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Happy Memorial Day!

Volume 3 • Issue 20 - Combo Holiday | May 18 & 25, 2026



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BEFORE SUMMER STARTS



Contributing Writer

Jordan Nicholson

By the time Memorial Day arrives in Chautauqua County, the Earth has finally decided to forgive us for winter.

The marinas creak back to life and pickup trucks appear coated in pollen and fishing gear. Teenagers drift toward the lake in packs like gulls following invisible currents. Inevitably somebody hauls a grill out of storage with all the ceremonial grace of opening day at Yankee Stadium.

Summer waits just beyond the horizon, warm and reckless and impossible to stop.

But Memorial Day morning still belongs to the dead.

Before the beer coolers crack open and before the pontoons begin carving white scars across Chautauqua Lake, there are cemeteries to visit. There are flags to place into damp soil beside names carved in granite long before most of us were born. There are aging veterans standing stiffly beneath gray skies in old uniforms that fit a little tighter every year. There are widows carrying folding chairs to ceremonies in village parks while brass bands play songs that sound older than the country itself.

For a few quiet hours, the county pauses. And then, almost immediately, America begins moving again.

That is the strange emotional collision at the center of Memorial Day. It is grief sharing a table with potato salad. It is a parade ending just in time for a

backyard cookout. It is a bugler playing "Taps" downtown while kids race toward beaches and baseball diamonds a few miles away. We are perhaps the only people on earth capable of turning collective mourning into the unofficial start of summer vacation.

But maybe that contradiction says something honest about us.

Life insists on continuing.

The same families who visit cemeteries in the morning gather around picnic tables by sunset. Somewhere along the lake this weekend, a grandfather will quietly wipe his eyes during a memorial service and then spend the afternoon teaching his grandson how to cast a fishing line into the lake.

That is not hypocrisy. That is survival.

Memorial Day was never meant to trap

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

WHAT'S ON TAP & WHERE TO HEAR TAPS, THIS MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND



Editor-in-Chief

Katrina Fuller

Before the first cold one is poured, before the parade routes are lined with lawn chairs and the grilling season kicks off, there is something worth pausing for.

Memorial Day isn't a holiday about barbecues or beach weekends, although those things are also meant to be enjoyed. It's a day set aside to honor the men and women who died in service to this country. The ceremonies, the bugle calls, the hands pressed to hearts as a flag passes by; these are the true rea-

sons for the holiday. The cookouts and the concerts are the celebration of a life made possible by that sacrifice.

This year, Chautauqua County is offering both in full measure. Here's where to find the solemnity, the music and also, the time for celebration.

The weekend begins **Thursday, May 21, at 4 p.m. at Lake View Cemetery** in Jamestown, where volunteers are welcome to join the **Blue Star Mothers** as they place flags on the gravestones of veterans. It's a quiet, meaningful way to begin the weekend while honoring our fallen. That same evening, the **U.S. Air Force Heritage of America Brass Band takes the stage at the Reg Lenna Center for the Arts at 7:30 p.m.** One of the Air Force's premier musical ambassadors, the band brings its full brass program to Jamestown before a second performance **Friday, May 22, at 7 p.m. at the Fredonia Opera House.** Both are worth the trip.

On **Saturday, May 23, the 13th Annual Gold Star Memorial will be held at 10 a.m. at Jamestown Veterans Memorial Park, 10 Logan Ave.,** at the corner of Logan and Harding streets. The ceremony is held rain or shine. Gold Star

families are those who have lost a loved one in military service, and this annual gathering is held in their honor, a reminder that for some families, the cost of freedom is counted in ways that don't end when the fighting does.

Sunday afternoon, the Gerry Memorial Day Parade steps off at 2 p.m. and is followed by a remembrance ceremony at the cemetery. The **96th Highlanders Pipes and Drums** will perform. For more information, call 716-985-4257.

On **Memorial Day, Monday, May 25,** the county observes the holiday from Jamestown to Dunkirk. **Jamestown's parade steps off downtown at 10 a.m. and concludes with a memorial service at Soldiers Circle inside Lake View Cemetery,** one of the more moving settings in the county for this kind of ceremony. **The 96th Highlanders Pipes and Drums** will again be part of the procession. In **Bemus Point, the parade also begins at 10 a.m.,** followed by a memorial service. In **Falconer, the parade begins at 10:15 a.m., traveling down W. Main St. to North Main St. A memorial service will then be held at**

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

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Anonymous in Jamestown

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THIS WEEK AROUND TOWN

THURSDAY, MAY 21

Jamestown Veterans Memorial Commission Flag Placement | 4 PM

Lakeview Cemetery | Jamestown
All volunteers welcome.

3rd on Third | 5-8 PM

3rd St | Jamestown
chqchamber.org

U.S. Air Force Heritage of America Brass Band 7:30 PM

Reg Lenna Center for The Arts
Jamestown
For Info: reglenna.com

FRIDAY, MAY 22

U.S. Air Force Heritage of America Brass Band | 7 PM

1891 Fredonia Opera House | Fredonia
For Info: fredopera.org

Sunset Bay Beach Club | Open for the Season!

1028 South Shore Dr. | Irving
For Info: sunsetbayusa.com

Bemus Point Golf Club & Tap House - Swamp Yankees Band | 6-9 PM

72 Main St. | Bemus Point
For Info: bemustaphouse.com

Group Ther-Happy - Brian Hanna Band | 8-11 PM

103 Chautauqua Ave. | Lakewood
For Info: Group Ther-Happy FB Page

Green Door Tavern | Memorial Day Beef on Weck Extravaganza

4739 NY-430 | Bemus Point
For Info: The Green Door Tavern FB Page

FRIDAY, MAY 22 - SUNDAY, MAY 24

Annual Mayville Community-wide Yard & Garage Sales

Mayville & Surrounding Areas | Maps available at Handcrafted From the Heart
For Info: 716-269-4129

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, MAY 23 & 24

Chautauqua-Lake Erie Art Trail | 10 AM- 5 PM

North Shore Arts Alliance | 16 Stops throughout county
For Info: nsaachautauqua.org

SATURDAY, MAY 23

Gerry Memorial Day Parade & Ceremony | 2 PM

Firehall kickoff, followed by Cemetery remembrance | Gerry
For Info: 716-985-4257

Group Ther-Happy - Slim & Red Band | 8-11 PM

103 Chautauqua Ave. | Lakewood
For Info: Group Ther-Happy FB Page

Bemus Point Golf Club & Tap House - Michael Hund & The Classic Rock All-Stars | 6-9 PM

72 Main St. | Bemus Point
For Info: bemustaphouse.com

Green Door Tavern | Memorial Day Beef on Weck Extravaganza

4739 NY-430 | Bemus Point
For Info: The Green Door Tavern FB Page

Sunset Bay - Strictly Hip 9pm

1028 South Shore Drive | Irving
For Info: sunsetbayusa.com

SUNDAY, MAY 24

Living Voices: Through The Eyes of a Friend | 9-10 AM, 1-2 PM, 7-8 PM

Robert H. Jackson Center | Jamestown
For Info: roberthjackson.org

Bemus Point Golf Club & Tap House - Skinny Moo Band | 4-7 PM

72 Main St. | Bemus Point
For Info: bemustaphouse.com

Group Ther-Happy - Earl Wallace Band | 5-8 PM

103 Chautauqua Ave. | Lakewood
For Info: Group Ther-Happy FB Page

Sunset Bay - DJ Felony 1pm

1028 South Shore Drive | Irving
For Info: sunsetbayusa.com

Sunset Bay - Party McFly 9pm

1028 South Shore Drive | Irving
For Info: sunsetbayusa.com

MONDAY, MAY 25

Knights of Columbus Memorial Day Service | 8:30 AM

Dunkirk Lighthouse | Dunkirk
For Info: cityofdunkirkny.gov/residents/festivals-events

Bemus Point Memorial Day Parade & Service | 10 AM

Main St | Bemus Point
For Info: facebook.com/VisitBemusPoint

Dunkirk Memorial Day Service & Parade | 10 AM & 11 AM

Service at Memorial Park, followed by Downtown Parade | Dunkirk
For Info: cityofdunkirkny.gov/residents/festivals-events

Jamestown Memorial Day Parade & Service | 10 AM

Downtown kickoff to Lakeview Cemetery | Jamestown
For Info: 716-483-7612

Falconer Memorial Day Parade | 10:15 AM

Downtown | Falconer
For Info: Village of Falconer FB Page

Sunset Bay - DJ Felony 1pm

1028 South Shore Drive | Irving
For Info: sunsetbayusa.com

Bemus Point Golf Club & Tap House - Randy Graham & Jamie Henderson Band | 11 AM-2 PM

72 Main St. | Bemus Point
For Info: bemustaphouse.com

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Editorial with Lori Cornell

CONGRATULATIONS, SHANNON NIXON

Publisher
Lori Cornell

This week, as we honor our fallen veterans and embrace the start of summer, we also wish our Marketing Director Shannon Nixon well as she departs her post at the Gazette for her exciting new chapter.

Shannon will be pursuing a graduate degree in psychology while earning related work experience with a Manhattan-based psychology clinic. This news is truly bittersweet for our publication: we are extremely proud of our colleague for her acceptance into this prestigious opportunity, but we will miss her dearly.

Shannon was such an indispensable part of our team and one of the most multi-talented individuals with whom I've ever

worked. She routinely had the uncanny ability to do a critical amount of work in about one-quarter of the amount of time that it takes normal humans like me to do. The depth and diversity of her talents is exhaustive from writing to marketing to tech-know how to organization and design — on top of her well-connected reach and understanding of our community. I cannot understate her genius and encouraging role, especially as we launched into our 2024 new ownership and rebrand, as well as our current and continued expansion of the Chautauqua Gazette.

