

Photo by Martha Anderson

CHAUTAUQUA GAZETTE




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Happy Memorial Day!

Volume 2 • Issue 19 | Week of May 26, 2025

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ALL GAVE SOME, SOME GAVE ALL

WE REMEMBER & WE HONOR



Submitted Photo

Col. Blackman presents Specialist 5, Michael Sullivan, with Bronze Star Medal for Meritorious Achievement at the Naha Trang Signal Battalion, 1969.

AN UNLIKELY SOLDIER

Featured Writer

Michael Sullivan

In September 1963, President John Kennedy issued an executive order stating that married men would not be drafted. I was married in August 1964. In March of 1968, I received a draft notice to report for duty on April 8, 1968. It was quite a shock since no one told me that Kennedy's executive order had been rescinded. I learned later that due to the Tet

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



Submitted Photo

Chief Master Sergeant Wayne E. Quattrone II, USAF, (Ret), undisclosed location in Iraq, 2007.


A GRATEFUL AIRMAN

Featured Writer

Wayne Quattrone II

I was recently asked to speak at the Blue Star Mothers Memorial Day Service at Lakeview Cemetery. As a veteran, I was honored and felt well-informed to speak on this solemn occasion. While preparing my speech, I realized I didn't really know as much about Memorial Day as I thought I did. An informal survey of what my family and friends knew about

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11




THE HOTEL LENHART
THE DAWNING OF THE CURRY ERA

Contributing Editor

Katrina Fuller

When the historic Hotel Lenhart in Bemus Point was listed for sale, a new chapter was waiting to be written. That chapter is now being brought to life by William Curry III and his family, who have stepped in with vision, heart and a deep love for hospitality. Curry said he and his family jumped at the chance to bring life back to the beloved lakeside landmark.

"I've been in the hospitality business and I wanted to find something in the Chautauqua area that would kind of be a final thing for my wife and I to get involved with and our kids to continue on," William said. "Our friend Richard Benedetto said that the Lenhart was for sale and we headed over there, looked at that and we haven't looked back since."



"We bought a hotel"

New Owners of the Hotel Lenhart - William & Jill Curry

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



HEALING FOR HEROES-A DISABLED VETERAN'S
RETREAT AND WOODED OASIS, INC.

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Jennifer Milchanoski...

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venmo

Memorial Day 2025

Article Contributed by
Healing for Heroes

As Memorial Day 2025 approaches, Healing For Heroes (HFH) takes time to reflect on what this occasion means to us here. It's important to remember what we stand for and why we do what we do. We are a 501(c)(3) Veteran's Charity that provides a free, retreat-style stay to disabled Veterans, and all Veterans alike, while offering nature-based programs and activities to help build camaraderie, ensure relaxation, and facilitate healing.

More than just a day off from work or school to gather and grill, Memorial Day invites us to take some time to consider not only what our nation's servicemembers have lost by their willingness to serve our country, but more importantly, those who have given the ultimate sacrifice. Our officers at HFH know all too well about loss and sacrifice. Their time in service saw multiple deployments to many hostile places, returning home without some of their troops.

Our President, Thomas Nelsen, served for many years in the Marine Corps. He has always found the days leading up to Memorial Day to be challenging. "For me and most veterans I know, this holiday is not about celebrating, partying, grilling and having fun. It's about remembering our fallen brothers and sisters who did not come home. We also remember the ones we have lost since they have come home, succumbed to the demons of war and loss. As veterans of war, we struggle with this holiday as memories resurface and the sadness of loss is fresh again. We quietly give pause to reflect, remember, and honor our friends and family that are not among our ranks anymore. Instead of parties, BBQs, and big outings, we reclude - visiting grave sites and spending time alone, or talking to our buddies with whom we've experienced loss."

From our VP Kelly Carpenter, " This Holiday weighs on my heart heavily. When I deployed overseas with my fellow Marines, we did not come home with everyone. Breaks my heart, to be honest. So for this holiday, please take a moment to understand the importance of Memorial Day and honor the fallen!"

Jeff Clauson, our newest and youngest board member, has similar sentiments. "Memorial Day is a day that many veterans, including me, hold dear to their hearts. It's not a day off work; not a day to party or have BBQs. It's a day to remember those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice and did not make it home to their loved ones. So on Memorial Day this year, I challenge you to remember those that have paid the ultimate sacrifice, while you're spending time with family and friends, since they no longer can."

This shared sentiment with regard to Memorial Day is a binding tenet at HFH. The mission of serving and supporting veterans however we can is paramount. We offer an outlet to honor their grief and a safe space to explore the benefits of nature.

A great way to honor your veteran and help support Healing For Heroes is The Wall of Honor Legacy Donation Program. This program is designed to not only raise desperately needed funds, but also commemorate our cherished servicemen and women. Two sizes of plaques are available; one will hang at Healing For Heroes on the "Wall of Honor" while you keep the other to memorialize your special Veteran.


It's important for us all to recognize the impact that military service has on our veterans, especially the impact of lost soldiers. That is a loss most of us can never comprehend. For any local veterans struggling this weekend, please reach out. We are always available for you.

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Bemus Point, NY 14712

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(716)602-5414

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(716)397-2632

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SUBMISSION DEADLINES
Thursdays at 5:00 pm

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Editorial with Lori Cornell

Hotel Lenhart
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MAY



Owner & Publisher
Lori Cornell

In my idiosyncratic, theme-weaving mind, May Mental Health Month, Memorial Day and the Hotel Lenhart all fit perfectly together.

While preparing this "weave," I ran a few thoughts by a local veteran who wished to remind me that "not every vet has mental health problems". This is true. Not every veteran has PTSD, nor the slew of many other extremely unfortunate service-related mental health issues possible. However, I would argue that all of us - veterans most especially - deserve access to quality mental health care without stipulation or stigma. Each one of us needs and deserves attention to our minds as much, if not more, as our bodies. Our veterans served our country honorably and with great dignity - we should be prepared as a nation to give them the full respect and attention they deserve for the rest of their lives. On this special day, we honor those who died while serving our country. These beloved service members are remembered, grieved and revered. It seems fitting that we honor and cherish the veterans who remain with us, while we also pause to remember those who have passed.

To me, Memorial Day and Mental Health Month - together in May - is no coincidence.

And the Hotel Lenhart? Nothing screams "start of summer" and sound mental health, in my humble opinion, more than this special place. I just had the great pleasure of meeting William and Jill Curry, the thrilled new owners of this beloved destination, as announced last week. I pulled out my most professional and complimentary words, and now I hit them with my own mental health request: the Hotel Lenhart has been one of my top 10 "Happy Places" my entire adult life, and I CANNOT wait, with their permission, to fully reclaim my grandfathered (how

about mothered, legaleeze?!) squatter's rights on the front lawn! For decades, friends and family could find me there, stationed at all hours combining sunbathing and hard work upon my green-chaired mobile office. It's where I kept an eye on my nearby-playing four boys, while making many-a-work-call or gleaning lakeside inspiration as I plowed through piles of emails or crafted my latest press release. In the later hours, I would most certainly have had a "Rocker" in my hand.

That's me. And maybe it's not you, but regardless, the soon-to-be resurrected Hotel Lenhart also gives symbolic credence to the strong mental health of our community. Memorial Day weekend has always been specially demarcated on the calendar with the Hotel's annual reopening, with the dusting off of its famous front porch rockers and the signature adornment of its ample American flags and red geraniums. Whether you're a Bemus Point frequenter or not, this historic hotel and all that it represents to our cherished traditions for locals and visitors alike, is paramount. The Hotel's continued existence is a tribute to our persistent little economic fighter-engine and the many local leaders that work tirelessly for this reality. Thank you to them and thank you to the Curry Family for allowing our future such promise, such strong mental health and hope - if you will.

So, join me at the Lenhart again soon... rock away your cares on the front porch or bask in the sun on the front lawn, gaze at the glistening Chautauqua Lake before you....and most importantly, pause to feel the breeze that flutters their American flags and remember those that gave the ultimate sacrifice so you could.

This is our life. Live it.

This Week
Around Town

MONDAY, MAY 26

Memorial Day Parade Free Books
Christ First United Methodist Church
Jamestown
For info: 716-664-5803

Bemus Point Memorial Day Celebration | 9 AM
Village of Bemus
For info: visitbemuspoint.com

Jamestown Memorial Day Parade 10 AM
Lakeview Avenue
For info: Event on Facebook

Falconer Memorial Day Parade 10:15 AM
West Main Street
For info: Village of Falconer Facebook page

Dunkirk Memorial Day Parade
8:30 AM Knights of Columbus Service (Dunkirk Lighthouse)
10 AM DJVC Service (Memorial Park)
11 AM Parade (Central Ave)
For info: 716-366-3262

Blue Star Mothers Memorial Day Service
Lakeview Cemetery | Jamestown
For info: bluestarmothersny4@yahoo.com

Panama Car Show | 11PM - 2 PM
Panama Auto Center | Panama
For info: panamaautocenter@gmail.com

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

TUESDAY, MAY 27

Business After Hours with the Tarp Skunks | 5 PM - 6:30 PM
Russell E. Diethrick Park | Jamestown

Congressional Town Hall 6 PM-7:30 PM
Fredonia Grange Hall | Fredonia
For info: chautauquatownhall@gmail.com

WEDNESDAY, MAY 28

Movies at The Reg: The Ballad of Wallis Island | 7 PM
Reg Lenna Center for The Arts
Jamestown
For Info: 716-484-7070

THURSDAY, MAY 29

Pop-up Pickleball | 5:30-7:30pm
Michael LaGrega Memorial Field
Lakewood
For info: Facebook/ jamestownyoungprofessionals

Jamestown Tarp Skunks Baseball Game | 6:30 PM
Russell E. Diethrick, Jr. Park
Jamestown
For Info: jamestowntarpskunks.com

Karaoke Night | 7 PM-10 PM
Pearl City Hops

FRIDAY, MAY 30

CHQ Professionals Group: "Understanding The Generation Mix at Work" Workshop | 8 AM - 12 PM
The White Inn | Fredonia
For Info: 716-363-377

Movies at The Reg: The Legend of Ochi | 7 PM
Reg Lenna Center for The Arts
Jamestown
For Info: 716-484-7070

SATURDAY, MAY 31

Buns on the Run 5K | 9 AM
Bemus Point Village Park
For Info: bemuspointtrackclub@gmail.com

Churches Tour | 10 AM
St Peter & Paul Church | Jamestown
For Info: fentonhistorycenter/ historictours

Annual Owen J. Miller "Buddy Walk/Run" | 10 AM
Ripley Central School | Ripley
For Info: preventsuicidechq.com

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Rock Unveiling & Dedication | 11 AM
Veterans Memorial Park | Jamestown
For Info: bluestarmothersny4@yahoo.com

Live at the Met: Il Barbiere di Siviglia 1 PM
1891 Fredonia Opera House
Performing Arts Center
For Info: 716-679-1891

SUNDAY, JUNE 1

Living with Contradiction | 10:30 AM
Unitarian Church | Jamestown
For Info: (716) 569-2345

First Sunday Story Time 12:30 PM - 1 PM
Audubon Community Nature Center
Jamestown
For Info: (716) 569-2345

Legendary: A Tribute to Iconic Voices 6 PM
The Spire Theater | Jamestown
For Info: inspirejamestown.com

MONDAY, JUNE 2

One Laugh at a Time: A National Comedy Center Memory Café | 10 AM
National Comedy Center | Jamestown
For Info: comedycenter.org

2025 MEMORIAL
DAY SERVICE
MONDAY, MAY 26 ·
10:45 AM

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MAY WE NEVER FORGET.

VIETNAM VETERANS
MEMORIAL
DEDICATION
SATURDAY, MAY 31 · 11 AM

**PRESENTED BY THE
NY4 BLUE STAR MOTHERS**
Veterans Memorial Park
W 3rd at Harding & Logan
Jamestown, NY
**JOIN US AS WE DEDICATE A
MEMORIAL ROCK IN HONOR
AND MEMORY OF ALL
VIETNAM VETERANS
FOR THEIR SERVICE AND
SACRIFICE**



In Loving Memory

May 17

May 14

Luke Troyer, 62
Spartansburg, PA
Lind Funeral Home

Carolyn M. Volk, 93
Jamestown
Lind Funeral Home

Edwardson Samuel Davis, 42
Jamestown
Riccardi's Family Funeral Home

Charles E. Carlson, 89
Lakewood
Lind Funeral Home

May 18

May 15

Sheila J. Cooper, 42
Jamestown
Riccardi's Family Funeral Home

Albert E. "Skid" Proctor, 89
Lakewood
Lind Funeral Home

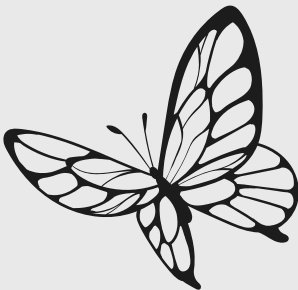
May 19

Hannelore M. Anderson, 76
Stockton
Falconer Funeral Home

Milton Gary, 66
Lakewood
Lind Funeral Home

May 16

Timothy V. Strader, 60
Warren, PA
Lind Funeral Home



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Faith Matters

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

(Part 3 in a 5-part Series on Personal Bible Study)



Featured Writer

Pastor Matt Wolfe
First Baptist Church

Before serving as the pastor of First Baptist Church here in Westfield, I worked for a commercial construction company as a laborer/carpenter. The types of jobs varied greatly, but over time, I assembled a toolbox full of essentials like a speed square, framing hammer, utility knife, aviation snips, 4-in-1 screwdriver, tape measure, hex keys, chalk line, cordless drill, impact driver, and so on. From experience, I learned that these tools were the ones that enabled me to tackle many—if not most—of the jobs to which I'd be sent.

When it comes to reading your Bible, there are some essential tools as well. There are some key resources that will help you with many—if not most—of the passages you study. In this week's article, I want to share with you three essential "tools of the trade" I've found most helpful.

