern Tier, the CHQ Chamber provides a variety of tools through the Zywave Performance Suite that can help business owners with compliance and risk management, education and training, and people management. These tools can be essential for businesses that have employees, but don't have the capacity to hire a full-time HR person.

Included in the compliance and risk management toolkit are a professionally curated content library that is frequently updated with new information as laws and regulations change at the federal and state levels, as well as an OSHA log, compliance apps such as a benefit document builder, job description builder, compliance poster builder and more.

The education and training section features a client portal and the Zywave Learning Management System. Through Zywave LMS, all members of the CHQ Chamber and MAST can easily comply with the New York State requirement to fulfill sexual harassment prevention workplace training annually, and track employee completion of the program.

Managing employees becomes easier when members use the employee handbook builder, performance review builder, sample job descriptions and more. There is an HR Hotline available

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as well for use when specific issues arise in your workplace.

The sexual harassment prevention compliance tool is built into the Chamber's Main Street I base tier of membership. Additional tools are available at the Main Street II and higher membership levels. The complete Zywave Learning Management System course catalog is available to view through our website at www.chqchamber.org/human-resource-tools.

**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.

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.

**Participation Makes a
Difference**

The first quarter of 2025 has flown by, and here at the CHQ Chamber we have been focused on programs and events that make a difference for local businesspeople. Our calendar for this year is almost full as we finalize dates and venues for a handful of remaining events, including working with some

partner organizations on some new ventures.

The first weekend in May we will work with the Small Business Development Center to recognize all local small businesses during National Small Business Week. We are planning a series of walk-about in communities all over Chautauqua County featuring some fun ways to thank small businesses and show them they are valued.

Business After Hours networking events are set for the rest of the year now and will be held all over the county including the Athenaeum Hotel at Chautauqua, kicking off the Jamestown Tarp Skunks season in Jamestown, Cabana Sam's and Sunset Bay Beach Club in Irving, Liberty Vineyard in Sheridan, Full Strength Coffee in Westfield, and Southern Tier Brewing Company in Lakewood.

The annual Chamber Golf Tournament is set for August at Peek 'n Peak in Clymer, our Awards Banquet will be held once again at the Williams Center at SUNY Fredonia in October, and our Annual Meeting this year will be at Wicked Warren's in Jamestown in December.

Blend all of this with a variety of community events including CHQ

Chamber at the Fairgrounds in July, First Fridays in Westfield throughout the summer, Made in Falconer in early October, Small Business Saturday in November, and much more, and it's a pretty full year. What does all this mean for you as a local businessperson? It means you have lots of occasions to gain some recognition. Showing up makes a difference. By attending CHQ Chamber events you can meet fellow businesspeople to expand your personal and professional network, develop potential partnerships, and learn more about other businesses in Chautauqua County. The opportunities are endless, and while we do need to cover costs for some events many are free for our members to participate. Chamber members can send two people to each Business After Hours for free. That can be any employees, it does not have to be the owner or manager. Chamber Business Builder Workshops are also free and are both a chance to learn some skills and tips and also network with others.

Sign up for our weekly email newsletter and email bulletins about upcoming events at www.chqchamber.org/stay-up-to-date and check our online calendar for all the details on upcoming CHQ Chamber events, and join us when you can!

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Everyday Wonders – Rabbits

Featured Writer
Rachel Brown

This has been a good year for rabbits - they seem to be everywhere: under the bird feeder, chasing each other in the neighbor's backyard, or sometimes just lounging around sunning themselves. Early this Spring, I looked out my bedroom window and saw one stretched out in the grass. I feared the worst. Closer inspection caused it to jump up and scamper away. It was just enjoying a nap.

I decided I wanted to know more about these ubiquitous creatures, so down the rabbit hole I went.

Rabbits in this area are cottontails; called that for white puffs of fur on the underside of their tails. They can live up to five years, but the average is just 11 months. This is because everything wants to eat them: coyotes, snakes, birds of prey, even humans. I was surprised to learn that sometimes skunks, raccoons, weasels and opossums will go after the young or vulnerable.

So, rabbits have many, many babies. A single doe (female rabbit) can have 60 kits (baby bunnies) a year, though the average is far less than that. Babies are born blind and hairless; totally helpless really. Despite this, Mama often leaves them alone for hours at a time while she goes off to eat. Rabbits are voracious eaters. In summer, favorite foods are green plants and familiar weeds like dandelion and buttercup. In winter, they must rely on twigs, bark, blackberry canes, willow saplings and other woody plants.

All of these are hard to digest, so rabbits have a unique way to deal with the problem. They eat their food twice! Yup – that's right! They make two kinds of pellets (poop;) one is just waste and one that's partly digested and needs to go through again to get more nutrition out of it. This is like what cows do when they chew their cud – they swallow the grass and it comes back up from their stomachs to get chewed on some more.

Other things to know about rabbits:

- Rabbits are not rodents, as once believed. They have an extra pair of incisors (front teeth.)