Rest assured, we are tough and agile and will forge on without Shannon's steady influence. We will continue to give our faithful readers and much-appreciated business and organizational partners the same go-to community newspaper you deserve. But she will be missed! We are forever be a stronger publication because of the time and talent Shannon shared and indelible impact she made during her two-year tenure.

Congratulations, Shannon! On behalf of our publishing desk and your thousands of adoring readers and fans, keep rocking the world. (And please respond when I beg you to at least share an amazing story with us just for kicks, now and then!)



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Thursdays at 5:00 pm

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REMEMBER TO VOTE!
School Board Elections
Tuesday, May 19th

SCAN FOR
SAMPLE BALLOTS



- Bemus Point 1:00PM-8:00PM
- Brocton..... 12:00-8:00PM
- Cassadaga 1:00PM-8:00PM
- Chautauqua Lake..... 7:00AM-8:30PM
- Clymer 12:00-8:00PM
- Dunkirk 12:00-9:00PM
- Falconer..... 2:00PM-8:00PM
- Fredonia 2:00PM-9:00PM
- Frewsburg..... 2:00PM-8:00PM
- Forestville..... 1:00PM-8:00PM
- Jamestown 12:00-9:00PM
- Panama 12:00-8:00PM
- Pine Valley..... 12:00-8:30PM
- Ripley..... 2:00PM-8:00PM
- Sherman..... 12:00-8:00PM
- Silver Creek 1:00PM-9:00PM
- Southwestern.... 7:00AM-9:00AM & 2:00PM-8:00PM
- Westfield..... 12:00-8:00PM



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REMEMBERING



Featured Writer

Rev. John Jackson

Pastor, Camp Street United
Methodist Church, Jamestown

No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.
John 15:13

Many years ago, President Franklin Roosevelt gave a speech at the Chautauqua Institution Amphitheater titled: "I Hate War." Certainly, that expresses the sentiments of most Americans. However, throughout history, our nation has been called to defend our democracy and against the threat of our peaceful existence. As citizens of the United States of America, you and I are protected by the brave men and women who serve in our armed forces. On the upcoming Memorial Day, we salute those who, in the words of Abraham Lincoln, "gave the last full measure of devotion" for our safety, for our freedom, and for our very lives.

As we approach Memorial Day, it is appropriate for us to consider how we observe this sacred holiday. For those who take time to give this holiday serious thought, it evokes a variety of emotions.

It would be a sacrilege to omit sadness from a description of what we feel on this holiday. We mourn the loss of family members and those we knew intimately or more casually as friends or acquaintances. We lament that countless numbers of lives were cut short. And we join together as Americans, and as believers, to uphold our shared values and to honor their memory.

But there is much more to our memories than our sadness as we decorate graves and grieve these losses. We are grateful to those who gave their lives that you and I and all Americans could be protected from violence and destruction and enjoy freedoms. For many their service and loss of life were acts of love, as described in the scripture above.

It is not enough to be grateful. With these benefits go responsibilities – responsibilities as citizens of a nation whose ideals are worth our committed efforts. The sacrifices of those lost in battle should inspire us to assume with enthusiasm the responsibilities of citizenship. Just as those for whom we grieve gave their lives to protect our nation from the threats of violence, we cannot let selfishness, greed, apathy, sloth, or any other internal threats diminish what military personnel gave their lives to preserve. We owe them and ourselves our best efforts to protect and achieve the ideals for which they fought.

Although Memorial Day officially honors those who lost their lives in service to their country, we should also remember those veterans whose physical and mental injuries greatly diminished the quality of their lives. Accordingly, we should assure that our government provides these veterans with support commensurate with their sacrifices.

These obligations are tangible and best addressed in practical ways. Each of us should be politically active, at least to the extent of voting and letting our voices be heard by those who represent us and govern us. The ideals for which so many have fought and died must be preserved.

We can also join the less thoughtful in celebrating. We do not just celebrate the day off from work and the opportunity to socialize with our neighbors. We celebrate what those we honor today achieved that permits us to live with the freedoms we have and the justice to which we aspire.

On this occasion, with humility and gratitude, we ask that God Bless America.

Rev. John Jackson is an Air Force veteran and the pastor of Camp Street United Methodist Church in Jamestown. He was called to pastoral ministry in 2011, after retiring from a previous career and moving into this area in 2006. Pastor John's church involvement includes presidency of the Conference trustees, chair of the district lay speaker committee, and member of the District Superintendent committee in addition to local church responsibilities. John served as a lay speaker for many years, and after retirement became a licensed local pastor, pastoring North Harmony UMC for six years and serving as associate pastor at Hurlbut UMC for several years thereafter.



MEMORIAL DAY 2026



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13TH ANNUAL GOLD STAR MEMORIAL

SATURDAY, MAY 23, 2026
10 AM
RAIN OR SHINE

JAMESTOWN VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK

10 LOGAN AVENUE
JAMESTOWN NY 14701
(CORNER OF LOGAN AND HARDING)

JOIN US AS WE REMEMBER THE AREA FAMILIES OF THOSE WHO HAVE PAID THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE FOR OUR FREEDOMS.

MEMORIAL DAY LAKE VIEW CEMETERY SERVICE

MONDAY, MAY 25, 2026
AT APPROXIMATELY 10:45 AM
FOLLOWING THE JAMESTOWN MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

LAKE VIEW CEMETERY SOLDIERS CIRCLE

907 LAKEVIEW AVENUE
JAMESTOWN NY 14701

JOIN US IN THIS SOLEMN REMEMBRANCE OF ALL THOSE WHO HAVE PAID THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE FOR OUR FREEDOMS.

MAY WE NEVER FORGET

MAY WE TAKE THE TIME TO HONOR

Featured Writer

Mayor Kim Ecklund
City of Jamestown

The City of Jamestown has always been supportive and engaging with our military personnel both past and present. The Veterans Commission of Jamestown has very deep roots and has continued to be an important part of our community.

Years ago, the commission was instrumental in moving the Veterans Park from the area on East Third Street to its current location on West Third Street. Currently, the Veterans Commission has been working on more park improvements and other items to help impact and honor our local service members.

For more than ten years, Commission Chair Keith Ecklund has helped lead the charge in placing over 4000 flags on the graves of fallen veterans in Lakeview Cemetery. This year was no different as he spent the last

month crisscrossing this cemetery once again. He will be ready just in time for the upcoming "Flags Across Jamestown" starting Thursday at 4pm at Soldiers Circle.

As my husband, I am proud of Keith's dedication, but even more importantly, I am proud of his service as a Marine Corps veteran and his willingness to share his experience by supporting our entire community.

The work with, and for, veterans is something he takes very personally. As mayor, I'm proud that our beloved city understands and upholds the importance of marking and honoring each veteran's resting place. It is not only the right thing to do, it is the least we can do.

We hope that the community comes out Thursday to help honor our veterans, recognize the significance of our flag memorials, and appreciate the value of community engagement.

Submitted Photos



Keith Ecklund and granddaughter, Evelyn Bergman



Jamestown Veterans Comission Chairman Keith Ecklund



"Flags Across Jamestown"
Thursday, May 21 • 4pm
Soldiers Circle, Lakeview Cemetery



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Before Summer Starts

Continued from Front Page

the living inside grief forever. It exists because memory matters. Because names matter. Because people who disappeared into places like Normandy, Khe Sanh, Fallujah, and Kandahar should not simply dissolve into statistics and history textbooks.

And in small communities like ours, they usually do not.

You can still find them here.

Their names sit on stone monuments outside village halls. Their photographs hang inside VFW posts that smell faintly of old beer and floor polish in the most nostalgic way. Their families still attend pancake breakfasts and church services and fireworks shows carrying a quiet absence nobody else can fully see. In Chautauqua County, memory tends to linger. The hills keep it. The lakes keep it. The towns keep it.

Perhaps that is why Memorial Day feels different here than it does in larger places.

Here, the holiday still has texture. You hear the church bells. You see the cemetery flags fluttering against overcast skies. You recognize the old veterans riding in convertibles during the parade, and you notice there are fewer of them every year.

And then, inevitably, the season changes.

By evening the restaurants fill. Boats drift across sunset water. Bonfires spark to life near the shoreline while somebody plays old rock songs through a cheap speaker. Summer arrives with all its ordinary joy and noise and warmth.

But underneath it all remains the quiet understanding that this freedom, this peace, this ordinary American weekend, came at a cost paid mostly by young people who never got to grow old beside the lake themselves.

That is what Memorial Day asks us to remember before summer starts.



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Medal of Honor Recipients at Lake View Cemetery

Featured Writer

Connie Pilato

Jamestown Veterans Commission Member



Submitted Photos

Virginia, May 27, 1864
Entered Service At: Stockton, New York
Birth: Stockton, New York
 Date of Issue: May 13, 1892

Citation:
 “With a small force on a reconnaissance drove off a strong body of the enemy, charged into another force of the enemy’s cavalry and stampeded them, taking 27 prisoners.”
 Putnam’s fearless actions during reconnaissance operations demonstrate tactical skill and remarkable bravery. After the war, he remained a respected member of his community, carrying his spirit of service into civilian life.



Henri Le Fevre

Henri Le Fevre Brown
 Henri Le Fevre Brown, a native of Jamestown, showed extraordinary dedication during one of the war’s fiercest battles.

Rank and Organization: Sergeant, Company B, 72d New York Infantry
Place and Date: At Wilderness, Virginia, May 6, 1864
Entered Service At: Ellicott, New York
Birth: Jamestown, New York
Date of Issue: June 23, 1896

Citation:
 “Voluntarily and under a heavy fire from the enemy, 3 times crossed the field of battle with a load of ammunition in a blanket on his back, thus supplying the Federal forces, whose ammunition had nearly all been expended, and enabling them to hold their position until reinforcement arrived, when the enemy were driven from their position.”
 Brown’s actions at the Battle of the

Wilderness exemplify selfless service and determination, helping sustain Union forces at a critical moment.