First, get yourself a readable translation. With so many options, you might wonder where to begin your search. I'd suggest that you sample several with the goal of settling on one primary one that's as word-for-word in its translation approach as you can understand. When it comes to translation choices, visualize a continuum. On the left-hand of this continuum, you've got a stricter word-for-word approach to translation. Think translations like the ESV, NASB, KJV, and NKJV. In the middle of this continuum, you've got translations that are more thought-for-thought (or, idea-for-idea) in their approach. Think translations like the NIV or NLT. Then on the right end of this continuum, you've got translations that are paraphrases, often employing one particular scholar's opinion rather than a team. Think translations like the TLB, the Good News Bible, and The Message. Each can be helpful, but my theory is that, if you're trying to get the gist of the author's original meaning (see last week's article), settle on a translation that's more on the left end of that continuum. Personally, I love

the ESV. It's readable, widely used, and well attested by a proven team of Hebrew and Greek scholars.

Second, pick up one or more study Bibles. Study Bibles have charts, maps, articles, cross-references, and helpful comments on individual passages of Scripture. These comments are especially helpful when you come across a passage that's difficult to understand or where an apparent discrepancy exists. There are a number of excellent options out there. Some represent the perspectives and leanings of one particular author whose lifetime of study is contained in the notes and articles. These volumes can be helpful, but if you're going to get just one study Bible, then I'd recommend you pick one that employs multiple authors. This way, you get different perspectives on passages where there might be some debate, a helpful exercise in developing your Bible study "muscles." Personally, I'm a big fan of the The ESV Study Bible (Wayne Grudem, General Editor) and The NIV Zondervan Study Bible (Donald Carson, General Editor). Both of these tools contain some of the best of contemporary Christian scholarship while also respectfully interacting with other viewpoints.

Third, get familiar with some of the free Bible study websites that are out there. As with study Bibles, there are a number of good options. I really like biblegateway.org. A number of its resources are free (including dozens of Bible translations). But it also allows for subscriptions that enable you to purchase specific resources that you might find helpful. It's one of my go-to resources for personal Bible study and sermon preparation.

To be sure, much more could be said about each of these tools and the many other great resources that are available to help one in studying the Bible, but I believe that if you start with the above 3, you'll be well on your way to better understanding the Bible and, more importantly, the God who loves you.

Matt Wolfe is the Senior Pastor at First Baptist Church, 19 Union Street, Westfield, NY. Visit fbcwestfield.com for more information or search "FBC Westfield NY" on YouTube for videos of services.

Matt Wolfe is the Senior Pastor at First Baptist Church, 19 Union Street, Westfield, NY. Visit fbcwestfield.com for more information or search "FBC Westfield NY" on YouTube for videos of services.

VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL DEDICATION

Article Contributed by
Blue Star Mothers NY4

The New York Chapter 4 of the Blue Star Mothers of America is honored during this Memorial Day holiday to dedicate a memorial to our Vietnam Veterans at a special unveiling on Saturday, May 31, at 11AM at the Jamestown Veterans Memorial Park. This memorial rock with bronze plaque will become a permanent fixture at the park located at the corner of Logan and 3rd Streets, honoring all Vietnam Veterans everywhere, whether deceased or living, for their service and sacrifice. All Vietnam Veterans are invited to attend and be acknowledged, and each will be given a pin in honor of and appreciation for their service. The memorial plaque has been gratefully obtained through a grant from the National Fuel Gas Corporation.

Keynote speaker for this service is Jamestown area resident Col Charles Watkins USMCR. Watkins was designated a Naval Aviator in 1995 and served over 30 years of combined active and reserve service before retiring as a colonel in 2022. Significant events while serving in this capacity include the campaign against ISIS in 2017 and the evacuation of Afghanistan in 2021. The proud son of Vietnam Veteran CDR USN (Ret.) John Watkins, Col Watkins is currently employed as a medical helicopter pilot with STAT Medevac at UPMC Chautauqua. He lives in Jamestown and is married to his wife Leah and has three beautiful daughters. Watkins' daughter Elora will lead the program

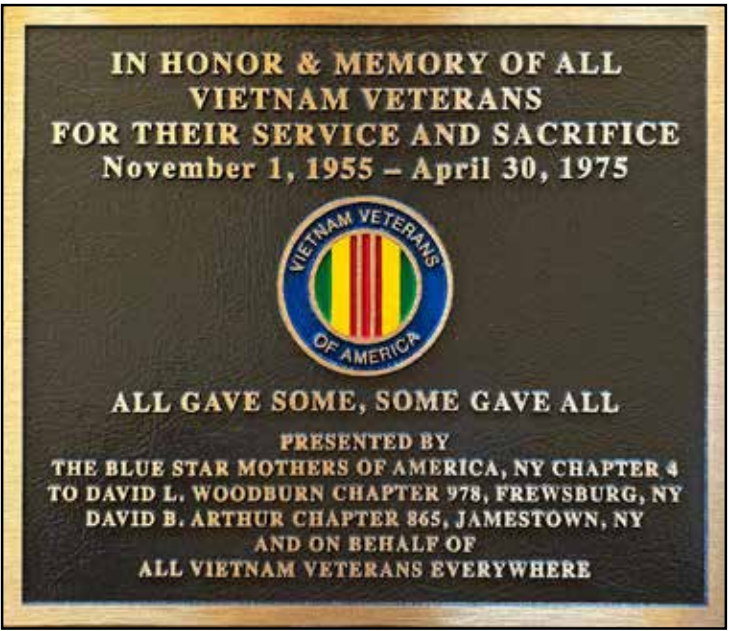
with the National Anthem.

The Vietnam Veterans dedication will also include reflections from a Vietnam Veteran family member as shared by the NY4 Blue Star Mothers 2nd VP Esther Bailey, and an acknowledgement by the Western District Director of the NYS VVA Council, Bill Patton. Local dignitaries, the Patriot Guard, and traditional bagpipes will also be part of the dedication ceremony. Guest Clergy is Reverend Jon Meyer from Hillcrest Jamestown.

The public is invited to this dedication ceremony, rain or shine. Limited seating is available, so a lawn chair (and umbrella) may be advisable.

Since its inception during WWII, the national Blue Star Mothers of America organization has existed to provide support for active-duty service personnel, to promote patriotism, and to assist veterans' organizations in our communities. Membership in the Blue Star Mothers is comprised of those who now have or have had children honorably serving in the U.S. Military. Chautauqua County's local chapter (NY Chapter 4) has been actively pursuing opportunities to provide tangible and emotional support to military personnel and their families since 2007.

For those interested in knowing more about the mission of the Blue Star Mothers, please email bluestamothersny4@yahoo.com.



Blue Star Mothers
Sherry Rogers, Susan Rowley & Kathy Collver



ANNUAL CCHS GALA
JUNE 7

Contributed by
Chautauqua County
Historical Society

The Chautauqua County Historical Society will hold its annual fundraiser and gala from 6 to 8 p.m. on Saturday, June 7, at McClurg Museum in Westfield.

All proceeds support CCHS operations, which include ongoing renovation efforts at the museum.

Tickets are \$50 and can be obtained by calling CCHS at 716.326.2977 or contacting a CCHS board member.

The gala includes hors d'oeuvres and refreshments. A large tent

will be set up in the park for seating. Attendees will have the opportunity to tour the museum and view exhibits, including the recently completed Chautauqua Lake display in the basement of the museum.

Members of the organization's board of trustees will be on hand to answer questions and share details about recent CCHS efforts, including the completion of several renovations to McClurg Museum. The 9th NY Cavalry Civil War reenactment group will once again stage an encampment in Moore Park throughout the weekend at 716-483-2344, extension 90016.

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An Unlikely Soldier

Continued from front page

offensive in January and February 1968, April 1968 would be the largest month of draft in the entire war.

At 25 years old, I was an old man by draft standards. I arrived at Fort Dix, New Jersey for basic training and I think everyone else in my platoon was 18 or 19. Being a married man leaving a wife at home meant I needed to take advantage of every opportunity to get pay raises. Being an honor graduate of basic meant an automatic promotion from private to private first class. My age and experience gave me the opportunity to be the platoon leader which almost guaranteed that promotion.

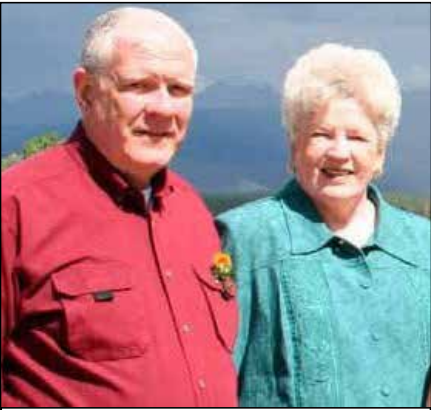
After eight weeks, we graduated from basic training. Most graduates would be assigned to advanced infantry training which would be a fast track to Vietnam. A few others would be assigned to other training facilities such as cook school or motor pool. It seemed like no rhyme or reason to the selection process. I had no idea what it meant but I was assigned to Ft. Meade, Maryland to be trained as military intelligence analyst. All I knew was it meant no infantry for me.

I arrived at the training school and the first thing we were told was, "At the conclusion of this six-week training course almost all of you will be sent immediately to Vietnam. One of you will be assigned to stay here with the 528th Military Intelligence Company, at least a little while. That person will be the honor graduate and that person will also be promoted from E2 to E4." That would mean a jump in pay from \$113 per month to \$190 per month. The old, married man had incentive.

Intelligence Analyst training centered around learning how to evaluate information and its sources and to provide an educated guess as to its value to commanders in the field. At the end of those six weeks, I was honored to be the honor graduate and be assigned to stay at Ft. Meade. It meant I might get an occasional long weekend to get home to my beloved Nancy. It was a whole lot better than going to Nam.

Work at Ft. Meade for a short time assignment was mostly doing odd jobs in the Company area. It involved no analyzing of intelligence. In November, I received orders to go to Vietnam. I had no idea of where I'd be assigned or what I'd be doing. I had a one-month leave, so I'd be home for Christmas and then off to Nam in January.

My journey to Vietnam began at McGuire Air Force Base in New Jersey. We boarded a commercial Boeing 707. I was looking forward to seeing some of the country because the furthest west I had ever been was Chicago. Unfortunately, we left at night, made a stop to refuel in Alaska in the dark and didn't see the sun until Japan where we



Mike & Nancy still in love after 61 years.



Mike's favorite picture with his grandson, Ralph.



Mike loved performing with The Unexpected Guests in their late 1990's heyday.



Christmas lunch at the Robert H. Jackson Center with Mike's outstanding Chautauqua Institution Team.

saw the spectacular Mt. Fuji. The nerves kicked into gear as we approached Vietnam and could see the craters made by the countless bombs that had been dropped. As we approached Tan Son Nhut Air Base outside Saigon, we were instructed to deplane rapidly as we were now in a war zone and could be subject to rocket or mortar attacks. I wondered if I would be nervous the entire year.

I spent about a week in Saigon waiting for my permanent assignment. The lowlight of the week was having my wallet stolen while I was sleeping. I was assigned to the Nha Trang Signal Battalion located at Camp McDermott outside the lovely city of Nha Trang on the South China Sea. Arriving in January 1968 meant it was exactly one year after the horrible Tet Offensive. The tension was off the charts as everyone worried that there

might be another offensive. I was very lucky to be assigned to the Nha Trang Signal Battalion. It was a very secure area, and we only experienced a few rocket and mortar attacks. However, one such attack made me change my sleeping quarters. After the attack, I was on the second floor of my office building and saw the hole in the roof of the barracks, just two buildings away from my barracks. Several soldiers were killed there. My bunk was on the second floor of my barracks. I immediately asked my First Sergeant if I could move to the first floor.

My assignment was to be the security clerk for the battalion which meant processing security clearance for everyone assigned to the battalion, maintaining the secret and top-secret documents and other security duties.

A month after I arrived, the security officer (my boss) ended his tour of duty and was never replaced, so I took on all his duties. One of the major such duties was attending a security briefing at First Field Forces Headquarters in Nha Trang every afternoon, where I would receive information on enemy movements, strength, locations and more. I would then brief the battalion officers in the morning.

Most surprising was how, after being absolutely terrified upon arrival, we adapted and we settled into the routine. We would visit the city and go to a restaurant, visit an orphanage and try to make things better. I got to know the Vietnamese people and see how they valued their freedom.

I had an incredible range of experiences from horrible to lovely and meaningful. I learned and grew tremendously, and returned a more confident person. My constant prayer through my entire tour was that I be given the strength to do my job and never let my comrades down. I am most proud of the fact that this unlikely soldier was recognized for his efforts and was promoted to E-5 and awarded a Bronze Star and an Army Commendation medal for meritorious service.

Finally, the biggest Kudos go to my wife, Nancy, she supported me with letters, packages and taking care of everything at home. I only had to worry about taking care of myself because I couldn't do anything about what was happening at home. Nancy had to work, take care the house and my family and her family. She was spectacular.

God bless all on The Wall.

Michael Sullivan was born April 4, 1943 in Rochester, NY where he was raised and lived for 55 years. He and his wife, Nancy, and raised daughters Mary and Kathleen. In 1998, he joined Chautauqua Institution as Director of Institution Relations. While at Chautauqua, he served on the boards of Jamestown Chamber of Commerce, Chautauqua County Visitors Bureau, Downtown Jamestown Downtown Development Corporation, WCA Hospital and UPMC Chautauqua Hospital. He was very pleased to perform with The Unexpected Guests Improv Comedy Troupe. In 2000, he retired and moved with Nancy to Denver, Colorado.

Pat's Pen with Pat Locke

Happy National Pen Pal Day



Contributing Writer
Pat Locke

Did you ever have a Pen Pal? It's the joy of handwritten letters between pals. In today's fast-paced digital world with emails and texts, we often forget the simple joy of receiving a handwritten letter. National Pen Pal Day, celebrated on June 1, is a wonderful reminder of personal connections through the written word. This day invites us to perhaps slow down, pick up a pen and reconnect, or connect for the first time, through the art of letter writing.

Pen Pals have been around for centuries, offering a unique way to build friendships and learn about different cultures. Long before the internet, people from different parts of the world would exchange letters sharing stories, traditions and experiences. This tradition not only provided a window into another person's life, but also fostered understanding and empathy across borders by introducing Pen Pals to different customs and languages.