Submitted Art

- Like rodents, their teeth never stop growing.
- Cottontails don't dig elaborate burrows. Instead, they find abandoned holes or depressions in the ground for nests.
- Nests are lined with dried grasses. Just before giving birth, a hormone makes the mother shed a bunch of fur to make it soft and warm.
- Rabbits are good for the environment, though gardeners might disagree. They eat weeds, disperse seeds and their waste is good fertilizer.
- Rabbit eyes can see in every direction except right in front of their noses.
- Rabbit ears are good for hearing, but they also regulate temperature. When it's hot, ears are held up away from the body and when cold, folded in close.
- Rabbits are quiet but scream loudly if frightened or caught by a predator. A rabbit often thumps its hind feet to warn of danger.
- Instead of running, a rabbit will hold perfectly still to avoid detection. When they do run, it's often in a circular or zigzag pattern, making it hard for larger animals to follow.
- Rabbits often sleep with their eyes open to watch for predators.

- A rabbit sometimes jumps for joy. This leaping, twisting, turning, and kicking move is called a "binky," and it's a lot of fun to watch.

A Personal Story about Rabbits

When I was growing up, I lived in Beirut, Lebanon for a time. My father was a radio correspondent for Voice of America, and his job took us to many interesting places. I attended the American Community School, along with my three sisters. While there, one of the formative experiences of my life occurred. I was always an animal champion, but my self-appointed crusades produced mixed results. During sophomore year I found out the high school science teacher planned biology experiments on rabbits. And not just any rabbits, but the ones kept in a hutch on the school grounds. The rabbits would be paralyzed and dissected while they were STILL ALIVE so students could observe their beating hearts and response to electric stimuli. This idea filled me with horror! I could not let it happen. So, a plan was hatched with the help of a few close friends and classmates: we would find a way to liberate the rabbits. Clandestine meetings were held, and every detail gone over to ensure success. It was a plan worthy of The Great Escape, (albeit with much less risk.)

On the appointed day, after school let out, a few of us approached the hutch, located in a grassy courtyard flanked on three sides by school buildings. The

fourth side of the yard had a low stone wall that dropped down about 6 ft. to an alleyway on the other side. My older sister Jenny, whose job it was to feed the rabbits for her Junior class, agreed to leave the door unlocked that day. Our plan played out like clockwork. We loaded rabbits into cardboard boxes, carried them across to the wall, and handed them down to those waiting below. We then clambered over the wall, dropping down to the cobblestones. We carted our boxes through the alley and uphill for several blocks till we arrived at our destination. This was a small, somewhat rundown villa across from the apartment building my family lived in. Friends of the family rented apartments there and agreed to let us make use of some outbuildings and animal pens out back. We settled the rabbits in these new accommodations and celebrated the success of our mission.

As days passed, the mysterious disappearance of the rabbits was a topic of much discussion at school. Articles were published in the school paper, along with requests for information. None of us cracked. Days stretched into weeks and the number of rabbits quickly multiplied. The dozen or so had turned into fifty! Caring for them all became a monumental task.

We decided the time had come to fess up, provided the school agreed to our conditions. An anonymous letter was sent and we received a reply in the paper. The inhumane experiments would cease if the rabbits were returned, and all involved apologized. Everyone else complied but when it was my turn, I refused to say I was sorry. For this, I was given the extra punishment of cleaning the hutch for the remainder of the school year. I was happy to comply because the rabbits had been spared!

Rabbits are popular and symbolic creatures in our lives: The Easter Bunny, Peter Rabbit, Thumper, tricksters like Bugs and Brer, The Velveteen Rabbit, and of course, The White Rabbit from Alice in Wonderland, who sparks her curiosity and leads her down the rabbit hole. I'm glad I followed my curiosity too and found out more about this Everyday Wonder.



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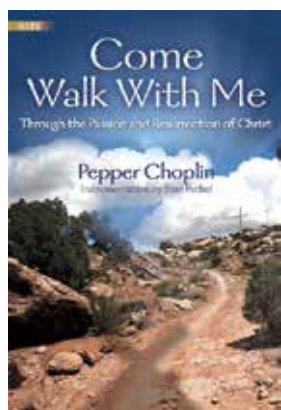


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Article Contributed by
Doris Pappalardo
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Catholic Neighbors in Faith

The Saint James Choir, directed by Cathy Gagliano, will present the Easter Cantata "Come Walk with Me." On Sunday, April 13th at 3:00 pm and Tuesday, April 15th at 7:00 pm in Saint James Church at 27 Allen Street, Jamestown, NY.

All are invited to begin Holy week with the Catholic Neighbors in Faith Family. Come Walk with Me, through the Passion and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Composed by Pepper Choplin is also a full-time conductor and humorist. He has a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of North Carolina, and he earned a master's degree in music composition from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

This work was born from Choplin's earnest desire to create truly soul-stirring music for these most sacred moments in history. His vision was realized in this remarkably fresh and dramatic setting of the Passion story in which a narrator leads us from scene to scene, retracing Christ's path, His last days in human form.