James M Young

James M. Young
 James M. Young also served with distinction in the 72d New York Infantry and was recognized for an act of profound courage and compassion.

Rank and Organization: Private, Company B, 72d New York Infantry
Place and Date: At Wilderness, Virginia, May 6, 1864
Entered Service At: Chautauqua County, New York
Birth: Chautauqua County, New York
 Date of Issue: April 2, 1898

Citation:
 “With 2 companies, voluntarily went forward in the forest to reconnoiter the enemy’s position, was fired upon and one of his companions disabled. Pvt. Young took the wounded man upon his back and, under fire, carried him within the Union lines.”

Young’s bravery highlights not only courage in battle but also deep loyalty to his fellow soldiers—risking his life to save another.

A Legacy Remembered
 The stories of these three men are forever woven into the history of Chautauqua County, New York and the nation. Their final resting place at Lake View Cemetery offers visitors a chance to reflect on the sacrifices made during the Civil War and to honor those who served with distinction.

The Jamestown Veterans Memorial

Commission is committed to ensuring that these heroes—along with the more than 4,000 other service members laid to rest at Lake View Cemetery—are never forgotten. Through commemorative ceremonies, educational efforts, and acts of remembrance, the Council continues to honor Edgar P. Putnam, Henri Le Fevre Brown, and James M. Young. Their dedication helps keep the legacy of these Medal of Honor recipients alive, reminding the community of the courage and sacrifice that shaped our nation.

This Memorial Day, as we remember Edgar P. Putnam, Henri Le Fevre Brown, and James M. Young, and all those who served—we are reminded that heroism is not only found in grand victories, but in acts of courage, sacrifice, and unwavering commitment to others. Their legacy lives on—quietly, yet powerfully—among the rolling hills and shaded paths of Lake View Cemetery.



Archie A Peck

Archie A. Peck, World War I buried in Evergreen Cemetery, Sinclairville NY

While engaged with two other soldiers on patrol duty, he and his comrades were subjected to the direct fire of an enemy machine gun, at which time both his companions were wounded. Returning to his company, he obtained another soldier to accompany him to assist in bringing in the wounded men. His assistant was killed in the exploit, but he continued on, twice returning safely, bringing in both men, being under terrific machine-gun fire during the entire journey.

Located in Jamestown, New York, Lake View Cemetery is more than a place of rest—it is a landscape of history, memory, and honor. Among those interred on its peaceful grounds are three Civil War soldiers who received the nation’s highest military decoration, the Medal of Honor. Their extraordinary bravery in the face of danger continues to inspire generations.



Edgar P. Putnam

Edgar P. Putnam
 Edgar P. Putnam was born in Stockton, New York, and entered military service from his hometown. His courage during the Civil War distinguished him as a leader under pressure.

Rank and Organization: Sergeant, Company D, 9th New York Cavalry
Place and Date: At Crumps Creek,

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 ~ Benjamin Disraeli

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 - MONDAY, MAY 25**
11AM-2PM • RANDY GRAHAM & JAMIE HENDERSON
- OTHER FESTIVITIES**
 - FRIDAY, MAY 22**
4PM • COWBOY HAT HAPPY HOUR
 - SATURDAY, MAY 23**
9AM • SUNSHINE & STRENGTH - HIIT
10AM • YOGA & BREW
 - SUNDAY, MAY 24**
9AM-4PM • MEMORIAL DAY GOLF SCRAMBLE
 - MONDAY, MAY 25**
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What's on Tap & Where to Hear Taps, This Memorial Day Weekend

Continued from Front Page

Pine Hill Cemetery following the parade. In Dunkirk, the day opens with an 8:30 a.m. memorial service at the Dunkirk Lighthouse, presented by the Knights of Columbus, followed by a 10 a.m. service at Memorial Park directed by the Dunkirk Joint Veterans Council. The parade steps off at 11 a.m. down Central Ave., ending at Washington Park, where families along the route will receive miniature flags while supplies last.

For those looking to extend the weekend, venues across the county are running full slates of live music, specials and seasonal events. In Bemus Point, check out the Bemus Point Tap House, Splash, Guppy's Tavern and the Green Door. In Irving, Sunset Bay Beach Club is now open for the season with a full weekend on tap. Raven and Thorn in Fredonia and Group TherHappy in Lakewood are also worth a look, as are Grace n Abe's and Johnson Estates in Westfield. See details within this Memorial Day edition.

There are plenty of opportunities to both honor our fallen and enjoy the first hints of summer this weekend. Whatever your weekend holds, let us all take a moment to honor the reason the flags are flying and the men and women who sacrificed to make it possible.

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Mel Brooks Places Career Archives at National Comedy Center

Nearly 150,000 Documents and Over 5,000 Photographs to be Preserved in Jamestown, New York

Submitted Photos



Contributed by
National Comedy Center

Mel Brooks and the National Comedy Center, the United States' museum and national archive dedicated to the art form of comedy, recently announced that the Center will become the home of Brooks' career archives – one of the most comprehensive collections of comedic creative material ever preserved, encompassing works that sit at the core of America's cultural identity.

The archive comprises nearly 150,000 creative and production documents and over 5,000 photographs, many never-before-seen. It offers an unparalleled record of Brooks' creative life and the development of works that transformed American comedy and culture – including Blazing Saddles, Young Frankenstein, The Producers, Silent Movie, History of the World, Part I, and Spaceballs, along with extensive materials from every feature film Brooks directed across his multifaceted career as a writer, performer, filmmaker and producer.

Spanning more than six decades, the archive begins with Brooks' earliest handwritten comedic notes created during his service in the U.S. Army during World War II. It then moves through rare materials from his years writing for the legendary Sid Caesar on television series like Your Show of Shows, offering a vivid look into the formative creative environment that helped shape his voice. These early pages reveal the foundations of Brooks' instinct for structure, rhythm and irreverence – instincts that would later define his revolutionary approach to satire and parody.

"I've always been proud to say that I make people laugh for a living. So, knowing that my work will have a home at comedy's national archive and continue making people laugh leaves me with a deep sense of pride," said Mel Brooks. "I'm honored that my contributions will be preserved for future generations at the National Comedy Center – especially because it's a place that was meaningful to my best friend Carl Reiner, who believed in the

importance of preserving comedy's history. I know he'd be happy that our work will be around for the next 2000 years, or maybe even more."

As the collection progresses into Brooks' film career, it presents a remarkable chronicle of his artistic evolution. Drafts, revisions, production documents, notes and visual materials capture the development of comedic ideas from concept to screen, illustrating how Brooks refined sequences, characters and jokes through collaboration, instinct and fearless experimentation. The breadth and depth of the material underscore the extraordinary impact of his body of work and his influence across multiple generations of comedic storytellers.

"Mel Brooks' archive represents an unparalleled primary-source record of how a singular artist reshaped narrative, satire and cinematic form – all through the lens of comedy," said Journey Gunderson, Executive Director of the National Comedy Center. "Preserving this material is not simply an act of stewardship – it is the safeguarding of a vital cultural legacy that will inform scholarship, creative inquiry and historical understanding for generations."

About the National Comedy Center

The National Comedy Center is the United States' cultural institution, museum and national archive dedicated to presenting the vital story of comedy and preserving its heritage for future generations. Opened in 2018 in Jamestown, New York, the museum complex offers an unprecedented, immersive visitor experience using state-of-the-art technology, interactivity, and personalization. The National Comedy Center is a 501(c)(3) non-profit cultural institution whose mission is funded by philanthropic support. Donations and grants support the museum and its work to present the vital story of comedy and preserve its heritage for future generations.

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Businesses of the Week

Music for Your Mouth & Stedman Coffee Roasters

ENCORE: MUSIC FOR YOUR MOUTH REOPENS BIGGER, BOLDER AND BREWING



Editor-in-Chief
Katrina Fuller

Four years to the day after opening its doors, Music for Your Mouth in Mayville has a lot to celebrate. The farm-to-table restaurant recently completed a full dining room renovation and has expanded its footprint with not one but two new ventures tied to Stedman Coffee Roasters, which the owners also recently acquired.

Karen Simmons co-owns Music for Your Mouth with her husband, Al Simmons, an Army veteran who served for 10 years. Together, they have built what Karen describes as more than a meal.

"It's a dining experience, she said. "It's everything from the second you walk in the door."

The restaurant's slogan captures that philosophy well: "a dining experience to make your taste buds sing."

The renovation, completed just before the anniversary reopening on May 14, transformed the dining room from the ground up. The ceiling has been lifted all the way to the rafters and painted black, lending the space a modern, elegant feel.

"Very modern," Karen said. "Very elegant, upscale. Now our ambiance matches the quality of the dinner plate."

Guests can expect delicious meals and the same chef they have come to know. The kitchen remains a true "from scratch operation."

"We source all of our stuff. Everything's brought into house raw, and we make everything from scratch," Karen said. "Sauces, dressings. We cook all of our own meat. We don't buy anything already cooked. We do it all in-house."

The menu features certified grass-fed Angus beef and locally sourced ingredients throughout. Among Karen's personal favorites are the chicken power bowl at lunch and the bang bang salmon at dinner.

The restaurant's culinary talent comes with an impressive resume. Executive



Karen & Al Simmons

Chef Erik Alicea previously served as chef for the Pittsburgh Steelers, and his arrival at Music for Your Mouth came about through a connection that Karen calls nothing short of serendipitous.

A fellow musician from Karen's time playing first violin in the Warren Philharmonic suggested the chef's name before the restaurant ever opened. Years later, when the time came to bring on a professional chef, Al discovered that Erik was the brother of the late father of his childhood best friend's stepchildren. The family connection had been there all along, hiding in plain sight.

"You can't make that up," Karen said. "The connection is so uncanny."

With the renovation and expansion comes an updated schedule. Music for Your Mouth is now open Tuesday through Saturday for lunch from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and for dinner from 4:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday also brings a brunch service with made-to-order offerings that are sure to please any palate.