In years past, there was something incredibly special about receiving a letter in the mail. Unlike emails or text messages, a handwritten letter showed effort and thoughtfulness. Traditional letters required time which built anticipation and made the experience more meaningful. The recipient could feel the sender's personality in their handwriting and choice of words. This personal touch made the communication more fun and memorable.

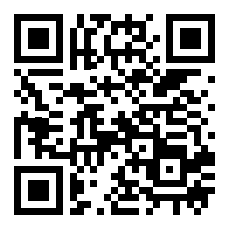
For young people today, ideas to celebrate National Pen Pal Day can be to perhaps reach out to friends or family members who live far away. In doing so, you can share your everyday experiences and don't

forget to ask questions to keep the conversation going. You can even add some creativity to your letter with drawings, stickers or decorative paper. This would make your pen pal letter even more special and fun to receive. Pen pals usually share hobbies or interests such as books, music and movies.

Having a pen pal comes with numerous benefits. It enhances your writing skills and broadens your cultural understanding of others. Writing letters creates a sense of excitement as you await a pen pal's response.

In an era dominated by instant communication, National Pen Pal Day reminds us of the value of taking time to connect with others. By embracing this time-honored tradition, we can experience the joy of meaningful communication and perhaps keep the art of letter writing alive for future generations as it once did for past generations. A friend of mine was given a pen pal from England in 6th grade and, to this day, they still communicate with each other. Case and point, having a Pen Pal can be a rewarding experience and last a lifetime.

So, why not celebrate National Pen Pal Day this year? Pick up a pen and start writing!



Many of you know me as a personal friend and as author of this special column, "Pat's Pen". But I also invite you enjoy my unique blog that features people, places, and preservation in our community. To those who already follow my blog, thank you. To those who might have interest, simply tap on the word, FOLLOW upon entering the blog site: offshoremuse2023.blogspot.com. I appreciate your help in increasing my readership.

Sincerely - Pat Locke.



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Opera House Concludes Met Live Season with The Barber of Seville



Submitted Photo

Live at the Met, the Metropolitan Opera’s award-winning series of live, high definition (HD) opera transmissions to theaters around the world, concludes its 2024-25 season at the 1891 Fredonia Opera House Performing Arts Center on Sat., May 31, at 1 p.m., with the Gioachino Rossini’s *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* (The Barber of Seville). Russian mezzo-soprano Aigul Akhmetshina headlines a winning ensemble as the feisty heroine, Rosina, alongside American tenor Jack Swanson, in his Met debut, as her secret beloved, Count Almaviva. Moldovan baritone Andrey Zhilikhovsky stars as Figaro, the ingenious barber of Seville, in what is considered perhaps the greatest comedy in all of opera.

Article Contributed by

1891 Fredonia Opera House

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Russian mezzo-soprano Aigul Akhmetshina headlines a winning ensemble as the feisty heroine, Rosina, alongside American tenor Jack Swanson, in his Met debut, as her secret beloved, Count Almaviva.

Moldovan baritone Andrey Zhilikhovsky stars as Figaro, the ingenious barber of Seville, with Hungarian bass-baritone Peter Kálmán as Dr. Bartolo and Russian bass Alexander Vinogradov as Don Basilio rounding out the principal cast. Giacomo Sagripanti conducts Bartlett Sher’s madcap production.

Regarded as perhaps the greatest comedy in all of opera, Rossini’s *Il*

Barbiere di Siviglia features solos of astounding speed in tongue-twisting patter forms, especially the title role’s well-known Act I showstopper, “Largo al factotum.” The production runs three hours, 35 minutes with one intermission.

The Met: Live in HD is the Metropolitan Opera’s Peabody and Emmy Award-winning series of opera performances transmitted live from the stage of the Met in New York into movie theaters and event spaces worldwide. The series has made the Met the world’s leading provider of alternative cinema content and the only arts institution with an ongoing global series of this scale. When the series launched in 2006, the Met was the first arts company to experiment with alternative cinema content. Since then, the program has expanded, with more than 31 million tickets sold to date, and has been seen in virtually every important world capital from Paris to Cairo, as well as in towns and villages spread across six continents.

Individual tickets to each of the operas in the Live at the Met season are \$20, (\$18 Opera House members, \$10 students). Tickets may be purchased in person at the



CONTINUED ON PAGE 29

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A Grateful Airman

Continued from front page

Memorial Day altered the vector of my speech to include a brief overview of the history of Memorial Day.

Memorial Day is to honor the men and women who died while serving our country, during wartime or peacetime. Veterans Day is to recognize those who are currently serving or who have served in the past. Memorial Day was initially called Decoration Day. In the later years of the Civil War, it became common for loved ones to decorate their fallen soldiers' graves with flowers. In 1868, about three years after the end of the Civil War, General John Logan, the Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic issued the Memorial Day Act and declared May 30 as the day to decorate.

After World War I, Memorial Day grew to include those who died in any of America's wars and it became more widely-spread across the nation. Many small towns claimed to be the origin of Memorial Day, however, in 1966, President Johnson designated Waterloo, NY as its birthplace.

In 1971, the Uniform Monday Holiday Act changed Memorial Day from May 30 to the last Monday in May. Washington's Birthday and Veterans Day were also moved to Mondays and Columbus Day was established (Veterans Day was subsequently moved back to Nov 11). Having a holiday in the middle of the week wasn't efficient for the government or businesses. President Johnson also believed having three-day weekends would allow families to travel longer distances to visit relatives and see more of our great country. There were many opposed to this change, fearing it would detract from the goal of honoring our heroes. The Act contributed to Memorial Day becoming the informal start of summer. Over the years there was an increased emphasis on barbecues and warm weather celebrations, and fear of losing focus on our fallen military led to The National Moment of Remembrance Act of 2000. This act encourages all Americans to pause at 3 p.m. local time on Memorial Day for one minute of silence, to honor those who died in service to our country.

How else can we honor our fallen?

Jennifer Granholm, a past Governor of Michigan and Secretary of Energy said "Ceremonies are important. But our gratitude has to be more than visits to the troops and once a year Memorial Day Ceremonies. We honor the dead



Chief Master Sergeant Wayne E. Quattrone II, USAF (Ret)

best by treating the living well." We have men and women currently serving in dangerous places, some in locations many of us couldn't find on a map. This day isn't about them specifically, but there should never be a time when it's inappropriate thank a veteran. I'm well aware I'll be chastised by my military friends, as they do every Memorial Day, when I thank them for their service.

Service before self was a core value in the Air Force, but you don't have to join the military to serve our country. There is a long list of Americans that work, train and live dedicated lives to make our country safer and stronger. Law enforcement, EMS, Fire, educators and politicians dedicate their lives to protecting or improving ours. As we saw during COVID, there are many unsung heroes that are essential to our livelihood. To pick a job, any job, and do it well... that is what sustains our communities. It will take all Americans working together to preserve and protect our great nation.

Community service also strengthens our nation and instills good core values. Volunteering time is a great way to give back to the community and meet demands that are frequently not met by other means. There are many opportunities locally and nationally. Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS), a local fire department, library, or dog-walking for the Humane Society all make our community stronger.

When I was stationed in Hawaii, I had the solemn honor of escorting the remains of a Vietnam veteran that had been MIA for 30 years back to his family. During my last assignment in the Air Force, I attended several services at Arlington National Cemetery for airmen that were taken from us while protecting our nation. There were many tears and sorrow, but eventually there was also laughter, like there always is when families and friends gather. We



James Quattrone, Wayne Quattrone, Wayne Quattrone II, father and sons gathered at Hillcrest Baptist Church.



Chuck Yezza, Wayne Quattrone, Mike Schreck, Dennis Kranz and Darren Guttman at Fort Lewis, Washington 1998, Wayne and Erica's Wedding Reception.



Funeral celebration for Wayne's father. We find happiness with family even in the hardest times.

should enjoy our long weekend and our barbecues, but always remember the sacrifices of these brave men and women.

We have men and women that so loved their country they sacrificed their lives in the service of it. Ultimately, the best way to honor our fallen is to respect our neighbors, cherish our families and love America as much as they did.

Chief Master Sergeant Wayne E. Quattrone II, (ret), enlisted in the Air Force in December 1979. Over his 28-year career he

deployed in support of multiple contingency operations, including Desert Storm, Deny Flight, Allied Force, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. Prior to retirement, he was assigned to the Pentagon as the Chief of Enlisted Matters for Air Force Civil Engineers, providing leadership to 49,000 enlisted and civilian tradesmen, emergency managers, firefighters and Explosive Ordnance Disposal technicians. He is currently an owner and physical therapist at HAWC Physical Therapy.



CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY PETS OF THE WEEK

Mia is a gentle and affectionate hound mix with the sweetest soul and the softest ears you'll ever scratch. She loves slow strolls, cozy naps in sunbeams, and sniffing all the best smells along the way. She's a curious girl who enjoys a good adventure but is just as happy curled up beside you on the couch. If you're searching for a loyal companion with a heart of gold, Mia might just be the perfect fit. Shelter No. RR179.

Oliver has a knack for making people smile and he's a firm believer in the power of a good cuddle. Oliver is a laid-back guy who enjoys the simple things in life, like a sunny spot to nap or a toy mouse to chase. But what I'd really love is a family to call my own. If you're looking for a sweet, friendly companion, he could be your perfect match. Shelter No. RR179.



The Hotel Lenhart: The Dawning of the Curry Era

Continued from front page

William is joined in the effort by his wife Jill, general manager; Colin Curry, chief financial officer; Abi Curry Iriti, marketing and events planner; Nino Iriti, bar manager; Lindsey Curry Nadolski, advisory board member; Tilman Nadolski, advisory board member; and Stuart Curry, advisory board member.

The family has deep ties to the lake and the community and has expressed a desire to deepen those ties through their efforts.

“We’ve gone up there for vacations for a long time,” Jill shared. “When our kids were little, we owned a house on the lake. Prior to that, my family had gone up there from a young age. I went to a club in the Institution, and then I worked at the old Saint Elmo. So we’ve been up there a lot and we just love the area. We’re just drawn to it.”

The Hotel Lenhart has long offered guests lakeside hospitality in the Bemus Point area. The hotel opened in the late 1800s, and has been known for its historic charm, large and inviting porch and of course, the rocking chairs that overlook the lake. Previously, the hotel was owned by four generations of the Johnston family. Now, the hotel will transfer from one family legacy of hospitality to another.

Like any iconic hotel, the Lenhart comes with its share of beloved quirks and traditions that the new owners are eager to preserve.

“There are the rocking chairs, the front lawn views are obviously stunning, so we want to keep those founded traditions that we’ve seen time and time again in the Facebook comments, things like that,” Abi said.

“Even tying it to ‘We had our wedding there,’ we want to hear those things to see what was special about their experience,” Abi said. “I think it’s going to be a lot of what the community is going to be talking about. Taking polls, things like that to see what people want to see back and go from there.”

When asked about new ideas, the excitement was palpable.

“One thing that we’re probably most excited about is Bemus Sky,” said Nino. “It’s going to be a rooftop bar overlooking the lake, and it’s just going to be a great place to go and have a drink, watch the sunset.”

Though many are eager to visit, the Lenhart won’t open this season. William said the timeline is undefined at the moment, as there are many variables that are underway such as permits, engineering and grant work, but they have hopes of opening next year.

The Curry family said the community response so far has been warm and welcoming, and they are invested in continuing the ties to the community in the future.



William & Jill Curry

“The community is very supportive,” Jill said. “We were approached by the senior class at the high school to make sure they could take their pictures last weekend at the Lenhart. I guess it’s been a tradition and it was really fun to participate. I feel the community support. Everybody is stopping by on their way past and chatting and introducing themselves and I think that’s fantastic.”

Jill said that connecting with and supporting local businesses and organizations is paramount in their plans for the Lenhart. “We’re working with some local farmers and makers of different things in order to have a farmer’s market and various activities on the back patio,” she said. “It’s called Paring Patio.”

“In addition to the farmer’s market, that area is going to be a place of fellowship and meeting people, meeting makers, artists,” said William. “We’re creating those relationships. Sam Whitmore from Bag & String has been a great partner and friend. We, of course, frequent his store. We’re working with him on educational programs like a wine cellar program.” William said they plan on working with Brent Henderson at Big Inlets.

“By being involved with people that are local and that have been successful, that they have the pulse of the community, and we’d like to use their experiences to grow with,” he added.

However, it’s not just area businesses the Curry family is hoping to benefit. Recently, the Curry family decided to donate furniture such as beds and other furnishings to those in need through Community Helping Hands in Jamestown, as well as artwork to the Mobile Crisis Unit for Chautauqua County. The program provides the framed artwork to adults with mental disabilities and the individuals create art that is later framed in those donated frames.

When asked what they hope guests feel when they walk in, Jill said they are most hoping visitors feel a sense of welcome and comfortable hospitality.

“We want them to feel welcome and gathered. Our little tagline we like to say is: ‘Where friends and family gather,’” Jill said. “Just as much as we want to focus on the leisure travel, it’s even more so important for the community members to feel like they have something to do as well. Whether it be a weekend, a week, or even just a night out as a vacation for a couple, I think that would be a good feeling for them to have.”

While the hotel has historically been seasonal, they hinted at broader horizons, expanding into a year-round operation in the future.

Each member of the team reflected on what excites them most about the project, ranging from engaging with a small-town feel to the excitement of taking on such a large project.

“I’m really excited to be involved in the community,” Abi said. “I’m from Pittsburgh but I ended up spending a lot of the last 14 years in a smaller town and I thought the community aspect was really great. You walk down the street and see a familiar face—that’s something I didn’t always get in the Pittsburgh area. So I think being involved in something that’s home-based and close-knit is exciting for me.”

“I’m looking forward to everything,” Jill said. “This project is really big. We’re renovating the houses first because they’re pretty easy, so we’ll be renting those later this summer. Once we accomplish something and people start to see what we’re capable of and the level of service we’re going to provide, I think that will be exciting because it’ll get the community even more excited.”