Brief monologues from those witnessing or participating in Christ's final steps on earth enhance the stark reality of each scene with their observations, frustrations, and fears. The music supplies the drama and passion through its incredible mix that ranges from classical to Appalachian, Bluegrass, and Celtic folk. The work also offers the flexibility with the stirring crucifixion scene and to continue the walk through the triumphant resurrection of Christ.

Members of Family Worship Theatre, directed by Tom Franco, consist of parishioners of all

churches of the family of churches in the Catholic Neighbors in Faith. Our audience will witness a sequence of dramatic monologues that tell this story, alternating with Choplin's masterfully inspired music. Perhaps the most distinctive characteristic of Jesus Christ's earthly ministry was the impact He had on the lives of individuals. Those who experienced Jesus in this manner were dramatically changed, and some were healed. Others changed their lives and career paths. some instantly turned from their sinful way.

In the words of director Tom Franco, "This story is about a man, not just any man. It's about a man who will change the lives of many. This man is known as Jesus, the son of a virgin named Mary and the carpenter Joseph. The story begins back in time in a small village where Jesus was born in Bethlehem (meaning "house of bread") and raised in Nazareth. Not the kind of place people considered important. That is why Nathanel asks, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?"

Yes, I say because on that first Palm Sunday, Jesus entered the city of Jerusalem as a teacher, healer, scholar, and the Son of God. This man's ministry was and still today is about teaching, healing, and loving each other in peace, because that is what Jesus would do! Unlike other stories, this story never ends.

So, come out on Palm Sunday, April 13th, at 3:00 pm or Tuesday, April 15th, at 7:00 pm to be part of the experience as Jesus asks us all to "come walk with me" at St. James Church at 27 Allen Street in Jamestown, New York. This musical drama is rated General Audience and Family Friendly. For more information, contact the CNIF Central Office at 716-487-0125 or Website: www.cniffamily.org



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Through the Darkness: Finding Life After Loss

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

slowly and painfully, how to carry it without collapsing beneath its weight. The world does not end, but it changes. Colors dull. The air thickens. And in that heaviness, life insists on going on, long before we are ready.

One defining truth of life is that no one walks through this world untouched by loss. It finds us in the death of loved ones, the shattering of dreams, the slow erosion of relationships, or the fading of our own former selves. Grief is not linear; it is not mapped out for us. It ambushes us when we least expect it. There are moments when the pain feels as if it will never loosen its grip, and the idea of "moving on" seems like a betrayal of what we've lost.

Slowly, almost imperceptibly, something shifts over time. Lots and lots of time. A morning arrives when the air doesn't feel as thick. A laugh might even escape you in an unguarded moment, followed by a pang of guilt for daring to feel a second of relief. Over time, you begin to notice the way sunlight scatters through leaves, you slowly start to feel the warmth of a shared silence, and then comes the strange comfort of a memory that no longer stabs but soothes.

There is no "getting over" loss. We simply learn to carry it differently.

Nature teaches us the oldest lesson: after destruction comes rebirth. Forests burn, only to sprout new life from the ashes. Winter strips the earth bare, and beneath the frozen soil, roots gather strength for spring. We, too, are part of this cycle.

Even in grief, there are echoes of resurrection. The promise of Easter reminds us that life persists in ways we cannot yet see. When we collapse to the ground in the tomb of sorrow, there is a whisper of something more: a truth that pain is not the final word. Easter teaches us that darkness is not eternal. Even the longest night gives way to dawn.

Slowly, almost imperceptibly, something shifts over time. Lots and lots of time. A morning arrives when the air doesn't feel as thick. A laugh might even escape you in an unguarded moment, followed by a pang of guilt for daring to feel a second of relief. Over time, you begin to notice the way sunlight scatters through leaves, you slowly start to feel the warmth of a shared silence, and then comes the strange comfort of a memory



Photo Credit: Sheila McCarthy Webster

that no longer stabs but soothes.

There is no "getting over" loss. We simply learn to carry it differently.

Nature teaches us the oldest lesson: after destruction comes rebirth. Forests burn, only to sprout new life from the ashes. Winter strips the earth bare, and beneath the frozen soil, roots gather strength for spring. We, too, are part of this cycle.

The self that emerges from grief is not the same as the one that entered it. It is softer in some places, stronger in others, marked by sorrow but also by an unshakable knowledge that even after the deepest pain, we can still find our way back to light.

Some of the most profound wisdom comes from those who have stared into the abyss and still chosen to see beauty. The Japanese art of kintsugi repairs broken pottery with gold, honoring the cracks rather than hiding them. What if we treated our own scars the same way? What if our losses were not just wounds but also the places where the light enters us most deeply?

There is no timeline for healing. No "right" way to grieve. But there is life after loss—different, indisputably different, but worth living.

If you are in the darkness now, you will not stay there forever. The heart, though broken, still beats. And one day, you will find yourself standing in the sun again, not as you were before, but as someone who has known the depths and risen anyway.