Another change to the scenery is the new Stedman Cafe, which operates inside the restaurant Tuesday through Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Guests can enjoy locally roasted coffee and a full pastry case.

The Simmons recently purchased Stedman Coffee Roasters and, along with the cafe inside Music for Your Mouth, have also taken over the Stedman location in Lakewood. That spot is open Monday through Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., and is closed on Sundays.

Stedman roasts its beans in small batches, sourcing them globally. The brand supplies coffee to local restaurants, stores in the Erie area and is working to return to Wegmans shelves. The



Above: Music for your Mouth, Below: Stedman Coffee



company also has active collaborations with area businesses. Southern Tier is using Stedman coffee in an espresso martini mix and a beer, and Wicked Warren's has a custom "Wicked Blend."

Plans are also underway to install a roaster in Mayville, which would allow roasting to take place at both the Mayville and Lakewood locations and increase overall production capacity. Music for Your Mouth has its own house blend, the "Music for Your Mouth" blend, available at the cafe.

As the region marks Memorial Day, the Simmons family's appreciation for military service is woven into how they run their business. Al's decade of service in the U.S. Army shapes the way they approach their everyday operations. **Music for Your Mouth offers a 10 percent discount to military members, veterans and service workers every day of the year, not just on holidays.**

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20

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ENERGY INNOVATORS ANNOUNCED FOR RETOOL'26 PANEL DISCUSSION

Contributed by
Jamestown BPU

Three leaders of innovative energy companies will be featured panelists at the Retool'26 Conference on June 9th at the Chautauqua Harbor Hotel. The one-day conference, organized by the Jamestown Board of Public Utilities (BPU), is part of the BPU's Retool WNY initiative, focused on providing opportunities for regional manufacturers to explore new supply chain opportunities in the clean energy sector and innovative solutions for energy efficiency and process improvements.

Charles Murray, CEO of Switched Source, Andrew Lee, co-founder and CEO of Innovia GEO, and Alex Kosyakov, co-founder and CEO of Natrion, will talk about how their entrepreneurial ventures have helped advance clean energy innovation in the state, across the nation, and in both Canada and South America. The panel discussion will be moderated by Krysten Walls, a senior project manager for the commercialization team at the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA).

Murray's company, Switched Source, is working to improve the electricity distribution system through the placement of automation equipment that can help re-balance loads between phases and distribution circuits. Their installations have helped increase reliability and efficiency for electric system operations.

Natrion is scaling up a production facility in Buffalo where their scientific and engineering teams are developing innovative new materials to supply the next generation of batteries used in automotive, consumer electronics, defense/aerospace, and energy storage systems. Natrion's active separator is designed to eliminate the risk of thermal runaway fires and is expected to deliver superior energy output in li-metal and li-sulfur batteries.

Innovia GEO is a company that is emerging as a leader in shallow geothermal heating and cooling. Their ultra-shallow GEO systems are designed to be used in low and midrise buildings. The company has projects in Ontario and Buffalo. Their shallow geothermal systems can be used in new buildings or as a retrofit solution in existing buildings. GEO systems can provide savings on utility bills and are expected to deliver stable, predictable savings on long-term energy costs.

Retool'26 conference organizer Ellen Ditonto, the Jamestown BPU's Business Development Coordinator, said all three of the companies represented in the Energy Innovators Panel are looking for supply chain companies that can help as they continue to scale up production.

"This is a wonderful opportunity to talk with these company leaders," Ditonto said. "Connections made at the Retool conferences in the last few years have been invaluable to our small and medium manufacturers and to the entrepreneurs looking for seasoned and reliable manufacturers."



Submitted Photos

Charles Murray



Andrew Lee



Alex Kosyakov



Krysten Walls

Co-presenting partners for this year's event include non-profit NextCorps and the Scale for ClimateTech program, which is administered by NextCorps and SecondMuse. These two organizations are helping to scale up manufacturing in New York State, with a focus on commercializing clean technologies and solutions.

Switched Source benefited from participation in a recent Scale for ClimateTech cohort. That program supports climate tech innovators in refining their prototypes and scaling up their manufacturing. Both Natrion and Innovia GEO are current participants in a ClimateTech cohort, and Innovia GEO also has been in the Venture for ClimateTech program, which is a global accelerator program for sourcing the most promising climate tech innovators.

Tickets for Retool'26 are available at: Retool26.eventbrite.com with discounted pricing for purchase of two or more tickets by one organization.

Sponsorship and vendor opportunities are still available. For more information, contact Ditonto at 716-661-1686 or by email at businessdev@jamestownbpu.com.



Submitted Photo

William A. Lucas will present "Traveling with the Amish: Past and Present" at the Chautauqua Town Historical Society's Monthly Meeting, this Thursday, May 21 at 7pm in the Veteran's Memorial Meeting Room, the Chautauqua Town Hall, 2 Academy Street, Mayville, NY.

William Lucas, a member of the Chautauqua Town Historical Society, has traveled extensively with the Amish from a number of communities in several different states. From his forty plus years of driving the Amish on their trips to many states, he has gained first hand insights regarding the daily aspects that shape their lives.

Lucas is an award-winning photographer (PhotoGather), who has documented and exhibited photos that chronicle their lives within the changing modern society. He asks how do the Amish adapt, and why do the modern "English" (as they call the non-Amish) look back on the past and reflect on how it compares with their own way of life? These questions and others are the subject of his illustrated talk and the discussion following.

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Northern Chautauqua Community Foundation Awards \$166,293 to Local Organizations

Contributed by
Northern Chautauqua Community Foundation

The Board of Directors of the Northern Chautauqua Community Foundation (NCCF) recently approved Community Benefit Grants totaling \$166,293 to local organizations serving northern Chautauqua County. These grants are made possible by donors who have established or contributed to Community Funds at NCCF. The foundation is grateful for their generosity and foresight, ensuring resources will be available to meet community needs for generations to come.

The Community Benefit Grants Program awards funding twice a year to organizations seeking funding to improve and strengthen the northern Chautauqua region. The deadline to submit a letter of interest for the next round of Community Benefit Grants is September 1, 2026. For more information on this and other grant programs at NCCF, visit nccfoundation.org/helping-nonprofits. NCCF envisions a vibrant, prosperous community, rich in opportunity, today and tomorrow. The foundation works to bring that vision to life through leadership, collaboration, local philanthropy, and strategic grantmaking.

Organizations receiving funding from the 2026 Spring Community Benefit Grants Program are: American Red Cross of WNY, Camp Get-A-Way of Western NY Region, Chautauqua Adult Day Care Center, Chautauqua Children's Gym, Centaur Stride, Chautauqua Institution, Chautauqua County Rural Ministry, Chautauqua Safety Village, Concord Grape Belt Heritage Association, Darwin R. Barker Library and Museum, Dunkirk Historical Lighthouse, Dunkirk Police Department, Dunkirk Public Library, Fredonia First Methodist Church, Jamestown YWCA, Lake Shore Center for the Arts, Northern Chautauqua Canine Rescue, Revitalize Dunkirk, Tri-Church Parish, and Westfield Memorial Hospital Foundation.

Through the Today. Tomorrow. Together. campaign, NCCF is building NCCF is building resources to support meaningful, lasting impact across northern Chautauqua. When you give to Community Funds at NCCF, your gift lasts forever, and directly benefits our community, our children, our families and neighbors, and the nonprofits that serve them. Now in its final year, the campaign has raised over \$8 million for the benefit of northern Chautauqua. To learn more about the campaign or to get involved, visit nccfoundation.org, call 716-366-4892, or email nccf@nccfoundation.org.



Submitted Photo



Memorial Day Book Giveaway

Adults and kids alike enjoy taking home a free book after Jamestown's Memorial Day Parade. Weather permitting, the Unitarian Church will give away books again on Monday morning, May 25 at 663 Lakeview Avenue, in front of Christ First United Methodist Church, near the parade's finish. Anyone is welcome to take free books any time from the two book boxes – one for children, one for adults – in front of the Unitarian Church at 1255 Prendergast Avenue.

For information on the church's May 24 and 31 services – Lauren Turner on preventing war and Flower Communion by Emily Garrick – visit Facebook.com/JamestownUU.

Chautauqua–Lake Erie Art Trail Connects Community, Creativity, and Commerce

Contributed by
North Shore Arts Alliance

The Chautauqua–Lake Erie Art Trail offers artist members of the North Shore Arts Alliance (NSAA) a unique opportunity to open their studios to the public or exhibit their work in galleries and non-traditional “hub” locations during two weekends each year—**Memorial Day** and Labor Day. This **self-guided driving tour spans Chautauqua County**, inviting visitors to experience art where it is created and displayed on **Saturday, May 23 and Sunday, May 24 from 10am--5pm** each day.



tor experience with tools such as an interactive online map, also available in print, featuring locations, artist profiles, images, and links to artist websites. These resources not only improve navigation during the event but also extend artist visibility and sales opportunities beyond Trail weekends. This year will see the highest number of artists participating, as it is set to expand to 16 stops with 36 participating artists.

The Art Trail has become a meaningful economic driver for the region, attracting visitors from across New York State and neighboring Pennsylvania. In 2025, nearly 14 percent of attendees traveled from outside the state. Trail stops stretch from Jamestown to Sherman and from Kennedy to Fredonia, offering a wide geographic reach. To encourage exploration of more locations—particularly working studios—NSAA introduced a popular passport program. Visitors collect stamps at each stop and redeem completed passports for tiered prizes, including gift certificates redeemable with participating artists. The program has proven highly effective, growing by 24 percent from 2024 to 2025.