William said he is thankful for the opportunity to invest in the community and looks forward to the project coming to fruition. “There are many aspects of this project I’m looking forward to. We’ve spent quite a few years getting to know parts of the community, and everything we’ve met and witnessed and experienced has been wonderful,” he said. “I’ve spent the last 40-



Submitted Photo

William & Jill Curry with grandson Leo



Submitted Photo

The Curry Family



some years restoring buildings and taking spaces and revitalizing them, so that’s going to be very rewarding. It’s just cool to be part of it and to be welcomed to the level that we’ve already been welcomed.”

Though they are still finalizing social media and web presence, the team assured that those who are interested will be able to follow along in the progress. “We’re taking over the Facebook page for the hotel and the website should be up and running in the next couple of days,” William said.

The team hopes to meet and greet everyone over the summer, as they will be on site with an information tent throughout the season.

“We’ll be up there in the summer, kind of showing everybody what we’re doing, explaining the plans, and just getting started on providing a good time that we hope to provide for everybody,” Jill said.

NEW MOVIES TO SHOW AT
REG LENNA CENTER FOR THE ARTS



Article Contributed by
RegLenna Center for the Arts

The Ballad of Wallis Island (Wed., May 28 at 7 p.m.) follows Charles (Tim Key), an eccentric lottery winner who lives alone on a remote island and dreams of getting his favorite musicians, McGwyer Mortimer (Tom Basden & Carey Mulligan) back together. His fantasy turns into reality when the bandmates and former lovers accept his invitation to play a private show at his home on Wallis Island. Old tensions resurface as Charles tries desperately to salvage his dream gig. The Ballad of Wallis Island is rated

PG-13 and is 9100 minutes long. The Legend of Ochi (Fri., May 30 at 7 p.m.) is a new fantasy adventure film from A24. In a remote village on the island of Carpathia, a shy farm girl named Yuri is raised to fear an elusive animal species known as ochi. But when Yuri discovers a wounded baby ochi has been left behind, she escapes on a quest to bring him home. The Legend of Ochi is rated PG and is 95 minutes long. 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.

Just South of
Lake Erie

Drabble by John Brantingham

The weather casters call what I’m sludging through a wintry mix, rain slushing the snow already on the ground. The snow left in the trees comes down in giant glops. One lands on my head and runs down the left side of my face, and I smile to be here and alive in a world that will wake me with a icy slap because it brings me out of my sleep just in time for me to watch the creek breaking up for this false spring that will last a while until ice fissure reseal and the southern warmth retreats.

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

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SUDOKU

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

Here's How It Works:

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

Level: Beginner

CROSSWORD

			1	2	3	4	5	6			7	8	9
	10	11									12		
	13										14		
	15										16		
17										18			
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	40									41	42	43	
44							45	46	47				
48							49						
50							51						

CLUES ACROSS

1. Bring up

7. Child

10. Formal written defense

12. Bangladeshi currency

13. Burial site

14. In the lead

15. Large recesses in a church

16. Count on

17. Defunct phone company

18. Golf scores

19. Afflicts

21. Defensive nuclear weapon

22. Prominence

27. "The Great Lakes State"

28. SoCal ballplayer
33. Location of White House

34. Magnificence

36. Hip hop songstress

37. Capital of Yemen

38. ___ Blyton, children’s author

39. Bomb

40. Pancake made of buckwheat flour

41. Pinkish-violet color

44. A way to make right

45. Monument to one buried elsewhere

48. Region south of Dead Sea

49. Acts out against

50. Harsh cry of a crow

51. Formal title for a woman

CLUES DOWN

1. Kitchen devices

2. Wings

3. Mythological birds

4. Everyone has one

5. Matchstick game

6. Bar bill

7. Weights

8. Satisfactorily

9. Small amount

10. Tree types

11. Small protuberances

12. Equivalent of 100K BTU

14. Type of horse

17. More (Spanish)

18. Argentinian province

20. A bad act

23. Moving in a circular way

24. Battery type
25. Atomic #58

26. Popular breakfast food

29. An alternative

30. Tooth caregiver

31. A way to conform

32. Disfigured men

35. Cool!

36. Genus of mosses

38. Body part

40. Kashmiri people

41. Round water pot

42. Something to purchase

43. Emit coherent radiation

44. Indicates 10

45. Advertising metric

46. Pitching stat

47. Head movement

Chautauqua County Completes Tree Planting Project at Government Offices and Courthouse in Mayville



(Pictured left to right in the tree planting photo: Josh Rothwell, Assistant Deputy Director, Department of Public Facilities (Buildings and Grounds); Vance Hess, Department of Public Facilities Staff; Dennis Deck, Department of Public Facilities Staff; Mike Rinow, Buildings Maintenance Supervisor; Tim Card, Director of Public Facilities; and Dave Spann, District Manager, Chautauqua County Soil and Water Conservation District.)

Article Contributed by Chautauqua County

Chautauqua County has completed a targeted tree replacement and planting project at the Government Offices and County Courthouse in Mayville, removing eight deteriorating trees and replacing them with new, carefully selected species that will promote both safety and long-term sustainability on the grounds.

The effort — led by the Department of Public Facilities (DPF) in collaboration with the Chautauqua County Soil and Water Conservation District — was prompted by concerns about rot, instability, and the potential risks posed by the previous trees to sidewalks and nearby buildings.

“The trees we planted were chosen not just for beauty, but for practicality,” said Josh Rothwell, Assistant Deputy Director of DPF. “Their root systems won’t disrupt walkways or foundations, and they’ll grow to a safe height for the site. It’s all about making smart, sustainable choices that will last for generations.”

“Many of the previous trees had grown into walkways and building foundations, which posed both safety and maintenance challenges,” added Tim Card, Director of Public Facilities. “Our selections this year reflect our long-term commitment to preserving the environment while ensuring our government campus remains safe and accessible for all.”

As part of this effort, County staff also took special care to preserve the significance of two trees that were originally planted in dedication and featured commemorative plaques on the courthouse lawn. Though those trees were removed due to poor health, the plaques remain in place and the new plantings stand in their honor.

One plaque is dedicated to World War Veterans and was placed by the E.F. Carpenter Woman’s Relief Corps. The second commemorates George Washington, planted in his memory during the bicentennial of his birth in 1932, also by the E.F. Carpenter Corps.

This project is part of a broader County initiative to ensure that public spaces are not only functional and safe, but also reflect a thoughtful stewardship of natural resources and community history.

Chautauqua County Provides Updates on Tourism Development Grant Program



(PFM Ventures received a grant to assist with the adaptive reuse of a barn into a year-round indoor venue. PFM Ventures has hosted concerts, yoga classes, dance classes and more in this space over the last year.)

Article Contributed by Chautauqua County

Each year during the timeframe of July through October, Chautauqua County releases its annual grant application process for the Tourism Product Development Program where interested applicants can seek funding to undertake tourism-related projects using a portion of the County’s 3% Occupancy Tax allocation. The program requires that all applications demonstrate that the project will attract tourists to the County. The applications are reviewed by a stakeholder group with tourism, small business, and economic development expertise.

In 2024, Chautauqua County awarded a total of twenty-two grants, with a cumulative funding amount of \$124,830. These grants supported a broad spectrum of initiatives, ranging from marketing efforts aimed at attracting visitors from outside the County, to projects focused on the development or enhancement of local attractions and destinations.

While the County strives to support as many projects as possible, the volume of applications often exceeds available funding amounts. As a result, this can often be a very competitive process. Applicants whose projects do not receive funding through this initiative are encouraged to explore other business development or funding opportunities through referrals made by the project team that align with their project goals and funding needs.

The 22 awards in 2024 were made to the following grantees: PFM Ventures; SUNY Fredonia; Panama Rocks; Wilson Endurance Sports; Merritt Estate Winery;

Chautauqua Institution; Festivals Fredonia; North Shore Arts Alliance; Jamestown Jackals; Roger Tory Peterson Institute; Lakewood YMCA; Lucy Desi Museum; National Comedy Center; Chautauqua Harbor Hotel; Robert H. Jackson Center; Pearl City Clayhouse; Findley Lake Forward; CHQ Chamber; and, Westfield Development Corp.

Tourism is a key industry in Chautauqua County. The successful execution of these County supported projects demonstrates the effective use of occupancy tax funds to stimulate tourism, enhance local attractions, and result in positive economic impacts. Through the Competitive Occupancy Tax Grant Program, unique projects that may otherwise not have come to fruition have assisted communities, organizations, and businesses to become more sustainable, attract people from across the region and country to visit Chautauqua County, and help to stimulate the economy.

In 2023, The US Travel Association reported that across the US \$1.3 trillion was spent on travel, which produced 2.8 trillion in economic output and supported 15 million jobs. For every dollar spent on travel, approximately \$2.20 was returned in economic benefits. In New York State, \$95.7 billion was spent on travel, creating \$10.2 billion in tax revenue and supporting 458,900 jobs. Here in New York’s 23rd congressional district, \$3.2 billion was spent on travel and associated costs, creating \$355 million in tax revenue and supported 18,300 jobs, according to the report.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 29

Mayville-Chautauqua Comprehensive Plan

Public meeting

Wednesday June 4 • 6:00 p.m.
Chautauqua Lake School



Scan here or visit
www.chautauqua-mayvillefuture.com
for more information!



Business of the Week

Celebrating Local Businesses & Giving them the Spotlight!

SPLASH

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Contributing Writer
Pat Locke

Once an old gas station and now the hottest spot on the lake, Splash is the result of grit, vision, and no small amount of sparkle from owners Shawn and Susan Weatherup. Located at 60 Lakeside Drive in the heart of Bemus Point, Splash is a love letter to food, music and second chances.

Shawn, a Westfield native, brings decades of fine dining experience, most notably at the legendary Bern’s Steak House in Tampa, Florida. It was there he met Susan, a Florida girl with sunshine in her soul and serious creative chops. Together, they dreamed up something entirely fresh for Chautauqua County: a lakeside haven where style meets soul.

Opening in May 2023, Splash quickly made waves. The name itself nods to both their waterfront location and the art of crafting cocktails—a splash of lime, a splash of cranberry, a splash of joy. The interior is a black-and-white time capsule of Rat Pack cool, with vintage photos of Frank, Dean, Sammy, and Chet Baker gracing the walls. Their stage in the corner is a cue that something special might happen at any moment: live music, laughter, maybe even a little dancing if the mood is right.

Then there’s the menu: vibrant salads, homemade meatballs, decadent macs and short ribs. There’s even sushi, tacos, and playful starters like coconut shrimp shooters. Cocktail names like Luck Be a Lady and Ring-a-Ding Ding are a mini-history lessons with a twist. You can sip

your way through Sinatra’s discography while watching the sunset over the lake. Don’t forget dessert! There is tiramisu cheesecake, molten lava cake, or a butter toffee masterpiece - a treat for every palate.

The Weatherups have transformed the former garage lot into the Splash Suites, three beautifully curated one-bedroom rentals with full kitchens, lake views, and the kind of thoughtful touches that make you want to stay a while. They even added a boutique frozen yogurt shop, The Happy Cow, which opens this summer which is the first of its kind in Chautauqua County, complete with a topping bar and inclusive options for gluten-free and vegan guests.

Also, because the Weatherups never met a theme party they didn’t love, this season includes a glamorous “Rat Pack Night” on August 7 (\$30 tickets) and the return of their wildly popular “Great Gatsby” soirée in September. Sign up for their newsletter at splashbemus.com to snag tickets before they sell out.

So, treat yourself this season to lakeside dining at its best with a splash of fun! Open 7 nights a week starting May 29 with lunch Tuesday-Saturday. See you there!



Owners - Susan & Shawn Weatherup





tarpskunks.com

Ticket Prices:
Reserved - \$14
Grandstand - \$9
Bleachers - \$6

HOME
AWAY

MAY/JUNE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				29 BAT 6:30pm	30 @ELM	1
2 @BAT	3	4 OLN 6:30pm	5	6 NIA 6:30pm	7 @GEN	8
9 @NF	10	11 NF 11:00am	12 BUF 6:30pm	13 @NEW	14 GEN 6:30pm	15 @BAT
16 @AUB	17	18	19 @NF	20 NF 6:30pm	21 @BAT	22 BAT 6:30pm
23 ELM 4:00pm & 6:00pm Buyout	24 BAT 6:30pm	25	26 @NIA	26	27 NF 6:30pm	28 @NF
29 AUB 4:00pm & 6:00pm Buyout	30					

AUB - Auburn Doubledays
BAT - Batavia Muckdogs
BUF - Buffalo Diesel
ELM - Elmira Pioneers
GEN - Geneva Red Wings
NEW - Newark Pilots
NF - Niagara Falls Americans
NIA - Niagara Ironbacks
OLN - OLN Oilers

Thursday, May 29 - 6:30pm
Opening Night & Tailgate Festival Concert
Presented by: 3 C's Catering - Jamestown Awning
and Porcelain Bus Drivers

Tuesday, June 3 - 6:30pm
\$2 Night - \$2 Hotdogs, Beer & Bleacher Tickets

Thursday, June 5 - 6:30pm

Tuesday, June 10th - 11:00am

Wednesday, June 11th - 6:30pm

Friday, June 13th - 6:30pm
Kids Carnival Day at the Park Game
Bounce Houses, Games and More!

Thursday, June 19th - 6:30pm

Saturday, June 21st - 6:30 pm
Kids Camp Day/Night
Presented by: Univera Healthcare
& Builders Exchange of the Southern Tier

Sunday, June 22nd - 4:00pm & 6:30 pm
Greater Chautauqua Federal Credit Union
Community Buyout Night - All Tickets FREE

Monday, June 23rd - 6:30 pm
\$2 Night - \$2 Hotdogs, Beer & Bleacher Tickets

Friday, June 27th - 6:30 pm
Youth Baseball/Softball Night
Presented by: Logistics

Sunday, June 29th - 4:30pm & 6:30 pm
Jamestown Community College
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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CHAUTAUQUA TO HOST NY-23 CONGRESSIONAL TOWN HALL IN FREDONIA

Article Contributed by
Chautauqua County League
of Women Voters

The League of Women Voters of Chautauqua County is pleased to announce that it will sponsor a Congressional Town Hall for New York’s 23rd District on Tuesday, May 27, 2025, from 6:00 to 7:30 PM at the Fredonia Grange Hall, 58 West Main Street, Fredonia, NY.