After every ending, there is a beginning...when time permits us to find it.



April has been part of our Scout family for many years. She's been a great link to sharing the hard work our Scouts have done along with showing off their Pinewood Derby cars. April is a great advocate for Pack 115 and spreading the word of Scouting within our community. She makes her son, Mikey, and all of us proud.

- Jamestown Scouting

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Saturday April 12th from 1pm to 4pm

Avain X Decoy and Oakridge Game Calls!

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Lafayette Focus of April 12 Program in Westfield



Submitted Photos

Gilbert du Motier,
Marquis de Lafayette



Maxwell Walters, curator of the
Barker Museum in Fredonia

Article Contributed by

Bridget Johnson

Chautauqua County Historical Society

The Chautauqua County Historical Society will hold its annual meeting on Saturday, April 12, at the Lakeshore Assembly of God, 252 E Main St., Westfield.

The annual meeting gives CCHS members an opportunity to learn about the organization's highlights over the past year. The event will also feature a program by Maxwell Walters, curator of the Barker Museum in Fredonia, who will share details about General Lafayette's visit to Fredonia 200 years ago in 1825.

The business portion of the historical society's annual meeting will begin at 10 a.m. when CCHS president Jason Sample provides the organization's annual report. Other trustees will offer updates on McClurg Museum, its exhibits, and the CCHS collection, among other items. Walters' presentation will start at approximately 10:45 a.m.

No reservations are required and the event is free and open to the public. Coffee and doughnuts will be provided. CCHS members are especially encouraged to attend to participate in the election of board members and to meet the 2025 officers.

Gilbert du Motier, Marquis de Lafayette, known simply as "Lafayette" in the U.S., was a French nobleman and military officer who volunteered to join the Continental Army, led by General George Washington, in

the American Revolutionary War. Lafayette was ultimately permitted to command Continental Army troops in the decisive Siege of Yorktown in 1781, the war's final major battle that secured American independence.

President James Monroe and Congress invited Lafayette to visit the U.S. in 1824 and 1825, in part to celebrate the nation's 50th anniversary. During his tour of the still young nation, Lafayette's travels brought him to Chautauqua County and, specifically, the village of Fredonia.

Walters' lecture will provide details on Lafayette's life and his historic visit to Western New York and Fredonia. He will also share details on what the Barker Museum and the village have planned to celebrate the bicentennial of Lafayette's visit during the first week of June.

Walters has served as the curator of the Barker Museum since February 2020. He studied history, archaeology, and museum science at Central Michigan University, and went on to focus on museum collections and curatorial practices at Johns Hopkins University.

He worked previously for the Ukrainian American Museum of Detroit, the Historical Society of the Tonawandas, and Canterbury Shaker Village in New Hampshire. He lives in Fredonia.

For more information on the event, call 716.326.2977 or email info@cchsmcclurg.org.

Zonta Club of Jamestown Offers Scholarships



Submitted Photo

2024 Zonta Scholarship winners: Rebecca Lash, Megan Grice, Ella Storms, and Carolyn Apthorpe.

Article Contributed by

Zonta Club of Jamestown

The Zonta Club of Jamestown's mission is to build a better world for women and girls. We participate in international projects to work toward a world where women are respected and do not live in fear. Locally, we partner with many nonprofit agencies to ensure there are numerous opportunities for girls and women to acquire information about resources that can help them learn, grow and contribute to their own community.

One activity associated with the local Zonta Club is providing scholarships to females interested in continuing their education in college or through a number of other educational opportunities. Zonta has six scholarships, each with its own criteria and an award of \$1000.00. All of the Zonta scholarships are available through the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation and their online application process.

The online application is accessible on April 15 and closes July 15. The scholarship committees at CRCF review applications and award scholarships in late fall and Zonta then recognizes their award recipients at a May dinner. Please visit crcfonline.org/scholarships to apply. The club tries to maintain contact with their scholarship recipients to offer encouragement and celebrate their achievements.

If you or a female you know is looking for financial support in continuing their education, please utilize the CRCF online application process to apply for the Zonta scholarships. We at Zonta know that education is one tool to help women and girls be contributing members of our community and stronger and better leaders in our world.

For more information about the Zonta Club of Jamestown, go to zontajamestown.org or reach out to us at P.O. Box 913, Jamestown, NY, 14702.

Upcoming Events at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation



April 13: Dealing with Chronic Illness

Angus Watkins will be mulling over *The Body Is A Doorway* by Sophie Strand at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Jamestown's April 13th service. The retired Presbyterian minister will look at dealing with chronic illness via interconnections with the Earth.

April 20: Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy

On Sunday, April 20, Bethany O'Hagan, the Land Specialist for the Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy will speak about her organization's nature preserves, its mission and focus, why conserving land is vital, and how citizens can become involved in its good work. Everyone is welcome to the 10:30 a.m. services and the coffee hours that follow at 1255 Prendergast Avenue. To participate virtually, use the link at UUJamestown.org/calendar.