NSAA continues to enhance the visi-

NSAA has also realized the need to include our young artists, and created the Emerging Student Artists Program, inviting local high school artists recommended by their art teachers to participate. Students will have the opportunity to network with professional artists and learn about exhibiting their work at an art event. During Memorial Day weekend, students from **Westfield High School will be at the Sheep Barn, 5115 Morris Road in Mayville**, and students from **Jamestown’s AP art program will exhibit at the Key Bank Edgewater Art House, 712 W. 8th Street, Jamestown.**

For a fun engaging experience, come drive the Art Trail and discover new friends, new treasures, and take home something special made by the very hands of the people you meet on the Trail. More information and sample images of the artists’ works, review the interactive map here: <https://nsaachautauqua.org/art-trail.html>.

1891 Run 5k Medalists Announced in Fredonia



Submitted Photo

The 1891 Fredonia Opera House Performing Arts Center recently held its ninth annual 1891 Run, a 5k run/walk fundraiser that benefits the theatre’s general operations and programming.

Overall Winners

- Cody Kent** (age 19, Kennedy), First Overall Male, with a time of 16:47
- Ed Mercado** (age 20, Lakeview), Second Overall Male, 18:21
- Christopher Phelps** (age 13, Ripley), Third Overall Male, 18:21
- Rosie Williamson** (age 37, Erie, PA), First Overall Female, 20:29
- Sandra Leary** (age 41, Fredonia), Second Overall Female, 21:20
- Gabrielle Hart** (age 29, Dunkirk), Third Overall Female, 23:46

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DUNKIRK CELEBRATES MEMORIAL DAY

Submitted Photos




Contributed by City of Dunkirk

The City of Dunkirk Festivals and Special Events department are proud to announce the Annual Memorial Day Parade in downtown Dunkirk on Monday, May 25. The parade, which is sponsored by Refresco Beverages, Dunkirk-Fredonia Rotary Club and Dunkirk Veterans Club of WWII, is currently accepting participant applications.

The day will begin with a memorial service at 8:30 a.m. at the Dunkirk Lighthouse presented by the Knights of Columbus and a 10 a.m. memorial service at Memorial Park directed by the Dunkirk Joint Veterans Council.

The parade begins at 11 a.m. and will travel down Central Avenue and end at Washington Park with a hydration station hosted by Revitalize Dunkirk. Miniature flags for waving will be distributed to families along the parade route while supplies last.

Memorial Day was established on May 29, 1863 as a designated day for the purpose of strewing flowers over the graves of our dead veterans who had died in defense of our country.

For more information about being a parade participant and/or event sponsor, please contact Scott Mekus, Dunkirk Festivals event specialist at (716) 366-9848 or smekus@cityofdunkirk.com.



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CHRIC CELEBRATES NATIONAL NEIGHBORWORKS WEEK WITH MUSIC BY TWO TOWNS CLASSIC ROCK BAND AND A CHICKEN BBQ!



Contributed by
Chautauque Home Rehabilitation and Improvement Corporation

Chautauque Home Rehabilitation and Improvement Corporation (CHRIC) will be celebrating **NeighborWorks Week from May 23, 2026 through June 7, 2026** this year. During these weeks, the NeighborWorks network celebrates how organizations and residents work together to create opportunities, strengthen neighborhoods, and build a better future for all.

CHRIC will be hosting a celebratory community gathering on **Saturday, June 6th, 2026, from 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM** at the **Lake Chautauque Memorial VFW Post #8647, 10 Memorial Drive, Mayville, New York 14757.**

There will be a **Chicken BBQ starting at 12 Noon located outside at the pavilion.** Tickets for the **Chicken BBQ are \$12.00.**

TWO TOWNS Classic Rock Band will be performing live starting at 1:00 PM. Two Towns is a classic rock band focusing on popular songs of the 60s to the 90s that feature strong vocal harmonies and outstanding musicianship. Band members include Frank Beach, lead vocalist and bass; Deane Patterson, lead guitarist and vocalist; Kristin Britz, lead vocalist and guitar; Nancy Dietzen, drummer and lead vocalist. All who have graciously donated their time to this event, and we are most thankful and appreciative to them. This celebration is open to the public on a first come first server basis and will provide an opportunity for everyone throughout the region to join us for a day of fun for a great cause and to learn all about what CHRIC does for Chautauque County and its residents!

For more information about this event contact CHRIC at 716-753-4650 or go to www.chric.org.

The event will promote both CHRIC and NeighborWorks, celebrate NeighborWorks Week, and help educate the community about lead hazards. We will offer free games and prizes for children, to promote lead

safety and share CHRIC's other services with the public. There will also be a basket raffle, and you can take a chance to win a Cooler of Fun!

"Creating Homes, Building America" reflects our belief that when we invest in housing, we invest in people — and when people thrive, communities thrive.

NeighborWorks America has more than 47 years of impact. Chartered by Congress in 1978, NeighborWorks America supports nearly 250 network organizations through grants, training and partnerships that create safe, affordable housing and promote community well-being.

NeighborWorks America brings national resources to local communities. Chautauque Home Rehabilitation & Improvement Corporation (CHRIC) has proudly served Chautauque County for 48 years. Our programs help residents achieve financial stability, access affordable housing, and build strong, resilient communities. It is CHRIC's Mission to "Promote Neighborhood Stabilization, Community Revitalization, and Economic Development through projects and partnerships that positively impact Chautauque County and its residents."

More information about these agencies can be found on their websites at: NeighborWorks® America www.nw.org and CHRIC's www.chric.org

ABOUT CHRIC

For 48 years, CHRIC has been improving the housing stock of Chautauque County and the living conditions of its low-income residents. As a chartered NeighborWorks® organization, we provide leadership in strengthening communities and creating affordable housing opportunities for low- and moderate-income families. **Over the past five (5) years alone,** CHRIC has created 348 New Homeowners, has counseled 1081 in Financial Literacy, Repaired or Rehabbed 798 owner-occupied homes, developed or preserved 184 rental homes, assisted 2,404 families in Chautauque County, provided 745 volunteer hours, and provided a total of direct investment of **\$30,136,806 million dollars** in Chautauque County.

Chautauque Home Rehabilitation & Improvement Corporation (CHRIC)

"Promoting neighborhood stabilization, community revitalization, and economic development through projects and partnerships that positively impact Chautauque County and its residents"



HELP CHRIC CELEBRATE... NATIONAL NEIGHBORWORKS WEEK

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3rd on Third

Third Thursday of each month starting May 21st • 5-8pm



CHAMBER CORNER

CELEBRATING BUSINESS, CULTURE & COMMUNITY

Article Contributed by

Daniel J. Heitzenrater

Chautauqua County Chamber of Commerce
President and CEO

Although the chilly weather last week may have implied otherwise, the season of festivals, community events, and outdoor activities is kicking off. Here at the CHQ Chamber we are excited to bring the well-established **First Friday** event back to Westfield (June 5th), the second year of **Music in the Green** in Mayville (June 17th), and a reimagined

event for downtown Jamestown launching this Thursday (May 21st) called, **3rd on Third**.

3rd on Third will be an experience similar to our First Friday event in Westfield, with vendors, businesses extending hours, activities, and musicians, but with a different focus each month that will shine a light on what makes Jamestown great.

We're thrilled to partner with the **Chautauqua Art Gallery** and **Pearl City Clayhouse** as they hold their opening reception for **ArtScape Jamestown**. ArtScape will display

59 new banners throughout downtown that showcase the art of many regional artists. Their event runs from 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm.

3rd on Third will also help kick-off a free concert at the **Reg Lenna Center for the Arts**. Beginning at 7:30, the Reg will host the **U.S. Air Force Heritage of America Brass Band**. This concert will run until 9:30 pm, tickets/reservations are not required for this event.

From 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm, as people travel through the streets admiring art and anticipating an evening

concert, 3rd on Third will bring the community together to enjoy vendors, local businesses/restaurants, local musicians **Dan Cecil, Ben Cornell, and Dan Siracuse**, and a safe environment for families to convene as Third Street will be closed to traffic from Main Street to Spring Street.

The CHQ Chamber is excited to launch this new event series and look forward to future months of showcasing the various arts, history, and culture that make Jamestown special.



3rd on Third



SHOP.

DINE.

EXPLORE.

Join us on the third Thursday each month, starting May 21st. From 5:00-8:00 PM Third Street in Downtown Jamestown from Main St to Spring St will have vendors, businesses, restaurants and performers celebrating everything that makes Jamestown special.

MAY 21 5-8PM LIVE MUSIC WITH DAN CECIL, BEN CORNELL & DAN SIRACUSE



- CHAMBER -

3rd on Third

Third Thursday of each month starting May 21st • 5-8pm

ArtScape Jamestown 2026 Unveils Summer Event Series



Painting, *Chautauqua Snow Sunset*
by Jim Vincent

Contributed by

ArtScape Jamestown

ArtScape Jamestown is pleased to announce a vibrant lineup of public art events designed to celebrate creativity, community, and connection throughout the summer months. The 2026 season centerpiece is the Original Art Show Opening Reception, taking place on Thursday, May 21, from 5–7 p.m., hosted collaboratively by Chautauqua Art Gallery and Pearl City Clay House.

Now in its fourth year, ArtScape will display 59 banners installed throughout downtown Jamestown in June, showcasing the juried work of regional artists and transforming Jamestown into an open-air gallery. The original artwork featured on the banners will be exhibited indoors from May 21 through July 4 at both gallery locations. The opening reception will begin at the Chautauqua Art Gallery at 5 p.m., with remarks at 5:30 p.m. Guests are then invited to walk or drive to Pearl City Clay House to experience the full exhibition.

“This exhibition represents the heart of ArtScape—bringing artists and the public together in meaningful, accessible ways,” said Leslie Calimeri, owner of Chautauqua Art Gallery. “We’re excited to showcase the original works behind the banners and create an engaging, walkable arts experience for the community.”

“We love providing a space where people can connect directly with artists and their process,” added Deb Eck, Program Director at Pearl City Clay House. “This season offers multiple opportunities to experience art in a relaxed, welcoming environment.”