The Town Hall will provide constituents with the opportunity to engage directly with representatives and hear multiple perspectives on key issues facing the district.

Congressman Nick Langworthy, who currently represents the 23rd Congressional District, has been invited to attend and take questions from the audience.

Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz will participate in the event, offering responses and commentary that reflect the Democratic point of view.

Community members are encouraged to participate by submitting questions in advance.

If you have a question you would like to ask Congressman Langworthy, please email it to: chautauquatownhall@gmail.com

This event is part of the League’s ongoing mission to promote informed and active participation in government, and to ensure voters have access to a broad range of perspectives on public policy.

For more information, please email chautauquatownhall@gmail.com



Trivia

1. What year did Congress pass the National Moment of Remembrance Act?
2. What is the official flower of remembrance for Memorial Day?
3. What was the name of the Union general who led the push for Decoration Day?
4. What federal act moved Memorial Day to the last Monday in May?
5. Where was the first large-scale Memorial Day ceremony held in 1868?
6. What U.S. city did President Lyndon B. Johnson officially recognize as Memorial Day’s birthplace?
7. What popular race is held on Memorial Day weekend?
8. Who was honored in the first known Memorial Day-style observance in Charleston, SC?
9. What is the name of the poem that popularized the poppy symbol?
10. Memorial Day originally honored soldiers from which war?

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1. 2000 2. Red poppy 3. John Logan 4. Uniform Monday Holiday Act 5. Arlington Cemetery 6. Waterloo, New York 7. Indianapolis 500 8. Union soldiers 9. In Flanders Fields 10. Civil War

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CHAMBER CORNER

Summer is Coming! Make the Most of It!

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

There’s no doubt it’s been a wet spring here in Chautauqua County, but that’s about to turn around now and it’s time to get outdoors for all the projects and activities we plan for all winter. As the unofficial start of the summer season locally, Memorial Day weekend is a time to both reflect on the sacrifices of our service men and women, and also to gather with family and friends.

If you’re planning a get-together this weekend and need a few things, we encourage you to shop locally, and you’ll find just the right item. Looking for a new grill or some outdoor furniture? Check out our local hardware stores like ADD Lumber in Dunkirk, Irving or Westfield, Everyday’s True Value in Jamestown, Service Hardware in Dunkirk, or Stewart’s Mayville Hardware.

Garden centers, greenhouses and nurseries are stocked and ready to help with your planting. Check out Brigiotta’s Farmland or Peterson Farms in Jamestown, Haff Acres in Mayville, or Westfield Nursery in Westfield. For bigger projects you might want to reach out to a landscaping or hardscaping company such as Chautauqua Hydroseeding, Loomis Landscaping, or Stone & Outdoor Living Center in Bemus Point, Greenbriar Property Management in Dewittville, Monte’s Small Engine Repair in Fredonia, Hanft’s Landscaping in Jamestown, R & R Landscaping in Mayville, Turftenders in Fredonia. Lawn tractors and other equipment are available through 3 Seas Recreation in Mayville, LandPro Equipment in Falconer, and Larry Romance & Son in Sheridan. If you’re in need of help with trees, contact Kravitz Tree Service in Fredonia or Maple Springs Tree Service in Bemus Point. When you need some great garden advice there is help available through the Master Gardener program at Cornell Cooperative Extension. Their help desk is open Wednesdays from noon-2pm through September at the JCC Carnahan Center in Jamestown, or you can call them at (716) 664-9502 ext. 224 or email them at chautauquamg@cornell.edu. It’s a free service. Cornell Cooperative Extension also holds a series of LEAF classes annually to help people learn more about gardening and more.

If you have bigger projects that may be beyond your DIY capacity, please check our online Business Directory for

lists of contractors and other building tradespeople. The CHQ Chamber is proud to count a wide variety of businesses among its more than 900 members throughout our county. They are in business to serve you.

If you’re looking for great entertainment this summer, there are numerous opportunities. Jamestown Tarp Skunks season begins Thursday, May 29 at Russell E. Diethrick Jr. Park. Tailgating starts at 5 with a bounce house, food truck and a concert featuring Porcelain Bus Drivers before the game at 6:30.

Concerts abound, with summer long series in a variety of locations. Dunkirk’s Music on the Pier begins June 12 and runs through August. A few select Dunkirk concerts will be held at Memorial Park. The Lakewood Community Development Corporation presents Rock the Lake at Hartley Park on Sunday afternoons in July and August.

The CHQ Chamber is proud to present Music in the Green at the Village Green in Mayville starting June 18 with Osborn Nash and continuing July 16 with Dirty Shirley and then August 13 with Charity Nuse (And Her Band.) These events are aimed at promoting local businesses in the Mayville business district before, during, and after the concerts. In Jamestown, Jumpstart to Third Thursdays will feature street entertainment and activities, special pop-ups at local businesses, and numerous opportunities to experience downtown retailers and restaurants as a prelude to the free Third Thursday concerts at Winter Garden Plaza. The CHQ Chamber is also proud to present First Fridays in Westfield again this year beginning June 6, highlighting open businesses, vendors, food trucks, and entertainment. For a complete list of summer events, festivals, and activities visit the Chautauqua County Visitors Bureau online calendar at www.tourchautauqua.com.

Business After Hours with the Tarp Skunks

Join us this month for a special Business After Hours event with the Jamestown Tarp Skunks! You can mingle with the baseball players and other local businesspeople, enjoy a complimentary hotdog courtesy of 3 C’s Catering, enjoy a cash bar, and get a free personalized baseball card with your name and picture on it – taken by a professional photographer. Then, stay after if you’d

CONTINUED ON PAGE 21



Submitted Photo

Chautauqua Comics Donates to St Susan's

Cherie Rowland, Executive Director of St. Susan Center, gratefully accepts a donation from Al Steffens, owner of Chautauqua Comics, from proceeds raised during the Annual "Free Comic Book Day" on May 3. Steffens hosted a raffle at his store in accordance with this first Saturday of May national observance. He raised nearly \$700 for the Center, with over 400 people attending. Steffens is proud to represent the only store in the Southwestern NY/Northwestern PA region to honor "Free Comic Book Day".

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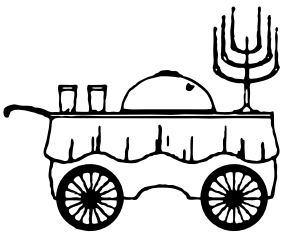
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Chamber Corner

Continued from page 19

like to watch the Tarp Skunks practice. This event will be held Tuesday, May 27 from 5-6:30pm at Russell E. Diethrick Jr. Park, home of the Jamestown Tarp Skunks. All local businesspeople are welcome.

This event is proudly sponsored by Phillips Lytle LLP, Jamestown Tarp Skunks, 3 C's Catering, AHN Westfield Memorial Hospital, Brooks-TLC Hospital System, LaBella Associates, National Grid, Southern Chautauqua Federal Credit Union, Jamestown Community College, Media One Radio Group, Observer, and The Post-Journal.

Official Introductions Combines Networking and Advocacy

The CHQ Chamber is pleased to help local businesspeople connect with their elected representatives in a brand-new way. We have restructured our advocacy events this year to provide an improved experience for all involved. One of the new events we are trying out is an informal networking event designed to allow businesspeople to have one-on-one conversations with local elected officials during a program we're calling Official Introductions. This reception-style event will be held at the Chautauqua Harbor Hotel, 10 Dunham Avenue, Celoron, Tuesday, June 17 from 5-7pm.

This is a tremendous opportunity for businesspeople to meet directly with their representatives. The CHQ Chamber is not creating a heavily structured agenda for this program. Instead, we want to foster direct communication between the business community and our government officials. This event directly meets our mission to build vital connections, provide professional resources, and champion our local businesses in Chautauqua County.

The price to attend is just \$35 per person. Your registration includes heavy appetizers and a cash bar, as well as support for the year-round activities of the CHQ Chamber. Registration is open now through our online calendar at www.chqchamber.org. Please RSVP by June 10.

Official Introductions is sponsored by Brooks-TLC Hospital System, County of Chautauqua Industrial Development Corporation, DFT Communications, LaBella Associates, National Grid, Southern Chautauqua Federal Credit Union, UPMC Chautauqua, Jamestown Community College, The Media One Radio Group, Observer, and The Post-Journal.

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CHRIC Receives NYS Office of Community Renewal Funding for the Access Chautauqua Heroes Program to help Chautauqua County Veterans with Home Modifications

Submitted Photos

Article Contributed by
Chautauqua Home Rehabilitation & Improvement Corp

Mayville, NY: Chautauqua Home Rehabilitation and Improvement Corporation (CHRIC) has been awarded funding from the New York State Office of Community Renewal for a dedicated home repair program, Access Chautauqua Heroes, designed to specifically assist Veterans in Chautauqua County who need accessibility modifications and/or emergency repairs.

Access Chautauqua Heroes can provide home modifications to anyone who was honorably discharged from any branch of the US military. The need for home modifications does not have to be tied to a service-related injury. If a veteran finds that he or she is having some trouble safely accessing their home or using the rooms in their home due to an illness, a non-service-related injury, or normal aging, Access Chautauqua Heroes may be able to provide help. The program also offers help with general emergency home repairs as well. These programs can provide minor & moderate adaptation work but cannot provide enough funds to completely reconstruct a home for accessibility.

The program is available to homeowners throughout Chautauqua County. Only owner-occupied homes can be assisted. The veteran does not need to be the owner of the home, but a veteran must be the person in

need of accessibility modifications. The home must be the veteran's primary, year-round residence and a copy of the Veteran's Discharge papers will be needed. Again, the homeowner must be current with their mortgage and property taxes and have homeowners' insurance.

The annual household income limit is higher but must be below 120% AMI example as follows: household size of one - \$74,400; household size of two - \$84,960; household size of three - \$95,640; household size of four - \$106,200. Income limits continue to increase with household size. Households with greater financial need may be prioritized for assistance if demand for assistance is greater than the available funding.

For more information or an application for Access Chautauqua Heroes, please call CHRIC at 716-753-4650 or you may access CHRIC's website at www.chric.org to download & print an application there.

CHRIC is a county-wide non-profit agency that has been serving the needs of Chautauqua County residents since 1978. For 47 Years—CHRIC has been improving the housing stock of Chautauqua County and the living conditions of its low-moderate income residents. It is CHRIC's Mission to Promote Neighborhood Stabilization, Community Revitalization, and Economic Development through projects and partnerships that positively impact Chautauqua County and its residents."

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USDA LOW-INTEREST PHYSICAL LOSS LOANS
AVAILABLE TO CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY PRODUCERS
IMPACTED BY WINTER STORM DAMAGE

Article Contributed by
Chautauqua County

In response to the severe impacts of snowfall this past winter, agricultural producers in Chautauqua County are now eligible to apply for low-interest Physical Loss Loans through the United States Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA).

These loans are designed to help farmers recover from damage to physical property essential to their operations, such as barns, equipment, and livestock facilities.

“Snow-related damage can create real hardship for our local farms,” said Chautauqua County Executive Paul M. Wendel Jr. “We’re thankful the USDA is offering this loan program to help producers recover from the toll that heavy snow has taken on barns, equipment, and livestock operations.”

Examples of storm-related losses were seen throughout the county, including the December 2024 collapse of a barn in the Town of Arkwright, where heavy snow led to structural failure, resulting

in livestock fatalities and injury to a firefighter during rescue operations. Events like these underscore the importance of both preparedness and support when natural disasters strike. “This incident in Arkwright reminded us how severe snow-related damage can be for our farming community,” said Noel Guttman, Director of Chautauqua County Emergency Services. “We’re grateful to see federal support now available, and we urge all local producers to review their property for damage and seek assistance.”

The USDA Physical Loss Loans can be used to repair or replace essential farm structures and equipment, as well as losses to livestock, perennial crops, and stored agricultural products. The deadline to apply is December 7, 2025.

Producers in Chautauqua County are eligible as part of the USDA’s designated primary counties for this disaster. Other primary counties in New York include Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Oneida, and Oswego.

Living With Contradiction is
Subject of Unitarian Message

“Living With Contradiction” is the subject of Unitarian Universalist minister Rev. Alex Holt’s sermon when he speaks virtually at the UU Congregation of Jamestown’s 10:30 a.m. hybrid service this Sunday, June 1. Of his message, he says, “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times’ according to Charles Dickens in his book A Tale of Two Cities. How does that apply to us in this turbulent age of ‘either-or’ ideology?” All are welcome to the service and the coffee hour that follows at 1255 Prendergast Avenue. To participate virtually, use the link at UUJamestown.org/calendar.



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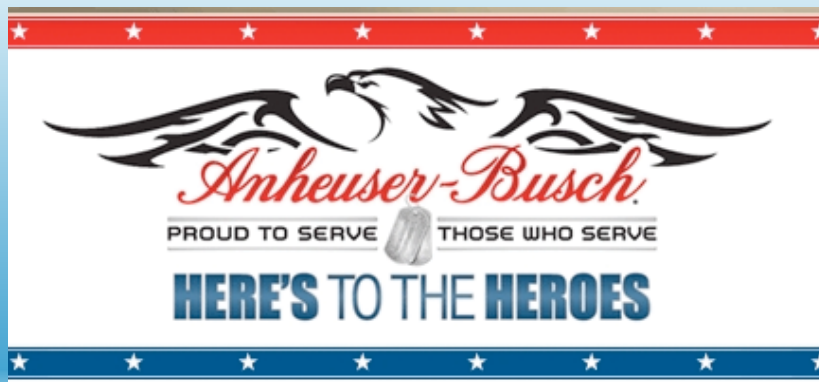
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FENTON HISTORY CENTER OPENS SUMMER EXHIBIT

Article Contributed by
Fenton History Center

he Fenton History Center opened its newest exhibit Friday, May 23, titled “The Rapids to Jamestown: 1809-1815”. Executive Director Joni Blackman curated the exhibit. She said, “This exhibit tells the story of the first six years of the Rapids through the eyes of our County’s first historian, Dr. Elial T. Foote. Dr. Foote came to the Rapids as a young physician looking to make his future in the Lake Erie region, not knowing the Rapids existed.”