Submitted Photos

Lighthouse Point Grocery

5262 West Lake Road
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(716) 753-2829



Chautauqua Safety Village Presents "It's A Bluey Easter Carnival"

Article Contributed by
Lisa McLaughlin
Chautauqua Safety Village



The annual Chautauqua Safety Village Easter Carnival has taken on a different theme this year. Bluey and Bingo have transformed the entire village into a family fun event inspired by these lovable canines. 'It's A Bluey Easter Carnival' will take place on Saturday, April 12th, 2025, from 11:00am-2:00 pm at the Safety Village, located at 2695 Route 394, Ashville,NY (next to BOCES).

Get your imagination ready for this play filled day! This year, guests will enjoy a wide range of activities and Bluey themed buildings including Keepy-Uppy, Cowboys Rodeo Bounce, Grannies Photo Booth, Dance Mode, Fairies, Library Checkout, Jungle Pet Hospital, and Pirates. Other activities and games will include crafts, train rides, cars track, picture bingo, rollercoaster simulator and many traditional carnival style games.

Admission is \$5 per person (ages 2 and under are free) and includes: candy collection among the village buildings, all games, activities, rides, crafts, bounce house (weather permitting) and PHOTOS with Bluey, the Easter Bunny and Paw

Patrol characters.

Ace Kettle Corn will be back selling their amazing kettle corn, and there will be a variety of concessions available for purchase, so plan to stay for lunch!

Tickets are available for pre-sale at chautauquasafetyvillage.com but will also be purchased at the gate. Admissions will close at 1:00pm. SV members and pre-sale ticket holders get to use the fast pass admission lane!

All of this is made possible this year by our sponsors. Thank you to; Southern Chautauqua Federal Credit Union, Saxton Kocur and Associates, Chautauqua Fire Dept. United Rentals and The Resource Center.

The event will take place rain or shine and will be mostly outdoors. For more information, contact us at (716) 338-0170.



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Chautauqua Striders Announce St. Pat's Dash Results



Submitted Photos

Article Contributed by
Chautauqua Striders

Chautauqua Striders extends a heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated in the 2025 St. Pat's Dash! Whether you ran, walked, volunteered, or cheered from the sidelines, your energy and enthusiasm made this event a huge success.

We're excited to celebrate the athletes who led the pack with impressive performances:

Top 3 Male Finishers:

- Clewon Wofford
- Cody Kent
- Finnegan Fadale

Top 3 Female Finishers:

- London Hamilton
- Katie Zwald
- Belle Johnson

1st Overall Walker:

- Rodney Daum

Kudos to all the participants who gave it their all—whether you were chasing a personal best or simply enjoying the course. All race results can be found at <https://runhigh.com/2025RESULTS/R031525DA.html>

The St. Pat's Dash also marked the official kickoff of the 2025 Runner of the Year Series! The Runner of the Year Series calendar can be found on our website at www.chqstriders.org/



athletics.

To earn points toward the series standings, you'll need to have an active Striders Athletic Club membership. Not a member yet? Now's the perfect time to join!

Membership Benefits Include:

- Complimentary Striders merchandise
- Eligibility to compete and win prizes in the Runner of the Year Series
- Discounts on all 13 races featured in this year's series

The 2025 Runner of the Year Series is proudly sponsored by KeyBank and UPMC Chautauqua. A huge thank you to our incredible sponsors for making this event possible! Their support helps us continue providing meaningful programs, races, and events for our community.

County Launches Public Assistance Shelter Supplement to Address Housing Crisis

New Initiative Bridges the Gap Between Shelter Allowances and Rising Rental Costs

Article Contributed by

Justin Gould

Media Information Officer
Chautauqua County Government

The Chautauqua County Department of Social Services is proud to announce the launch of a new Public Assistance Shelter Supplement (PASS) initiative to further the county's effort to address rising housing insecurity and homelessness in our community. This effort, designed to better support families, single adults, and childless couples struggling with housing costs, will help bridge the gap between public assistance shelter allowances and real-world rental rates.

"As housing costs continue to rise, far too many of our residents—especially families with children—have found themselves without stable housing," said Carmelo Hernandez, Commissioner of Social Services. "This new program allows us to offer practical, long-term solutions that not only reduce the cost of emergency shelter placements but improve quality of life for our community's most vulnerable."

The PASS initiative, a part of New York State's initiative to address the housing crisis, provides supplemental funding for rent payments, enabling eligible recipients to secure and maintain affordable, permanent housing. This supplement is available for:

- **Families** receiving Family Assistance or Safety Net Aid who are homeless or at risk of eviction.
- **Single individuals and childless couples** receiving Safety Net Assistance in similar housing crises.

Currently, many in Chautauqua County are placed in temporary hotel rooms due to a lack of affordable housing. These accommodations are not only costly, but often unsuitable for raising children or achieving long-term stability. The new PASS program will offer a more cost-effective solution while prioritizing stability, education, and mental well-being.