About ArtScape Jamestown

ArtScape Jamestown is a public art initiative that celebrates the region’s creative talent by displaying original artwork on banners throughout the city. The program connects artists, residents, and visitors through accessible, community-focused art experiences. For full details, artist information, and updates, please visit: <https://artscapejamestownny.com>

Additional Summer ArtScape Programming:

Sunday Artist Salon, Pearl City Clay House:

June 14, July 12, and August 9 from 2 - 4 p.m. Free, informal gatherings to meet ArtScape artists and learn about their creative processes.

Jamestown Farmers Market:

Saturdays: June 20, July 4 & 18, August 1 & 15 from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Featured tent hosting interactive activities, including a scavenger hunt, button-making, and ArtScape merchandise.

Plein Air & Sketching Sessions at the Farmers Market

9 and 10 a.m. to sketch or paint on location, then reconvene at 12:30 p.m. to share their work.

U.S. Air Force Heritage of America Brass Band to Perform in Jamestown & Fredonia



Contributed by

Reg Lenna Center for The Arts & 1891 Fredonia Opera House Performing Arts Center

Kick off the Memorial Day weekend with a special concert by one of America’s lauded military musical ensembles in Jamestown or Fredonia!

The US Air Force Heritage Brass will perform a free, public concert at the **Reg Lenna Center for The Arts on Thursday, May 21 at 7:30 p.m.**, and again, at the **Fredonia Opera House Performing Arts Center on Friday, May 22 at 7 p.m.**

Experience brass like you’ve never heard before! Heritage Brass explodes onto the concert stage with a sound that’s both thunderous and intimate. This 15-member ensemble, featuring blazing brass, dynamic percussion, and soaring vocals, brings the best of military tradition to life.

From breathtaking orchestral transcriptions to toe-tapping jazz standards and heart-stirring patriotic favorites, Heritage Brass delivers a diverse and unforgettable performance. Whether they’re rocking a concert hall or inspiring a crowd at a sporting event, these Air Force professionals showcase the service’s excellence and precision with every note. Buckle up for a musical experience that will leave you breathless!

Activated in 1941, The USAF Heritage of America Band has a rich history of inspiring public patriotism and enhan-

cing esprit de corps among all the US military service branches. These world-class musicians are stationed at Joint Base Langley-Eustis in Hampton, Virginia. They travel throughout the Carolinas, Mid-Atlantic and Northeast regions, presenting more than 350 events annually for the general public and in support of Airman morale and protocol events.

Details for Jamestown's Show:

Tickets and reservations are not required for this performance. Seating is general admission - first come, first served. For more information visit reglenna.com. Reg Lenna Center for The Arts is located at 116 E. 3rd St. in Jamestown, NY. The performance is sponsored by Northwest Bank.

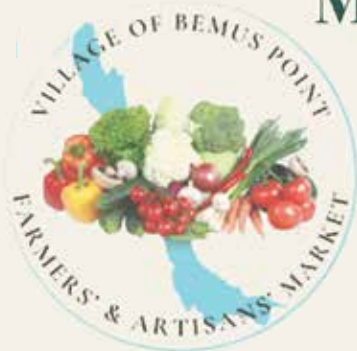
The Reg Lenna Center for The Arts' programs are made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.

Details for Fredonia's Show:

Admission to the performance is FREE, but tickets are required. Visit or call the Box Office at 716-679-1891 (T-F, 12-4:30pm). There is a limit of four tickets per reservation. Any remaining tickets will be available at the door, but this is not assured.

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

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MAY 29 - SEPTEMBER 4

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Encore: Music for Your Mouth Reopens Bigger, Bolder and Brewing

Continued from Page 11

"We're able to do what we do because of others have been so selfless and sacrificed so much for our freedoms," Karen said. "The 10 percent discount for veterans and military and service workers is nothing, but it's just a small token of our everyday appreciation."

For Karen, Memorial Day carries a simple and sincere meaning: "It's just a time to remember and be grateful."

The Simmons came to Mayville from Pennsylvania, where Karen had run a music school and long dreamed of a coffee shop venture. When they arrived in Chautauqua County, she saw a community she recognized.

"Mayville was very reminiscent of where I raised my children in Pennsylvania, she recalled. "County seat, jail, courthouse, Victorian homes."

What began as a coffee-and-dessert

concept grew into a full-service scratch kitchen restaurant after local demand pushed them in that direction. Karen says she believes in the value of keeping things local and encouraging people to support their neighbors.

"With a world of everything being online, it is just nice to support hardworking local business people that want to keep revenue and things thriving in the small communities," she said.

The restaurant draws visitors from Pittsburgh, Cleveland and Buffalo, some of whom make the trip out in the off-season specifically for the food. For anyone who has not yet made the drive to Mayville, Karen has a simple message: it is worth it.

Music for Your Mouth is located in Mayville, N.Y. For more information on hours and offerings, visit music4yourmouth.com or stedmancoffee.com.

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HOPE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST PEDIATRIC CANCER



Contributed by
**Congressman
Nick Langworthy**

Congressman Nick Langworthy recently joined with leaders from Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center, pediatric cancer advocates, and local families to celebrate the enactment of the Give Kids a Chance Act, bipartisan legislation signed into law earlier this year as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2026.

The landmark legislation strengthens research and development efforts for rare pediatric diseases and childhood cancers by expanding the Food and Drug Administration's authority to support innovative pediatric drug development, reauthorizing the Rare Pediatric Disease Priority Review Voucher Program, and increasing accountability for companies conducting pediatric studies.

"As a father, I cannot imagine what parents of children battling cancer are going through," said Congressman Langworthy. "The fear, the uncertainty, and the helplessness those families carry every single day is so-

meting no parent should ever have to experience. That's why I was proud to throw my full support behind the Give Kids a Chance Act. This law helps deliver hope to families by expanding research opportunities, encouraging investment in pediatric treatments, and helping more children gain access to cutting-edge therapies. We will not rest until we find better treatments, better outcomes, and ultimately cures."

Congressman Langworthy, a member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee and its Health Subcommittee, has made combating pediatric illness and rare disease a major focus during his time in Congress, including efforts to expand newborn screening for Krabbe disease.

The Give Kids a Chance Act allows the FDA to require or permit studies of new pediatric cancer drugs in combination with already approved therapies, helping ensure children are not left behind in the drug development process. The law also continues critical funding for pediatric research through the National Institutes of Health and provides greater certainty for companies investing in treatments for rare diseases affecting small patient populations.

SUDOKU

			3		9			
		4		2			5	3
	3		5			4	9	
8					2	5	3	
4	5			9			8	
	6		8		1			4
		6			4	2		5
9				3		1	6	8
			6		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				29	30	31	32	33
					34					35			
36									37				
38										39			
40										41			
42												43	

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Government lawyers
- 4. The back of a person's neck
- 8. Mild yellow Dutch cheese
- 10. In a less flashy way
- 11. Living room piece
- 12. Shepherd dog
- 13. A citizen of Iran
- 15. Moved slowly
- 16. Small finch
- 17. Previously
- 18. What a kid does on Halloween
- 21. Monetary unit
- 22. Using dry humor
- 23. Ocean
- 24. Greek goddess of the dawn
- 25. Not close
- 26. NHL legend Bobby
- 27. A ballplayer would love to do th
- 34. Charity
- 35. City in Finland
- 36. Loomed over
- 37. Vaccine developer
- 38. Avoids capture
- 39. We all need it
- 40. Openwork fabrics
- 41. Get away
- 42. Something you might hit
- 43. Soviet Socialist Republic

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Abstain from
- 2. Admirer
- 3. Expedition to observe animals
- 4. Act that is legally void
- 5. WW2 combatants
- 6. A tool
- 7. Looked at
- 9. Showing wild excitement
- 10. Banknotes
- 12. Tired
- 14. Printers need it
- 15. Women's patriotic group
- 17. When you anticipate getting somewhere
- 19. Functions
- 20. Breed of sheep
- 23. Mocking pieces
- 24. A major division of geological ti
- 25. Andiron
- 26. Many not ands
- 27. Cuban city
- 28. He voiced "Olaf"
- 29. Criticize
- 30. "Thundercats" character
- 31. Markings
- 32. Gets up
- 33. MLB lefty reliever A.J.
- 34. An assembly of witches
- 36. High energy lasers (abbr.)

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5 Interesting Facts About Memorial Day



Courtesy of
Metro Creative Connection

to honor fallen soldiers, and has been featuring a formal, community-wide event since May 5, 1866.

Memorial Day is celebrated at the end of May each year to honor those who lost their lives while serving in the Armed Forces. Memorial Day, the origins of which can be traced to the aftermath of the American Civil War, holds deep historical significance, and the following are five interesting facts about the holiday.

1. The holiday began as Decoration Day. Before the official establishment of Memorial Day, communities began holding spring tributes to fallen soldiers, decorating soldiers' graves with flowers to pay respects. In 1868, General John A. Logan, leader of an organization for northern Civil War veterans, officially proclaimed May 30 as Decoration Day. War.gov says that graves at Arlington National Cemetery continued to be adorned in the same fashion they were back in the 1860s.
2. Memorial Day became an official holiday in 1968. President Lyndon B. Johnson signed Memorial Day into law on June 28, 1968, officially marking Memorial Day as a national holiday. However, two years prior, he signed a proclamation officially declaring Waterloo, New York, as the birthplace of Memorial Day. The town was the first
3. Blooming flowers have a place in Memorial Day history. Historians believe that the original choice of May 30 for Decoration Day was not due to any specific battle. Rather, it was a day when no particular conflict had taken place and was the time of year when flowers would be in full bloom. So on May 30 there would be plenty of flowers across the country to decorate soldiers' graves.
4. All fallen veterans were eventually honored on Memorial Day. Many early Memorial Day iterations honored those who died during the American Civil War. After World War I, however, the Memorial Day holiday was expanded to honor all American military personnel who died during any war.
5. The Uniform Monday Holiday Act changed when Memorial Day is commemorated. Memorial Day once was commemorated on May 30 regardless of the day of the week. In 1968, Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act, moving Memorial Day to the last Monday in May to create a three-day weekend for federal employees. This change went into effect in 1971.