Visitors will learn about several of the earliest settlers in Jamestown, or the Rapids as it was called then. The early inhabitants were hard working, however few stayed in the early years. Those that stayed overcame harsh conditions and succeeded because of their determination and supporting each other.

There are few artifacts from the first few years of Jamestown’s beginning. The artifacts in the exhibit represent the people and their daily life in the early years of



Submitted Photos

the Rapids. “There is a remarkable find in the exhibit,” added Ms. Blackman, “we have acquired a piece of silver from the Prendergast family that has not been seen in Jamestown for almost 100 years. It came to us in a surprising way, We are thrilled it is back where it belongs.”

The exhibit runs through September 3, 2025. The Fenton History Center is open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information visit www.fentonhistorycenter.org or on Facebook.

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Sat. MAY 31 Churches Tour*
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Sat. JUN 7 Jamestown's Hidden Alleys
@ 10:30 AM meet at the Fenton Mansion parking lot

Sat. JUN 14 Jamestown's Industrial Past
@ 10:30 AM meet at the Fenton Mansion parking lot

Sat. JUN 21 Jamestown's Southside
@ 10:30 AM meet at the Fenton Mansion parking lot

Sat. JUN 28 Military Tour at Lake View
@ 1:00 PM & 2:30 PM meet outside the office at Lake View Cemetery

*All tours are walking tours, except the Churches Tour involves transportation from location to location.

Cost: \$8 for Members / \$12 for Non-Members
Register online, by phone, or
in-person in the Fenton Museum Store.
www.FentonHistoryCenter.org/historictours

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PUZZLES ON PAGE 13



CHQ PROFESSIONALS GROUP HOSTS COFFEE MEET-UPS

Events provide local professionals with opportunity to network while supporting local businesses

Article Contributed by

**Chautauqua
Professionals Group**

Dunkirk, NY – The CHQ Professionals Group is inviting local professionals from across Chautauqua County attend one of its upcoming coffee meet-up events, with three different events schedule at various businesses in the North County. These events are free and open to all, providing an inclusive space for attendees to network, exchange ideas, and strengthen community ties in a relaxed, casual setting.

Upcoming meet-ups include:

- June 5 - Sacred Grounds Coffee House, Lily Dale, NY
- July 10 - St. Stephen's Café, Brocton, NY
- August 7 - Full Strength Coffee Company, Westfield, NY

All of meet-up will take place from 8 to 9:30 a.m. and all area professionals are invited to attend one or more of these dates to network and share information about what's happening within Chautauqua County.

"These coffee meet-ups are a simple but powerful way to connect people," said Monica Simpson, co-chair of the

CHQ Professionals Group. "Whether you're new to the area or have lived here your whole life, it's a chance to build relationships, share ideas, and feel more rooted in the Chautauqua County community."

Simpson adds that the group's first coffee meet-up was at 3 Lakes Café in Cassadaga on May 1 and was well received by those in attendance, providing a casual environment for attendees to meet and network.

CHQProfessionals Group is an initiative housed under the Chautauqua County Partnership for Economic Growth and aligns with CCPEG's effort to build and strengthen workforce readiness and development In addition to hosting educational, volunteer and networking events, the Professionals also distributes a monthly newsletter, shares local job postings, and is actively seeking partnerships related to workforce development.

For more information, email CHQprofessionals@gmail.com, call 716-363-3770, or visit ChooseCHQ.com/CHQProfessionals.

About the CHQ Professionals Group - The CHQ Professionals Group, housed



Submitted Photo

The CHQ Professionals Group recently held a coffee meet-up at 3 Lakes Café in Cassadaga, providing a relaxing and casual environment for local professionals to meet and network. The next coffee meet-up is June 5 at Sacred Grounds Coffee House in Lily Dale and open to all professionals in the area.

under CCPEG, aims to provide social, civic, educational, and networking opportunities for professionals at every stage of their careers. For more information, visit ChooseCHQ.com/CHQProfessionals.

AboutCCPEG-TheChautauquaCounty Partnership for Economic Growth (CCPEG) serves as the main convener of economic development partners and

resources in Chautauqua County. As an initiative of the Chautauqua Region Economic Development Corporation (CREDC), CCPEG acts as the catalyst for advancing economic prosperity, focusing on job creation, retention, and quality of life enhancements. For more information, visit CHQPartnership.org.

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DUNKIRK CELEBRATES MEMORIAL DAY



Submitted Photos

Article Contributed by
City of Dunkirk

The City of Dunkirk Festivals and Special Events Department are proud to host the Annual Memorial Day Parade in downtown Dunkirk on Monday, May 26 at 11 a.m., along its traditional route from Lake Shore Drive West to Central Avenue to Fifth Street. The parade is sponsored by Chautauqua Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, Refresco, Central Station Restaurant, Northern Chautauqua Catholic School and Dunkirk Memorial Post 62. The day begins 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 Memorial Day services are conducted by the participating organizations of the Dunkirk Joint

Veterans Council under the direction of Mr. Jack Sievert, Commander, with master of ceremonies John D’Agostino, editor of the OBSERVER, The Post-Journal and Times Observer. The DJVC has been proudly hosting the Memorial Day Services since 1966, making 2025 their 59th year of honoring our veterans who made the supreme sacrifice for us, laying down their lives while serving in the Armed Forces.

The event’s grand marshal is Angeline “Angie” Rose (Gagliardi) Galardo Corbett who was born on June 1,1923 in Dunkirk, New York. She was the sixth child of 17 (12 girls and five boys) born to Carlo (Gagliardi) Galardo of Caggiano, Italy and Maria Sabata “Mary Elizabeth” Leggiadro of Potenza, Italy. Angie helped on the family farms until WWII when she joined the war effort as a Rosie the Riveter at the Curtiss Wright factory, Plant 2, Line 9 in Buffalo, NY around 1941.

She was a Buckner and Riveter on the war planes. The P-40 planes were made in this factory. It was at Curtiss Wright where she would meet her husband, Clarence D. Corbett of Ivanhoe, North Carolina. Clarence was an Army Air Forces guard at the factory and became smitten with the young Galardo woman. They courted and then wed December 4, 1943 before the Army shipped him overseas for duty. The Corbetts’ first child, Clarence Daniel “C.D” was born October 1944. When the elder Clarence came home from the war, he took his new family back home to North Carolina.

Soon they welcomed their daughter Dixie in November of 1946. Around 1952, the family packed up and headed north to Dunkirk, NY to be closer to Angie’s family. In January 1957 they added to their family with the birth of John David and just 13 months later in February 1958 (passed February

2016), Sylvia was born, completing the family. Angie began working outside the home by the mid-1970s as a lunchroom monitor at School #3 and stayed on until about 2008 after her first battle with breast cancer.

She was active in her parish at Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church; often helping out in the kitchen on Bingo nights. Today, at nearly 102 years old, Angie is surrounded by her two sons C.D. and John, her daughter Dixie, five grandsons, four granddaughters, two step grandsons, two step granddaughters, seven great grandsons, ten great granddaughters, three step great grandsons, five step great granddaughters, a great-great grandson due in May, two step great-great grandsons, several of their spouses, as well as many, many cousins, nieces and nephews. She is a member of the American Rosie the Riveter Association.

CHQ CHAMBER PRESENTS MUSIC IN THE GREEN

Article Contributed by
Chautauqua County
Chamber of Commerce

The CHQ Chamber is launching a reimagined series of summer events in Mayville. Music in the Green will be held select Wednesdays throughout the summer, providing professional musical entertainment while also putting a spotlight on local businesses in the heart of Mayville. The performances will be held from 5-8pm at the Village Green at the intersection of Routes 394 and 430 June 18, July 16, and August 13.

Local businesses are urged to stay

open a little later, host sidewalk sales, and create interactive or unique in-store experiences to attract and engage customers. This is a great way to connect with the community and be part of an exciting summer concert series. Businesses are asked to register online in advance so the CHQ Chamber can properly promote their participation. It’s free to participate thanks to the support of the Village of Mayville and the Town of Chautauqua.

If your business is not located

in uptown Mayville you can register, and the Chamber will provide a space for you to set up and showcase your products or services in the event area. Please note a Certificate of Liability Insurance will be required to be provided prior to the event. You will also be responsible for providing your own tables, chairs, tents, etc. This is not a typical craft or vendor fair. It is designed as a business-expo experience and is specifically intended to boost visibility and drive foot traffic into the business district in Mayville. Registration

is open online through the Chamber’s web calendar at www.chqchamber.org.

Residents and visitors are encouraged to experience local dining and retail options while also enjoying a free concert in what is certain to be a vibrant event in a walkable community. Outstanding regional musical acts will be featured, offering something for everyone!

June 18th enjoy Osborn Nash – the singer-songwriter team of Bob Campbell-Nash and Liz Osborn. Their talents combine as an acoustic duo that enjoys having a



CHQ Chamber Presents Music in the Green

Continued from page 27

good time and sharing it! Voted the WYRK 2022 Taste of Country Riser, they have performed before thousands at the Taste of Country Concert at Sahlen's Field opening for Tim McGraw. They have also been the opening act for a private Blake Shelton concert at Darien Lake and previously opened for Wynonna Judd & The Big Noise and others. Osborn Nash incorporates Country, Americana, Folk & Pop and they recorded a debut album in Nashville titled "This is It."

On July 16th the featured band will be Dirty Shirley. Discover the perfect blend of music and entertainment with this female-fronted Party Rock cover band, featuring a diverse set list that includes Country, Pop, Disco, Classic Rock, and more! If you haven't already, be sure to add Dirty Shirley to your to-do list, as every performance is a guaranteed good time!

August 13th will highlight Charity Nuse (And Her Band). This powerhouse force in the Americana and roots rock scene, blends elements of funky grooves, heartfelt storytelling, and high-energy performances that captivate audiences far and wide. Hailing from nearby Warren, Pennsylvania, Charity Nuse has become a standout figure in the world of roots music, earning a reputation for her soulful vocals, dynamic instrumental skills, and authentic songwriting. Over the years, Charity has had the honor of sharing the stage with some of the biggest names in the music industry, including Donna the Buffalo, Little Feat, The Wailers, and 10,000 Maniacs. These high-profile collaborations are a testament

to her versatility and the respect she has earned within the music community. Whether she's picking up her mandolin or strumming her acoustic guitar, Charity brings an undeniable energy to every note she plays. Her vocals, both raw and soulful, effortlessly draw listeners in, creating an atmosphere that's as intimate as it is electric. The band includes Matt Gronquist backing vocals, fiddle and electric guitar; Jim Sturdevant on drums and percussion; and Gavin Paterniti on bass guitar. Together they create a sound that's rooted in tradition and also ready to break new ground.

Mayville businesspeople are excited about this opportunity. Karen Simmons, owner of Music for your Mouth said, "This is finally something uptown in an underutilized park. This event gives people the opportunity to see what else Mayville has to offer."

Marcie Bird, owner of The Eclectic Bird added, "Mayville is moving in so many positive, new directions! I'm excited to participate in the upcoming Music in the Green events this summer! My shop will be a place people will want to shop on those Wednesday evenings to share the heartbeat of community that local small businesses offer."

Music in the Green will offer something for everyone! All are welcome June 18, July 16, and August 13 at the Village Green in Mayville.

The mission of the CHQ Chamber is to build vital connections, provide professional resources, and champion our local businesses in Chautauqua County.

Colby and BCC Scholarship announcement



Miles and Grady Moore (SW), Conner Dean (JMST), and Daniel Peterson and Landon Frederes (FREWS).

Conner Dean, son of Marc and
Article Contributed by

Stanley A. Weeks Braw Caddie Clan Award for Excellence Fund

Joanne Dean, received the Stanley A. Weeks Braw Caddie Clan (BCC) Award for Excellence. The \$2,000 scholarship recognizes JHS scholar-athletes who are well-rounded, hardworking, and volunteer in the community. The award ceremony will be held at Moonbrook Country Club on Thursday, June 12, at 5 pm; family, friends, and coaches are welcome to attend.

The swim coaches at New York University recruited Conner, and he will study architecture, combining interests in math and science with conceiving and designing buildings. Despite his impressive academic and athletic achievements, Conner remains humble. He wrote, "Thanks to my friends, teammates, coaches, and teachers. Most importantly, thanks

to my family and NYU coaches for guidance."

Conner graduated fourth at JHS, received the Bausch + Lomb Honorary Science Award, and is a USA Swimming Scholastic All-American. He served as president of the Key Club and member of the National Honor Society, volunteered for soccer and several JHS activities, bell ringing for the Salvation Army, and assisted his grandparents.

Rachel Anderson's (Key Club advisor) recommendation illuminated his accomplishments and added this: "Conner is an exceptional young man who demonstrates character and high moral integrity." Raquel Ruch (mathematics teacher) said, "Conner has a drive to be the best he can be and goes beyond by assisting others."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 29

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Chautauqua County Provides Updates on Tourism Development Grant Program

Continued from page 14

According to the New York State Tourism Industry Association, in 2023, Chautauqua County experienced \$314 million in tourism spending while creating nearly \$24million in county tax revenue. If not for tourism-generated state and local taxes, 35% of which comes from the bed tax, the average household in Chautauqua County would pay an extra \$773 annually to maintain the same level of government revenue. Chautauqua County’s tourism industry employs over 4,500 people through direct, indirect, and induced visitor spending, the report states.

For 2025, the decision to increase the individual award amount was made in an effort to support slightly larger projects, with the goal of yielding greater benefits to the County. This adjustment was intended to provide applicants with the flexibility and resources needed to undertake more ambitious initiatives that could potentially have a larger impact on tourism in Chautauqua County. While we do not currently have clear insights as to the results of this adjustment, we will review the findings at the end of the year to ascertain what positive effects this may have had.