"This initiative is about more than cost savings—it's about giving people a chance to build a better life," said Charlene Johnson, Principal Social Welfare Examiner with Chautauqua County DSS. "We're using a 'housing first' approach, which means getting people into safe, stable homes first, and then supporting them with employment, health, and recovery goals."

By reducing reliance on emergency hotel placements and supporting up to 175 households per month across the county, at full capacity, the program has the ability to have up to \$2 million local share savings for single/childless couples and up to \$600,000 local share savings for families. Eligibility is determined based on public assistance status and current housing need, and supplements are tailored to household size and fair market rent rates.

For more information on the PASS program or other housing assistance resources, contact the Chautauqua County Department of Social Services at (716) 661-8200 or visit chqgov.com.

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Chautauqua County DMV Announces Special Saturday Hours to Assist Residents Ahead of REAL ID Deadline

Select DMV Offices will Open on Saturdays to Help Residents Meet the REAL ID Deadline

Article Contributed by

Justin Gould

Media Information Officer
Chautauqua County Government

With the federal REAL ID compliance deadline approaching in May, Chautauqua County residents are encouraged to visit their local Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) office to upgrade to a REAL ID or Enhanced Driver License (EDL).

To better accommodate the anticipated increase in foot traffic, the DMV will be open for EDL/RealID upgrades only from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on select Saturdays at specific locations:

- April 5 – Mayville DMV
- April 12 – Jamestown DMV
- May 3 – Mayville DMV

Beginning May 7, 2025, all travelers flying within the United States or entering secure federal facilities will be required to present a REAL ID-compliant form of identification, such as a REAL ID, Enhanced Driver License, or valid U.S. passport. However, residents can still upgrade to a REAL ID even after this date.

“We want to ensure that Chautauqua County residents are fully prepared before the deadline,” said Kerri R. Smith, Motor Vehicle Administrator for Chautauqua County DMV locations. “Many people still have questions about the difference between a REAL ID and an Enhanced Driver License, and we encourage them to contact us or visit New York State’s DMV website to understand their options before heading to the DMV.”

The REAL ID Act, passed by Congress in 2005 in response to the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, establishes minimum security standards for state-issued identification. This means that individuals must provide certain federally required documents when applying for a REAL ID, including proof of identity, Social Security number, and two proofs of residency.

Understanding the Difference: REAL ID vs. Enhanced Driver License (EDL)

REAL ID: A federally compliant form of identification that allows

Chautauqua County DMV Office Locations & Contact Information

Jamestown DMV

512 W. 3rd St.,
Jamestown, NY 14701
Ph: (716) 661-8220

Dunkirk DMV

3998 Vineyard Drive,
Dunkirk, NY 14048
Ph: (716) 366-0210

Mayville DMV

(Hall Clothier Building)

7 N. Erie St., Mayville, NY 14757
Ph: (716) 753-4229

Hours of Operation

Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. REAL ID processing ends 1 hour before closing due to the multi-step, multi-employee nature of the transactions.

residents to board domestic flights and enter secure federal facilities. It cannot be used for travel across U.S. borders.

Enhanced Driver License (EDL):

In addition to serving as a federally compliant REAL ID, an EDL allows U.S. citizens to re-enter the United States from Canada, Mexico, and some Caribbean countries by land or sea. It is available for an additional \$30 fee beyond the standard renewal cost.

To avoid last-minute issues, Chautauqua County residents are strongly encouraged to gather their required documents ahead of time and take advantage of the DMV’s online document guide and pre-screening application tool. These resources can help ensure that applicants arrive prepared, reducing wait times and processing delays.

“Our goal is to make the transition to REAL ID as smooth as possible,” Smith added. “By offering select Saturday hours, we hope to provide residents with additional opportunities to complete the process before the deadline.”

For more details on REAL ID and Enhanced Driver Licenses, including acceptable documents and application guidance, visit: dmv.ny.gov/driver-license/enhanced-or-real-id.

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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

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PUZZLES ON PAGE 7

Women’s Giving Circle of Chautauqua County Announces Grant Opportunity to Expand Childcare Access



Article Contributed by

Jerry Lee

Brand & Marketing Officer
Chautauqua Region Community Foundation

The Women's Giving Circle of Chautauqua County (WGC), a collective of women dedicated to positively impacting the lives of women and children through pooled resources and collaborative grantmaking, is excited to announce its first-ever grant opportunity. These inaugural funds are to support the development of innovative childcare solutions that meet the diverse needs of Chautauqua County families, with an overall goal of improving the stability and earning potential for women.

With up to \$50,000 in funding available, this initiative seeks innovative and impactful projects that address the growing need for quality childcare in Chautauqua County. The WGC is committed to supporting projects that expand the availability and accessibility of childcare across diverse settings, improve the quality of existing childcare programs, and develop unique collaborations or strategic partnership that address the ongoing challenge. Eligible applicants include 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, faith-based organizations, and partnerships or fiscally sponsored entities.