SUNY Fredonia to centralize student services in Jewett Hall renovation



Submitted Photo
Architect rendering of Jewett Hall project

Contributed by
SUNY Fredonia

The State University of New York at Fredonia is renovating Jewett Hall to centralize many essential student services, creating a more streamlined and accessible experience. The renovated facility will serve as a centralized Student Success Center, housing key student-focused offices including Career Development, Academic Advising, Financial Aid, Student Accounts, the Registrar, and the Advancing Completion through Engagement (ACE) Office, alongside programs that support global learning and access such as International Education, International Student Services, Study Abroad, Educational Development Program, and the Honors Program.

“This project is about removing barriers for our students,” said SUNY Fredonia President Stephen H. Kolison Jr. “By

bringing critical services together in one place, we are making it easier for students navigating their academic journey, so they can focus on what matters most: their success.”

By cutting down the need to travel across campus for appointments and assistance, the new model is expected to simplify processes, save time, and make it easier for students to get the help they need when they need it. The facility will also offer classrooms, conference and multipurpose spaces, a tranquility room, and student lounges to support both academic and daily student needs. The renovation is part of Fredonia's "Building Towards Student Success" initiative, which focuses on improving how students access services and navigate campus resources. The State University of New York Construction Fund is providing capital investment for the \$52 million project.

The renovation is expected to be completed in 2028.

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Junior Achievement Announces Winners of Annual Stock Market Challenge

Jamestown High School Student Jacob Johnson Earns First Place for WNY in the Junior Achievement Virtual Stock Market Challenge. The academic competition included 1,200 WNY students who participated in two separate virtual competitions of trading during the course of the school year. Students represented seventeen schools from across WNY. Leaderboards were dynamic and shared weekly using the hashtag #JAWNYStockMarketChallenge. Proceeds from the JA Stock Market Challenge support Junior Achievement's financial literacy, entrepreneurship, and career & work-readiness pathway programs for kindergarten-12 grade students. For more information about Junior Achievement programs, visit www.jawny.org.



Submitted Photo
Jacob Johnson, Jamestown High School

The Chautauqua County Genealogical Society will meet at the Cassadaga American Legion Post 1280 on Wednesday, May 20th, 2026.

The Business Meeting will be at 6:30 PM and the speaker at 7:00PM. Topic for the evening will be, "How to Use Funeral Home Records for Genealogical and Family Research. David Dengler, Funeral Director for the Larson-Timko Funeral Home in Fredonia will be the presenter. The public is invited to attend the meetings. For more information or to be a presenter, contact Gail Dash at 716 785 8420.

Senator George Borrello Honors Seneca Nation Councilor Tina Abrams at New York State Senate Women of Distinction Ceremony

Submitted Photo



Senator Borrello and Tina Abrams at the Women of Distinction ceremony in the Legislative Office Building in Albany, New York.

Senator George Borrello joined colleagues from across the state at the New York State Legislative Office Building to honor Tina Abrams, Seneca, Wolf Clan, a member of the Seneca Nation Council, as the 57th District's 2026 New York State Senate Woman of Distinction. Abrams is the first Indigenous woman to be selected as a New York State Senate Woman of Distinction, a historic first for the program.

Abrams has dedicated more than two decades to public service, having first been elected to the Seneca Nation Council in 2001 and making history in 2012 as the first woman appointed Co-Chair of that legislative body. A tireless advocate for Native American rights, cultural preservation, and community service, she has served on the Cattaraugus County Planning Board since 2003, on the Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center Board of Directors since 2021, and as Northeast Region Vice President of the National Congress of American Indians. In 2025, she was honored as one of Erie County's "Living Trailblazing Women of Western New York."

Abrams and her husband reside on the Allegany Territory and have three children and ten grandchildren.

If You Own Property or a Business On or Near Chautauqua Lake and/or Enjoy the Lake as a Lake, Come to...

CLPOA "Wetlands" Public Meetings #16
9:30-11:00 am, Saturday, May 23, 2026
 and
6:30-8:00 pm, Sunday, May 24, 2026
The Lawson Center, Bemus Point, NY



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 an IRS 501c(3) non-profit corporation - www.chqlpoa.org

CLPOA+ Wetlands Litigation
State Supreme Court Decision
NYSDEC Response & CLPOA Next Steps
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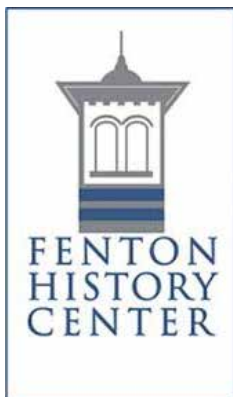
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Jamestown Historic Walking Tours to Start June 6

Contributed by
Fenton History Center

The Fenton History Center will once again present historic walking tours of Jamestown beginning June 6 through August 29. The tours all start at 10 AM, most starting at the Gov. Reuben E. Fenton Mansion, however some start at other points on the tour. The cost is \$8 for members and \$12 for non-members. Participants can pre-register online, in person at the Fenton, or by phone at 716-664-6256. There is a limit of 20 people for each tour. Thank you to our sponsors Rodgers Land Surveying, Ahlstrom Schaefer, and Weber Knapp.



throughout the 2026 season. Each pass is valid for one person. The cost is \$50 for members (regularly \$56) and \$80 (regularly \$84) for non-members. Please consider membership if you are not currently a member and are interested in a number of the tours.

The first tour is about the iconic homes along Lakeview Ave. Led by long-time Fenton member and former board member Cindy Rodgers. The tour begins at the Christ First United Methodist Church parking lot on Buffalo St. at 10 AM on June 6.

The tours throughout the summer are of Allen Park, Jamestown's Hidden Alleys, Jamestown's Industrial Past, a military tour of Lake View Cemetery, Lucy's Downtown, Churches tour, and the Ladies of Lake View Cemetery. To see the full list and times, visit www.fentonhistorycenter.org/events.

For the first time, history tour buffs can purchase a Full Circuit History Pass, which provides individual access to all Fenton Historic Walking Tours

Nelson Proposes Ending Automatic Pay Raises for County Legislators

Contributed by
Chautauqua County Legislator Tom Nelson

Chautauqua County Legislator Tom Nelson has introduced a Local Law that would eliminate the automatic cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) currently scheduled to take effect for county legislators beginning in 2027.

Nelson said he opposed the 2024 Local Law that increased county legislators' salaries from \$9,000 to nearly \$15,000 annually.

"On top of that substantial 66% pay increase, county legislators are also set to receive automatic cost-of-living raises starting January 1, 2027," Nelson said.

"With inflation continuing to impact families across Chautauqua County, legislators should give up their automatic 2027 pay raise and provide taxpayers some relief," he added. "We need to make it more affordable for people to continue living here."

Nelson said he is not opposed to fair compensation for public officials,

but believes salary increases should be debated openly and approved publicly rather than built into law permanently.

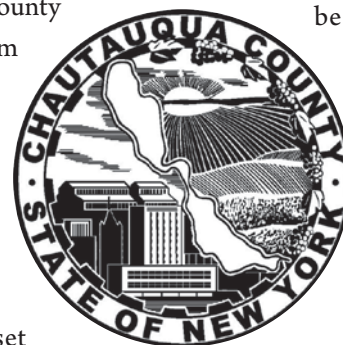
"If county legislators believe a future pay increase is justified, they should vote on it publicly," Nelson said. "Automatic annual raises are not fair to county residents, many of whom do not receive guaranteed increases in their own pay."

He added that raises should be evaluated each year based on economic conditions, county finances, and the circumstances facing taxpayers.

"Many retirees, small business owners, and workers in struggling industries are dealing with rising costs without automatic increases in income," Nelson said. "County government's first obligation should be delivering services effectively to our constituents, not guaranteeing annual raises for ourselves."

Nelson said he hopes the proposal will receive bipartisan support.

"I hope legislators from both parties will support this measure and give county taxpayers a break," he said.



FENTON HISTORY CENTER

MAY & JUNE 2026 EVENTS

<h4 style="text-align: center;">LECTURE SERIES</h4> <p style="text-align: center;">FREE and open to the public</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tues. MAY 19 @ 7 PM 50th Anniversary of the King of Sweden's Visit <i>presented by Joni Blackman</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tues. JUN 16 @ 7 PM Appreciating the Architecture of First Presbyterian Church at 100 <i>presented by John Smagner</i></p>	<h4 style="text-align: center;">HISTORIC TOURS</h4> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">All tours are held on Saturdays at 10:00 AM.</p> <table style="width: 100%; font-size: small;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">JUN 6</td> <td>Lakeview Ave. Tour <small>start at Christ First UMC parking lot</small></td> </tr> <tr> <td>JUN 13</td> <td>Allen Park <small>start at Allen Park Bondshell</small></td> </tr> <tr> <td>JUN 20</td> <td>Jamestown's Hidden Alleys <small>start at Fenton Mansion</small></td> </tr> <tr> <td>JUN 27</td> <td>Jamestown's Industrial Past <small>start at Fenton Mansion</small></td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small;">See website for full schedule</p> <table style="width: 100%; font-size: x-small;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%; text-align: center;">\$8 <small>for Members</small></td> <td style="width: 25%; text-align: center;">Full Circuit History Pass <small>(access to all 2026 tours)</small></td> <td style="width: 25%;"></td> <td style="width: 25%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">\$12 <small>for Non-Members</small></td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$50 <small>(members)</small></td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$80 <small>(non-members)</small></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	JUN 6	Lakeview Ave. Tour <small>start at Christ First UMC parking lot</small>	JUN 13	Allen Park <small>start at Allen Park Bondshell</small>	JUN 20	Jamestown's Hidden Alleys <small>start at Fenton Mansion</small>	JUN 27	Jamestown's Industrial Past <small>start at Fenton Mansion</small>	\$8 <small>for Members</small>	Full Circuit History Pass <small>(access to all 2026 tours)</small>			\$12 <small>for Non-Members</small>	\$50 <small>(members)</small>	\$80 <small>(non-members)</small>	
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Infinity Invites Community to Adventure Challenge

Submitted Photos



Contributed by
Infinity Visual and Performing Arts, Inc.

connect with the community around them, discover places they may not have visited before, and spend meaningful time together.”