A total of 14 projects were selected to receive funding through the 2025 3% Occupancy Tax program, with a combined total of \$109,866 awarded. Just as in 2024, the range of projects funded was diverse, reflecting the broad spectrum of tourism-related opportunities within Chautauqua County. The awarded projects again spanned various sectors.

The 14 projects in 2025 were made to the following grantees: Scott’s Peek’n Peak; The White Inn; SUPeerie Adventures; Jamestown Skating Club; Dunkirk Local Development Agency; CHQ Chamber; Bemus Point Business Association; Roger Tory Peterson Institute; Chautauqua Institution; Lake Erie Wine Country; Chautauqua Watershed Conservatory; Wilson Endurance

Sports; Reg Lenna Center for the Arts; and, Merritt Estate Winery.

“We are pleased to see our tourism economy rebound extremely well after the Covid-19 pandemic hindered travel in 2020 and 2021,” said Mark Geise, Deputy County Executive for Economic Development. “We’ve seen increased visitation and visitor spending with record visitation in the first quarter of 2025, due primarily to the extended snowmobile season, as compared to the past several years.”

By supporting a wide range of business and tourism-driven endeavors, the program is aimed at fostering a balanced and sustainable tourism economy that benefits both local communities and visitors alike. Whether focused on expanding existing attractions, creating new experiences for visitors, or promoting the County beyond its borders, these projects represent a strategic investment in enhancing Chautauqua County’s status as a sought-after destination.

“We hope our strategic grant making will further improve our county’s destinations and event offerings, while promoting new marketing and promotional campaigns to foster further visitation,” said Geise.

Chautauqua County truly has something for everyone, offering a wealth of experiences that can be enjoyed year-round. Whether you're a nature enthusiast, a history buff, a foodie, or someone simply looking to explore new places, the County's diverse attractions cater to all interests and tastes. From its scenic landscapes, charming small towns, and vibrant events, to its historic sites, outdoor recreation opportunities, and local businesses, Chautauqua County is a destination. For more information about the County’s 3% Tourism Product Development Grant Program, please contact Stephanie Nick, Special Projects Coordinator at nicks@chqgov.com.

Colby and BCC Scholarship announcement

Continued from page 28

The National Interscholastic Swim Coaches Association recognized Conner as an All-American for the 200 Individual Medley (IM, 1:48.79) and 3 JHS relay teams. The IM requires technique, speed, endurance, stamina, and mental fortitude across the butterfly, back, breast, and freestyle.

As swim team captain, Conner led the team to an undefeated season and the team's (Falconer, Frewsburg, Jamestown, and Southwestern) state title. He was a New York State (NYSPHAA) champion in the 200 IM and joined three state record relays—the 200 Medley and the 200 and 400 Freestyle relays (with Frederes, Peterson, Moore, and Moore).

Conner holds 7 JHS records, 8 CCAC, and 4 Section 6 records. Conner and the extraordinary relay team hold numerous Western New York pool records. As captain, Conner quickly mentions the work ethic and camaraderie amongst team members, mirroring the "one for all and all for one" motto.

The multi-school swimmers, like the Braw Caddie Clan, demonstrate collaboration and cooperation. Brothers nationwide, Chautauqua Region Community Foundation, the Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame, and JHS teachers, coaches,

and administrators play crucial roles in the scholarship process. Seven local BCC brothers and five former BCC scholarship winners—Andrew Pumford, Ben Cecchini, Jonathan Healy, Luke Kindberg, and Zachary Eklum—served on the scholarship selection committee, highlighting the community's integral role in the award process.

BCC brothers are honored to award the 20th scholarship for excellence, and we salute area parents, teachers, and coaches. We look forward to new scholarship applications each spring. Keep us in mind!

BCC members, honorary BCC brothers, parents, friends, foundations, and local businesses contribute to the Stanley A. Weeks Braw Caddie Clan Award for Excellence Fund. These contributions are vital in supporting students like Conner. If you wish to contribute, please forward your donations to the Weeks/BCC Award, Chautauqua Region Community Foundation, 418 Spring Street, Jamestown, NY 14701, or visit https://crcfonline.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/create/fund?funit_id=1134.

Your support can make a significant difference in a student's life.

Opera House Concludes Met Live Season with The Barber of Seville

Continued from page 9

Opera House Box Office or by phone at 716-679-1891, Tuesday-Friday, 12-4:30 p.m., at the door, or online anytime at www.fredopera.org.

Part of the Arts in the Afternoon at the Opera House, which is sponsored by Dr. James M. & Marcia Merrins, Live at the Met is underwritten with support from Daniel S. Kaufman and Timothy W. Beaver



Submitted Photo

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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Article Contributed by
**Audubon Community
Nature Center**

The first of Audubon Community Nature Center’s (ACNC) Statement of Beliefs is: “We believe that a positive relationship with nature strengthens and enriches us physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually.”

The quickest online search of “nature and mental health” yields multiple studies confirming the healing powers of nature – from gardening or watching the birds in your backyard to forest bathing or shinrin-yoku, a relaxation practice of being calm and quiet among the trees.

Exposure to nature is credited with helping manage stress, loneliness, irritability and possibly even road rage. It is associated with better memory, attention, creativity and sleep quality.

Access to nature and green space can improve children’s academic performance, reduce stress and aggression levels, and increase their sense of comfort, confidence



With more than five miles of trails on its nearly 600 acres, Audubon offers great hiking as well as space for peaceful contemplation.



Sara, the 14-foot concrete Spotted Salamander in Audubon’s outdoor Nature Play Area, provides a spot where children could enjoy quiet time outdoors.



On the second Saturday of every month, you and your 3 to 8-year-old(s) can get outdoors and be Audubon Little Explorers.



Audubon Community Nature Center offers places to simply relax and appreciate your surroundings.

and problem-solving skills. Time in nature can change the behavior of children with significant mental health problems.

Try adding time in nature to your life however you can. Maybe you can find 15 minutes a day to be outside. Maybe you can experience two-hour stretches with nature.

Encourage your children to be outdoors as much as possible.

Opportunities to experience nature abound at ACNC. You can visit the nearly 600-acre nature preserve, visit the live birds of prey, enjoy the native tree arboretum, gardens, picnic area, and natural play space, and hike the more than five miles of trails down until dusk daily for free.

Audubon’s three-story Nature Center building houses interactive displays, live animals including the Hellbender exhibit, the Blue Heron Gift Shop and more. Visitors are welcome Mondays through Saturdays, 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m., and Sundays, 1–4:30 p.m. Nature Center members and SNAP/EBT cardholders have free building admission daily. Building admission is free Sundays for everyone. ACNC is located at 1600 Riverside Road, one-quarter mile east of Route 62 between Jamestown and Warren.

To learn more, call (716) 569-2345, find Audubon Community Nature Center on Facebook or Instagram, or visit AudubonCNC.org. Check out AudubonCNC.org/about for a quick fly-by visit!

County Seeks Proposals for Youth Sports Grant

Article Contributed by
Chautauqua County

The Chautauqua County Youth Bureau is looking to increase the positive impact that athletics have on young people in the county. The Chautauqua County Department of Mental Hygiene and Social Services (DMHSS) is accepting applications for funding provided by the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) to support Youth Sports Programs for under-resourced youth under the age of 18.

For the purposes of this funding opportunity, the following program/



service areas have been identified as priorities:

Youth Sports Education Funding (YSEF) – Programs that enable youth to be active and encourage physical

fitness. OCFS encourages a wide and flexible definition of sports that includes organized activities with movement, including physical fitness activities such as, but not limited to yoga, hiking, dance, and active outdoor pursuits.

Youth Team Sports (YTS) – Programs that support an organized physical activity. OCFS defines “team sport” as an organized physical activity in which groups of two or more individuals compete with two or more opposing individuals. Sporting activities where

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Jennifer Hickman

Hope Counseling: Building Healing, One Brave Step at a Time

Jennifer Hickman knows firsthand that healing is never a straight line: it's a practice. As founder of Hope Counseling, which offers a range of mental health services including faith-based Christian counseling, Jennifer has created a space where compassion and experience come together in powerful ways.

While building her own practice wasn't always simple, she said it was a worthwhile pursuit. "Balancing school and full-time work while being a parent requires careful time management and perseverance," Jennifer said.

"By the time I completed my master's program, my children were adults, but I still had to navigate parenting alongside my academic and professional commitments."

Now, she's focused on cultivating meaningful relationships with her adult children and building a thriving trauma-informed practice. "One key lesson that has helped me along the way is the importance of organization and intentional decision-making—being mindful of how I allocate my time and why I choose to say 'yes' or 'no' to various obligations."

Jennifer said her inspiration stems from a desire to help others. "Witnessing the impact of substance abuse and mental health challenges within my own family influenced my decision-making," she said. With two children who served in the military, Hickman's drive to support veterans and first responders is a calling. "My approach integrates compassion, understanding and the belief that recovery is possible."

To other aspiring Mom-Trepreneurs, she said: "Be kind to yourself, prioritize self-care and recognize there is no such thing as a perfect mother or entrepreneur, only someone who learns from mistakes and builds resilience along the way."



Jennifer with husband Dan
children Autumn, Brendan,
Logan & Connor



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Chautauqua County Youth Bureau Announces Availability of Positive Youth Development Funds for 2025–2026 Program Year

Continued from front page

individuals engage in competition on behalf of an organized group including, but not limited to, team tennis, team golf, or racing sports such as swimming or skiing, are included in this definition.

Eligible applicants should be from interested non-profit community-based organizations, cities, towns, and villages within Chautauqua County with a federal identification number and charity registration number that is able to meet the County's insurance requirements. The grant program, created under the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS), and will run during the program year October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026. The grant may be used to fund programming that provides opportunities for youth in under-resourced communities to learn and participate in sports programming.

Program costs can include the following:

- Coaches/instructors/direct service staff/mentors (including training/professional development)

- Referee fees
- Scholarships
- Purchase of equipment or uniforms
- Capital investment (e.g., swimming facilities, fields, fences, storage, lighting).
- Instruction or coaching necessary to support youth's ability to participate in team sports.
- Facility/field space

The application period for the Youth Sports grant begins May 16th and closes June 17th at 3:30 p.m. The Request for Proposal (RFP), which outlines all criterion, is available on the Chautauqua County Website (chqgov.com/YouthGrantFunds). Funding decisions and awards will be based upon New York State Office of Children and Family (OCFS) guidelines.

For more information, contact the Chautauqua County Youth Bureau at kimballn@chqgov.com.



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Centaur Stride Hosts “Horse Club” for Ripley Students

Article Contributed by
Ripley Central School

The Chautauqua County Youth Bureau is pleased to announce the availability of Youth Development Program (YDP) funding for the program term of October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026. These funds, made available through the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS), are intended to support programs and initiatives that promote the healthy development and well-being of youth across Chautauqua County. The Positive Youth Development approach focuses on building strengths and skills in young people, encouraging positive relationships, and creating supportive environments that enable youth to thrive.

Eligible organizations are encouraged to submit proposals that align with these principles and demonstrate a commitment to serving youth in meaningful, innovative, and impactful ways. Funding is administered through the Chautauqua County Youth Bureau and is open to municipalities and nonprofit community-based agencies that provide services to youth under the age of 21. Proposed programs should address priority outcomes in areas such as academic enrichment, life skills development, mentorship, employment readiness, youth leadership, physical and emotional wellness, and community engagement.

The application period for the Youth Development Grant begins May 16th and closes June 17th at 3:30 p.m. Interested applicants may access the Request for Proposal, application materials and guidelines by visiting the Chautauqua County Website (chqgov.com/YouthGrantFunds). Funding



decisions and awards will be based upon New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) guidelines. “The Youth Bureau is committed to supporting community partners in their efforts to nurture and empower young people,” said Nicole Kimball of the Chautauqua County Youth Bureau. “We encourage all eligible organizations to take advantage and apply for this funding opportunity to enhance services that help youth succeed.”

Chautauqua County Youth Bureau Announces Availability of Positive Youth Development Funds for 2025–2026 Program Year



Article Contributed by
Chautauqua County

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GRIEF & SOLACE

Article Contributed by **Chautauqua County Department of Mental Hygiene**

May is Mental Health Awareness Month! Since 1949, May has been identified as a month to recognize the importance of mental wellness by increasing awareness and access to care and support. The final week of May is targeted to address grief and mental health. Grief can be a complicated consideration as it is a completely normal and predictable part of humans' lives, and yet can be so different for each individual. What does "grief" mean to you? To me, grief is active. It is alive. It is about tomorrow as much as it is about yesterday. By this I mean grief can be anticipating loss as well as reflecting on the past. Grief can be about people, places, or things.

Poet David Whyte explores the meanings

of words in his book, *Consolations*, with a feature on solace. Whyte describes the word solace as, "Solace is the art of asking the beautiful question of ourselves, of our world or of one another, in fiercely difficult and un-beautiful moments. Solace is what we must look for when the mind cannot bear the pain, the loss or the suffering that eventually touches every life and every endeavor; when longing does not come to fruition in a form we can recognize, when people we know and love disappear, when hope must take a different form than the one we have shaped for it." (Whyte, 2014)

I have read these powerful words over many times, eager to find meaning and peace in grief. As Whyte continues, he provides: "Solace is not meant to be an

answer, but an invitation, through the door of pain and difficulty, to the depth of suffering and simultaneous beauty in the world that the strategic mind by itself cannot grasp nor make sense of." (Whyte, 2014)



We cannot think our way out of grief. But we can think through grief. Thinking includes processing feelings and understanding emotions. This may include acknowledging pain. Thinking through grief does not have a goal of erasing the pain or the experience. It may lead to making sense of the loss and identifying ways to process and perhaps find meaning.

When you are thinking through grief, connections can provide relief and

support. Here are some concrete strategies to seek connections: Make a list of supportive and important people in your life. Commit to reaching out to these people and note how often you would like to connect, and how (ex/ I will reach out to Aunt Mary once a week by phone). Be realistic about this and look to share your thoughts and express what kind of support you need. It is equally important to be an active listener to the people you connect with. Let the connection be real and mutual. Even through grief; even with a busy schedule: It is possible to nurture relationships.