Organizations interested in applying must first submit a Letter of Interest (LOI) by April 25,

2025. Information about the LOI and a virtual informational session scheduled for April 7, 2025 can be found on Chautauqua Grants. This session will provide an overview of the grants process and answer any questions. Following the LOI review, selected applicants will be invited to submit a full application. Funding decisions will be made at the WGC Annual Meeting in July, where members will vote to determine the final grant recipient.

“This grant marks an exciting milestone for the Women’s Giving Circle and demonstrates the power of collective giving,” said Jane Cleaver Becker, founder of the WGC. “We never imagined over 100 members and \$50,000 to distribute in our inaugural year. We are thrilled to see the generosity of our members come to life in the form of this grant, which will directly benefit families in our community.”

The selected grant recipient will be invited to share the impact of their project at the July 2026 Annual Meeting, providing insight into how the funding has supported childcare quality, access and opportunities in Chautauqua County.

For more information on eligibility, guidelines, and the application process, visit www.chautauquagrants.org or contact Lindsey Gould, Donor Services Officer at lgould@crcfonline.org or 716-661-3390.



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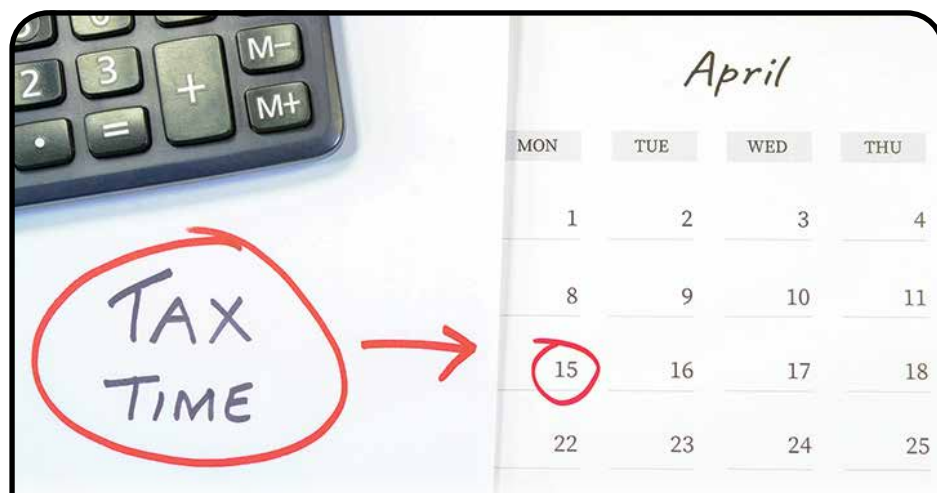
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What to Know About Applying for an Extension on Your Tax Return

Article by

Metro Creative Connection

The Internal Revenue Service reports that the deadline to file a 2023 tax return is Monday, April 15, 2024. The vast majority of taxpayers will have no issue filing by the deadline, but some may not be able to file on time. In such instances, taxpayers can apply for an extension of time to file.

An extension is not necessarily as straightforward as the term suggests. In fact, the IRS urges taxpayers to be aware that applying for an extension does not grant taxpayers an extension of time to pay their taxes. Failure to pay by the April 15 deadline could incur penalties, even for people who have applied for an extension. The IRS urges taxpayers to estimate any owed taxes by the deadline and submit payments for those estimates by April 15.

Extension requests must be submitted by the regular return due date.

Some taxpayers may not have to submit an extension return. The IRS notes that taxpayers in certain disaster areas do not need to submit an extension electronically or on paper. For example, the IRS had

already determined by February 2024 that Maine taxpayers impacted by severe storms and flooding qualified for tax relief. Various deadlines, including the April 15 filing deadline for individuals and businesses, were extended to June 17, 2024. Maine taxpayers are urged to contact a tax preparation professional to determine if they are eligible for the later deadline. A list of additional extensions affecting the 2024 filing deadline can be found at <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/tax-relief-in-disaster-situations>.

Individual taxpayers, regardless of income, can use the IRS Free File (<https://www.irs.gov/filing/free-file-do-your-federal-taxes-for-free>) to request an automatic tax-filing extension. Filing that form gives taxpayers until October 15 to file a return. If October 15 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, the due date is extended until the next business day. It's important that taxpayers filing for the October 15 extension deadline recognize that they must still estimate their tax liability on the Free File form and pay any estimated taxes owed.

The deadline to file a 2023 tax return is Monday, April 15, 2024. Individuals who need more information about applying for an extension are urged to visit irs.gov.

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borrello@nysenate.gov

Statement from Senator George Borrello on DOCCS Early Release Directive

“The decision by Governor Hochul and DOCCS to begin releasing some inmates early is yet another example of the staggering mismanagement and neglect that has come to define their approach to public safety. In taking this step, they are not only defying the will of the courts and the people but further eroding confidence in our criminal justice system.