As the warmer months begin, Infinity Visual and Performing Arts, Inc. is inviting families, individuals, and community members to get outside and explore through the return of its Ultimate Adventure Challenge.

Infinity’s Ultimate Adventure Challenge has become a familiar seasonal tradition for many participants, both locally and nation-wide, offering a simple and engaging way to stay active while exploring their own region’s natural and cultural spaces.

Now underway, the 2026 challenge runs from May 1 through December 31 and encourages participants to visit a variety of outdoor locations, including local hiking trails, public spaces, and outdoor art installations. Participants document their experiences by taking photos at each stop, working toward a goal of completing 24 adventures over the course of the season.

Participants who complete all 24 locations receive a certificate of completion, along with a commemorative patch and sticker designed by Infinity art instructor Ash Pickering.

Designed with flexibility in mind, the program allows participants to explore at their own pace, whether close to home or while traveling. Many families incorporate the challenge into weekend outings, summer plans, vacations, and everyday opportunities to spend time together outdoors.

In addition to encouraging outdoor exploration, the challenge also supports Infinity’s youth programming. Proceeds from registration help provide arts education opportunities for young people in the region, reinforcing the non-profit organization’s mission to create and sustain an environment where students can grow, learn, and lead through the arts.

“We see this as more than just a challenge,” said Stephanie Rogers, Executive Assistant. “It’s a way for people to re-

Community members of all ages are invited to participate. Visit www.infinityperformingarts.org/adventurechallenge for more information.



Nick Langworthy

CONGRESS DISTRICT 23

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langworthy.house.gov

Congressman Langworthy Announces Multi-Million Dollar Investment in Pomfret's Water and Jamestown's Airport

Congressman Nick Langworthy recently announced funding for two major infrastructure projects in Chautauqua County.

The USDA Rural Development has approved more than \$3.2 million in loans and grant funding to support critical water infrastructure improvements in the Town of Pomfret in Chautauqua County. The funding includes two Water and Waste Disposal Loans and Grants awards that will support water main replacement projects aimed at improving reliability, safety, and long-term sustainability of the town’s water system. The projects will replace deteriorating water pipe infrastructure and help improve the health, safety, and reliability of water service for Pomfret residents. The Town of Pomfret is also contributing local matching funds toward the projects.

Meanwhile, in the opposite end of the county, the Federal Aviation Administration has awarded \$5,710,373 in federal funding to Chautauqua County for critical infrastructure improvements at Chautauqua County-Jamestown Airport. The funding, awarded through the FAA’s Airport Improve-

ment Program (AIP), will support the final phase of a major runway rehabilitation and modernization project at the airport. The project includes rehabilitation of 4,075 feet of existing paved Runway 13/31 to maintain structural integrity, minimize foreign object debris, and extend the runway’s operational lifespan. The grant will also fund reconstruction of runway lighting and signage systems that have reached the end of their useful life. Congressman Langworthy who chairs the Congressional Aviation Safety Caucus, emphasized the importance of investing in regional airports particularly in supporting business travel, emergency response operations, tourism, and economic growth.

Congressman Langworthy stated: “These projects are important investments in the long-term sustainability and safety of Chautauqua County communities and allow investment without any added burden to taxpayers. I’m proud to bring this money back home to our 23rd Congressional District.”

The grants were awarded under the Fiscal Year 2026 infrastructure appropriations.



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PUZZLES ON PAGE 21

Falconer Future Business Leaders of America Find Victory at States



Haven Kaltenbach, Alexis Cross, Finley Darr, Ella Garrison, Lilli Szal-Williams, Maci-Lynn Akin, Sharlie Quackenbush, Savannah Moore, Lydia Cross.

Contributed by

Falconer Central School

Falconer High School members of the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) members walked away after two days of competition with a successful experience at the 2026 New York State FBLA State Leadership Conference (SLC).

Nine members traveled to Rochester to compete against nearly 800 of the most ambitious students in the state. Their hard work paid off as members placed in several New York and National competitions. The chapter successfully secured first place with their Chapter Business Display and third place in the Chapter of the Year event.

Several members also secured spots to compete at the National Leadership Conference this summer in San Antonio, Texas including: Lydia Cross (1st Place – Exploring Customer Service; 1st Place – Career Research); Maci-Lynn Akin (2nd Place – Digital Citizenship; 3rd Place – Exploring Leadership); and Finley Darr, Ella Garrison, and Lilli Szal-Williams (3rd Place – Local Chapter Annual Business Report). In addition, Finley Darr, Ella Garrison, and Savannah Moore, Patrick Braley, and Carson Braley, were recognized by being



Emily Johnson (NYS FBLA Board of Trustee) Michelle Johnson (NYS FBLA Board of Trustee, Falconer FBLA Advisor)

inducted into NYS FBLA Honor Society.

The success of the students was matched by chapter advisor, Michelle Johnson, earning the prestigious NYS FBLA Outstanding Adviser of the Year award. This award reflects the dedication and mentorship that fuels the chapter's success year after year.


In addition to the conference business competitions, students attended workshops designed to build leadership and business skills and networked with hundreds of fellow members from across the state. For more information about Falconer FBLA or to help sponsor the chapter's upcoming trip, please contact Michelle Johnson at Falconer High School.

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Driver Safety Awareness Minute

Contributed by
Sam Qadri

Driver and Traffic Safety Instructor
4-Point Driving School, Jamestown

Imagine a scenario where someone sitting in the front passenger seat of a car traveling with a friend on any road or highway. While having a conversation, the driver looks down at something like a cell phone or the center column area inside that car. How about when that same driver turns his/her head over to look at the passenger seated while having a conversation. That's often not thought of as anything more than two people having a conversation, until the unthinkable happens. At 30 mph ground speed rate, in that one second when the driver looks away from the road, the vehicle would have already traveled forward 44 feet. Another driver ahead suddenly applies the brakes for some reason resulting in a rear-end collision. Sometimes that's all it takes to be in a collision with another vehicle.

That's for the driver's own safety, in case the airbag inflates for any reason, the hands go back sideways instead of on the driver's face and doing serious secondary collision damage.

The second is "Visual Distraction." It's when the driver's eyes are not on the road as they should be. Knowing that vision is the most important sense for driving, sometime a driver's eyes begin to wander all around inside the vehicle. Instead, the driver's eyes should be scanning 12 seconds far-ahead to detect hazards and be prepared for the unexpected. The eyes should be able to scan like a radar, collecting information and "intelligence" so to speak. That includes information about signs, signals, roadway markings, pedestrians, motorcycles, and other traffic. Doing so would help the driver have a solid situational awareness in front



the vehicle, in the back and on the sides, of course, though the scanning the mirrors regularly.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, in 2024, about 3,200 people were killed due to distracted driving. As we get into the summer season, few reminders about the topic to raise awareness might be in order. In general, distracted driving could be considered as: "any second that's spent on something other than the driving task." Let's take a minute to refresh on the three types of distracted driving:

Finally, there is "Cognitive Distraction." This would be anytime when "the mind" is having an internal conversation with "the self." It could also be when the driver might be having a regular conversation with someone else in person on a cell phone, trying to plan or solve personal, professional, or other life issues, all of which have absolutely nothing to do with the driving task. That would be another way to define what cognitive distraction is. All these issues could be resolved when the driver arrives safely at their final destination.

The first is "Manual Distraction." This is when the driver's hands are not on the steering wheel. A good reminder at this point that both hands should be on the steering wheel in order to maintain consistent lane positioning, vehicle directional and heading control. Also, by the way, there's update on hands position on the steering wheel. It's now closer to "8 & 4" O'clock position.

Raising awareness on this road safety issue might help remind drivers of the huge responsibility of the driving task. Defensive driving is safe driving. There you have it. Today's driver safety awareness in one minute.

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Mayor Kim Ecklund presents Rev. H Wayne Eppehimer with a proclamation declaring May 15, 2026, to be International MPS Awareness Day in Jamestown, NY after meeting with his family in her office at Tracy Plaza. Pictured from left to right are Joan Eppehimer (spouse), Rev. Eppehimer (MPS II), Mayor Ecklund, Julia Eppehimer Rexford (daughter, MPS II carrier), and Joella Eppehimer Liddle (daughter, MPS II carrier).

Audubon: Free Memorial Day, Allegany Nature Pilgrimage, Dragons & Fairies Fest Needs



You can go fishing in the indoor "pond" when **building admission is free** on **Memorial Day**, Monday, May 25 at Audubon Community Nature Center, 1600 Riverside Road, one-quarter mile east of Route 62 between Jamestown and Warren; learn more at AudubonCNC.org. For an amazing outdoor fun and learning experience, the 2026 **Allegany Nature Pilgrimage** is the place to be May 29-31. The Dragonflies & Damselflies Walk pictured is one of more than 100 naturalist-led nature walks, field trips and classes that fill the weekend with activities for all ages; details and registration at AlleganyNaturePilgrimage.com. **Volunteers and sponsors** are needed for Audubon's 2026 Dragons and Fairies Festival on Saturday, June 13. If you can help park cars, take admissions, staff the trading post, help children and families make crafts, navigate the obstacle course, or take a carriage ride, contact Volunteer Coordinator Sharon Tefft at STefft@AudubonCNC.org. To be a sponsor, contact Executive Director Aaron Sidder at ASidder@AudubonCNC.org. Both can also be reached at (716) 569-2345. Learn more at AudubonCNC.org/dragons-and-fairies.

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