Whyte, D. (2014). *Consolations: The Solace, Nourishment and Underlying Meaning of Everyday Words*.

VETERANS ARE AMONG THOSE SERVED BY THE MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

Article Contributed by **Mental Health Association of Chautauqua County**

In the rear of a former factory building that borders the Chadakoin River in downtown Jamestown is a place where people suffering from anxiety, depression, PTSD, bipolar or other mental health or substance use disorders can find acceptance, understanding, and support.

"We're here because we've been there" is the theme of the Mental Health Association of Chautauqua County (MHA), a peer-run organization offering assistance that is free, open, and determined by the individual's own goals. The MHA's North County recovery center in Dunkirk's Grace Lutheran Church is a setting of similar acceptance.

Whether a person's mental health or substance use disorders are a result of trauma, biology, or their combination, at times of difficulty,

the MHA is a resource that provides individual support, guidance and advocacy to help participants reach their personal goals.

In recovery themselves, trained peer specialists assist in finding employment, education and housing. They offer support for pregnancy, treatment court navigation and family court. They provide information on and connection to clinical treatment options. And they do more.

Over 30 groups and classes are offered in the MHA's judgment-free and drug-free spaces.

On Memorial Day we honor those who lost their lives in service to our country. After their service, some veterans struggle with mental health and substance use disorders. The Veterans Support Group is for veterans, families of veterans, and those with family members actively serving in our armed

forces. Facilitated by MHA Finance Director Jill Marsh, the group meets at 11 a.m. on Wednesdays. Jill, an Air Force veteran who suffers from anxiety disorder, says, "Veterans like to come together to share stories, and have a bond with other vets. We discuss issues affecting veterans and their families. We enjoy a light buffet lunch and snacks while we gather for trivia, presentations, and discussions in a friendly and fun setting. New participants are warmly welcomed."

Along with classes focused on art, writing, yoga, parenting, knitting, music and more, there are support groups for those experiencing grief, trauma, anxiety and depression and for their family and friends, as well as multiple AA groups. A schedule with descriptions of all MHA groups and

classes is at MHACHautauqua.org/groups.

The Jamestown recovery center in the Gateway Building, Door 14, at 31 Water Street is open Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, 9:30 a.m.–7 p.m., and Tuesday and Friday, 9:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Hours at 601 Eagle Street in Dunkirk are Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Free Narcan and Narcan training and testing strips for xylazine and fentanyl are available at both centers.

To learn more about the Mental Health Association, call (716) 661-9044, email info@MHACHautauqua.org, or visit MHACHautauqua.org or facebook.com/MHACHautauqua.



JAMESTOWN KIWANIS CLUB SPONSORS AMBA WELLNESS PROGRAM

Article Contributed by
Jamestown Kiwanis Club

The Jamestown Kiwanis Club is sponsoring an AMBA Wellness Program on May 31, 2025 at the Tree of Life Evangelical Lutheran Church on 825 Forest Avenue, Jamestown, NY from 6:30 AM to 9:30 AM. The AMBA Wellness Program includes blood tests for Coronary Disease, Liver and Kidney Disease, Anemia, Diabetes, and other types of diseases. The cost for the full AMBA panel is \$59.00. In addition, the Jamestown Kiwanis Club will collect a \$10.00 sponsorship fee which will assist various local programs for children such as the JHS Key Club, youth soccer,



vocational scholarships, etc. The following optional tests are also available for an additional fee and require a separate script from a physician: Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA), Thyroid (TSH), Vitamin D 25, Hemoglobin A1C, and Insure Colon Rectal Kit. Appointments are required and can be made by calling 1-800-234-8888. Kiwanis International is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to changing the world one child and one community at a time. New members are always welcome. For more information about Kiwanis please call Wendy Wilcox at 716-450-6874 or Chuck Nazzaro at 716-450-6492.

Annual Owen J. Miller “Buddy Walk” Returns to Ripley on May 31

“So No One Walks Alone”
Honoring Owen’s Legacy with Every Step

Article Contributed by
Chautauqua County
Department of
Mental Hygiene

The Suicide Prevention Alliance of Chautauqua County is proud to support the annual Owen J. Miller Walk/Run, taking place on Saturday, May 31, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. at Ripley Central School (Ross Street Entrance).

Known affectionately as the “Buddy Walk,” this heartfelt event is held in loving memory of Owen J. Miller and serves as a reminder that no one should walk through life alone.

Attendance is free, and all are welcome to gather in remembrance, raise awareness, and share in the spirit of hope and connection. Participants are encouraged to walk or run in Owen’s honor and support the Owen J. Miller Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Community members can also donate directly to the scholarship fund by visiting the event’s official donation page.



Submitted Photo

“Events like the Buddy Walk offer a meaningful opportunity to come together, reflect, and uplift one another,” said Carri Raynor, Director of the Suicide Prevention Alliance of Chautauqua County. “Owen’s legacy continues to inspire action, unity, and compassion within our community.”

The walk is more than a tribute—it’s a call to action to #ChangeTheWorldForOwen by showing up for each other and promoting suicide prevention throughout the region. For more information or to support the cause, visit the event Facebook page or preventsuicidechq.com.



Pop-up Pickleball event for Thursday, May 29th 5:30-7:30pm at Michael LaGrega Memorial Field in Lakewood, NY.

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Photo by: Kim Weber

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Jamestown BPU Named First in WNY Healthiest Employer Competition for Eighth Year in a Row

Article Contributed by
Jamestown Board of
Public Utilities

For the eighth consecutive year, the Jamestown Board of Public Utilities (BPU) placed first in its size category in the WNY Healthiest Employer contest.

Companies competing against the winning BPU in the small-size category of 2-249 employees included Applied Fitness, Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus, Inc., CCMA LLC, Community Missions of Niagara Frontier, Inc., Great Lakes Integrated Network IPA, Harper International Corporation, I-Evolve Inc., Lumsden McCormick CPA and Trocaire College, Buffalo.

Business First, Springbuk, Independent Health, Wegmans and Walsh Duffield sponsored the annual competition and recently announced contest winners.

The recognition automatically enters the BPU health and wellness program in the Healthiest 100 Workplaces in America Competition. The utility has earned a spot among the top 100 companies in the national challenge since 2019.

A point-based program, the BPU's health and wellness plan provides incentives for employee participation in biometric screenings, vascular screenings, health challenges and preventative medical appointments. The program also includes the installation of standing workstations, online training coursework and an exercise room available to employees.

Healthy snacks are available for sale in utility buildings instead of the previous candy sales. Some buildings have a healthy recipe and a garden produce exchange corner.



Members of the BPU Health and Wellness gather for a celebratory picture. Pictured left to right, top: Brad Albright, Aaron Dunlap; middle: Tammy Anderson, Shannon Pattyson, Martha Abers; bottom: Becky Robbins, Gloria Miranda, Crystal Gibson.

Flu vaccinations are furnished on-site during work and after-work hours. Lunch-and-Learn sessions on pertinent health and wellness topics take place throughout the year and are attended by more than half of the BPU employees.

Past programs offered periodically are Weight Watcher classes, pre-diabetes training, carotid artery screenings and "Wellness Days." The team seeks additional ways to promote wellness and health and keep choices appealing and fresh.

Aaron Dunlap, the BPU employee who heads the Health and Wellness Team, said that he is thankful that the

utility's forward-thinking program was recognized for the eighth year in a row.

"Placing first among other employers in the region who themselves operate remarkable health and wellness programs is truly gratifying," stated Dunlap. "We would like to thank the 15th Annual Healthiest Employers Awards Organization personnel for all their efforts in promoting healthy employee lifestyles in Western New York."

"Our volunteer employee Health and Wellness Team is to be congratulated for this award commemorating the work they undertake to encourage

fellow employees, their spouses and our retirees to improve and progress health as a way of life," added BPU General Manager David L. Leathers. "I take great pride in this team's endeavors, creativity and decision-making, which continue to yield meaningful results."

According to Leathers, the team studies the anonymous health statistics of BPU employees, which helps the members decide what aspects of health to concentrate on in the next year's wellness programs. Some years have focused on issues such as weight loss, diabetes prevention and mental health.

Leathers noted that reduced absences and stabilization of health benefit utility costs are indicators of the program's success. The importance of good health in the workplace has become the company culture.

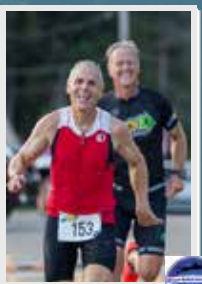
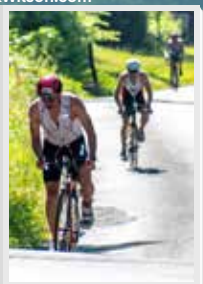
"We are thrilled to be once again honored as one of WNY's healthiest employers," stated The BPU's Human Resources Director Tammy Anderson. "Our program's success is possible because the commitment to a healthy workforce is supported at all organizational levels. The BPU recognizes that our employees are our greatest asset, and a healthy and committed workforce is essential for our organization's success."

Leathers commended the BPU Health and Wellness Team, whose members include Martha Abers, Tammy Anderson, Dan Currie, Jarrett Devereaux, Dunlap, Crystal Gibson, Todd Hoaglund, Sumner Henry, Cynthia McFadden, Gloria Miranda, Shannon Pattyson and Becky Robbins.

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The Resource Center Establishes Dr. John Vona “Smile” Fund to Support Oral Health Care for Individuals with Disabilities

Article Contributed by
**Chautauqua Region
Community Foundation**

The Chautauqua Region Community Foundation is honored to announce the creation of The Resource Center Dr. John Vona "Smile" Fund, an agency endowment fund, established in loving memory of Dr. John Vona by his children Linda Hart, Dr. David Vona, Sandy Stewart, and Daniel Vona. The "Smile" Fund will make an annual grant to Filling the Gap, Inc. to offset the cost of excellent oral health care for individuals with disabilities.

Dr. Vona, fondly called "Doc" within the community, completed school at the University of Buffalo's Dental School in 1961 and immediately entered the U.S. Army Reserve Dental division at Ft Riley, KS. After an honorable discharge, he set down roots in Silver Creek, NY. He had a thriving dental practice for over 45 years and continued to work well into his mid-80s for The Resource Center at TRC Community Health Center in Dunkirk, NY, where he retired after working 61 years as an area dentist.

He prided himself on building relationships and patient care with a splash of humor. Dr. Vona was a compassionate and highly respected local dentist whose career was defined by kindness, dedication, and a heartfelt commitment to serving others—especially individuals with special needs. The "Smile" Fund pays tribute to both his professional legacy and the joy he brought to his patients, coworkers, and community.

"My dad always believed in treating everyone with dignity and kindness,

and his dental practice truly reflected that," said Linda Hart. "He had such a deep love for this community and was always looking for ways to give back. This fund is a way to carry on his spirit of compassion and make sure his legacy of helping others continues, especially for those who need it most."

Filling the Gap, Inc., a Jamestown-based not-for-profit organization that works with The Resource Center, will use the "Smile" Fund to help close the gap in oral health services for individuals with disabilities, a population that often struggles to find accessible and affordable care.

"We are incredibly grateful for this new fund and the opportunity it presents to expand vital services to those who need them most," said Greg Krauza, Board President for Filling the Gap, Inc. "Dr. Vona made an impact on countless lives, and this fund ensures that his smile, and his care, live on in the work we continue to do."

"We were so fortunate to work with Dr. Vona at our dental office in Dunkirk for so many years. He was a bright spot in everyone's day and treated each patient with genuine kindness," said Heather Brown, Vice President for Clinical Operations at The Resource Center and Community Inclusion, Inc., which operates TRC Community Health Center. "It is an honor that his family has selected to continue his legacy and support of individuals in need of dental care in our community."

"For those who had the pleasure of knowing Dr. Vona, his unwavering passion for serving people with disabilities left a permanent mark on us all. His kind and compassionate nature sets the standard for our continued mission to provide the best healthcare for our community," said Lindsay VandeVelde, Community Inclusion's Executive Director. "Our gratitude



Taking part in the contract signing to formally establish The Resource Center Dr. John Vona Smile Fund are, from left, Linda Hart and Dr. David Vona, children of Dr. John Vona; Greg Krauza, President of Filling the Gap's Board; Cindy Hitchcock, Filling the Gap's Chief Executive Officer; and Tina Downey, Development Officer at Chautauqua Region Community Foundation.

goes out to the Vona family for their generosity in creating the "Smile" Fund."

The Resource Center and the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation share a longstanding relationship, with multiple endowment funds in place to support and sustain a variety of programs for individuals with disabilities. These funds are enhanced annually by generous community contributions, often raised through signature events like the Laurel Memorial Run/Walk and TRC Golf Classic, which raise awareness and support for services benefiting people with disabilities across Chautauqua County.

"This Fund is a beautiful tribute," said Tory Irgang, Executive Director. "We are proud to continue our partnership with The Resource Center and are grateful to Linda, David, Sandy, and Daniel for choosing the Foundation as a steward of their father's legacy."

Fittingly, the Vona family intends to

raise money for the Smile Fund through the Laurel Memorial Run/Walk. The 29th annual event takes place July 19 in Silver Creek. Dr. Vona was a passionate supporter of the event, which was created by Silver Creek residents, Wayne and Elaine Hotelling, in honor of their daughter Laurel, who had Down syndrome. The fact that Dr. Vona was Laurel's dentist serves to enhance the connection between the Vona and Hotelling families.

"The Laurel Run meant a lot to him," Linda Hart said of her father, "not just for the cause, but for how it brought people together."

Donations to grow the Dr. John Vona "Smile" Fund can be made by mailing a check to Chautauqua Region Community Foundation, 418 Spring St., Jamestown, NY 14701, or by visiting crcfonline.org. Donations also can be made by mailing a check to Filling the Gap, 92 Fairmount Ave. in Jamestown, or by visiting fillingthegap.net. For more information about the Smile Fund or Filling the Gap, phone 716-661-1519.





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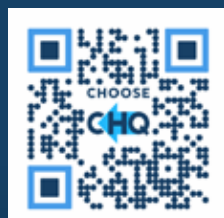
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