What makes this even more infuriating is that, while the governor claims the staffing crisis leaves her no choice, she

continues to deny countless correction officers—many of whom were wrongfully terminated while on FMLA or Workers’ Comp—the opportunity to return to work. She could take steps towards easing this crisis tomorrow by reinstating these experienced, willing officers.

Instead, we’re seeing one reckless policy after another put communities at risk and erode the rule of law. New Yorkers deserve a government that prioritizes safety, accountability, and the hardworking men and women who uphold it — not one that keeps stumbling through crises of its own making.”



Andrew Molitor

ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 150

DISTRICT OFFICE: 716-664-7773
ALBANY OFFICE: 518-455-3563
MOLITOR@NYASSEMBLY.GOV

DOCCS’ Plan to Release Inmates Early is Shortsighted and Dangerous

Assemblyman Andrew Molitor (R,C-Westfield) today stood with Assembly Republicans as they strongly criticized the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) for even considering the early release of inmates due to staffing shortages in state prisons. This proposal, which would allow convicted felons to be released before completing their prison sentences, raises serious concerns about public safety, law enforcement capacity, and community stability.

“This is a dangerous path for New York,” said Molitor. “Rather than fixing the root causes of our correctional staffing crisis—low wages, unsafe conditions and extreme overtime—DOCCS is looking for a quick fix that puts our communities at risk.”


Molitor warned that releasing inmates early would have immediate and long-term consequences for public safety. Police departments, already

stretched thin, would have to be extra vigilant in monitoring an influx of released individuals. Parole officers, who are already managing high caseloads, would face an even greater burden, increasing the risk that individuals could slip through the cracks.

“This isn’t just about staffing in prisons—it’s about the ripple effects this decision will have on every level of law enforcement and public safety,” Molitor continued. “More parolees mean more oversight demands, more risks for recidivism and more pressure on our local police departments to respond to potential issues. This is a policy failure in the making.”

Molitor urged DOCCS and Gov. Hochul to abandon any plans for early inmate releases and instead focus on real solutions to address the correctional staffing shortage.

“The state needs to step up, hire more correction officers, improve working conditions and restore stability to our prisons,” Molitor concluded. “Public safety cannot take a backseat to bureaucratic convenience.”



Paul M. Wendel Jr.

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY EXECUTIVE

PHONE: 716-753-4211
NORTH COUNTY TOLL FREE: 716-363-4211
SOUTH COUNTY TOLL FREE: 716-661-7211
pjwendel.com

Early Release of Felons Puts Our Communities at Risk

Chautauqua County Executive Paul M. Wendel Jr. strongly opposes the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision’s decision to release convicted felons early into the community.

Calling the move “shortsighted and dangerous,” he urges Governor Hochul and state officials to

reverse the decision and instead focus on long-term solutions such as reinstating wrongfully terminated corrections officers, repealing pro-criminal legislation like the HALT Act, and ensuring adequate staffing in correctional facilities.

Wendel emphasizes the importance of justice for victims and maintaining public safety, urging the state to prioritize law and order over policies that endanger communities.



Nick Langworthy

CONGRESS DISTRICT 23

DISTRICT OFFICE: 716-488-8111
langworthy.house.gov


Congressman Nick Langworthy Announces Federal Grants for Dunkirk and Mina for Improved Workforce and Infrastructure Management

Congressman Nick Langworthy (NY-23) announced that the City of Dunkirk and the Town of Mina have each been awarded \$50,000 by the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) for their Internal Capacity Building Projects.

These projects will allow the City of Dunkirk and the Town of Mina to implement an online reporting system to increase staff capacity and record keeping and

provide professional development opportunities in the area of ArcGIS technology. By improving both human resources and GIS capabilities, they will be better equipped to navigate economic challenges and work towards better efficiency.

“I’m proud to announce these two ARC grants for the City of Dunkirk and the Town of Mina, which will provide needed resources to strengthen their workforce and better serve Chautauqua Country,” said Congressman Langworthy. “This funding will be used to update their technology and optimize efficiency, which is something everyone will benefit from.”



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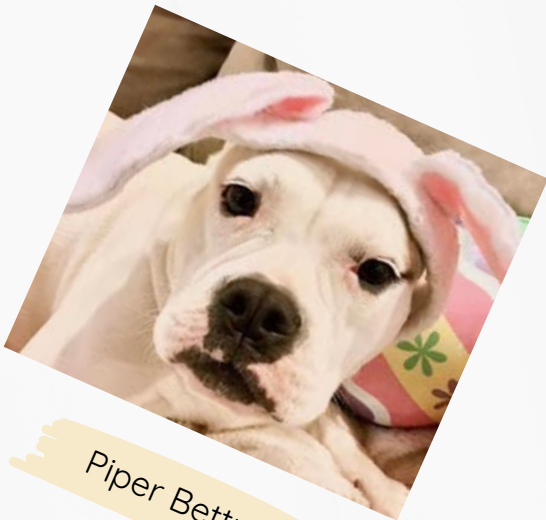
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