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Take Me Out to the Ball Game!

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Photo Courtesy of: www.jamestowntarpskunks.com

OUR COMMUNITY KNOCKS IT OUT OF THE PARK

Featured Writer

Christian Dolce

General Manager
Jamestown Tarp Skunks

Baseball has always been a part of Jamestown and Chautauqua County. For me, it's been part of my life for as long as I can remember. Growing up just a mile from Diethrick Park, I spent countless summer nights in the stands cheering on the Jamestown Jammers. Back then, I never imagined that one day I would have the

opportunity to lead the very organization that helped create so many of those memories.

What started as a summer internship in 2021 has turned into one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. Now entering my fourth season as General Manager of the Jamestown Tarp Skunks, I continue to be amazed by what this community has helped us build. Every year we have challenged ourselves to make the Tarp Skunks a bigger part of the community, and every year the people of Jamestown and Chautauqua County

have responded in a tremendous way.

The vision for the Tarp Skunks began in 2019 when a group of local investors came together to ensure that baseball would remain in Jamestown. Their goal was simple: create an affordable, family-friendly experience that would bring people together and provide lasting memories at Diethrick Park. Today, that vision is stronger than ever.

The 2025 season was another historic

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



HOME RUN: TARP SKUNK PLAYERS, DADS SHARE BASEBALL MEMORIES



Submitted Photo



2026 Tarp Skunks pictured with their beloved team manager, Scotty James, at center.

Editor-in-Chief

Katrina Fuller

Playing catch with your Dad can end up a little differently than just a hobby or a pastime. Throwing a ball around the yard in childhood moments can end up changing the trajectory of a child's dreams and a father's hopes. Both suit up for the Tarp Skunks this season, and while they play different positions, they share something beyond the same dugout. Behind each of them is

a father who threw batting practice in the backyard, drove to tournaments far from home and supported their goals of playing baseball under stadium lights.

Kolden, a pitcher for the Tarp Skunks, is a recent Jamestown Community College graduate and local from Bemus Point. He grew up watching the Jamestown Jammers play. He has come full circle now, as a Tarp Skunk, and is quick to name his Dad, Kerby, as an inspiration.

"My dad has been a key stepping stone in my journey: taking me to games, helping me at the field, catching for me and throwing my batting practice and supporting me in my endeavors no matter what," Kolden said. "He always put his body on the line to help me get better. I don't have a specific moment, but each one of them no matter what will always be special."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

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This Week Around Town

MONDAY, JUNE 15

Splash Bemus - Live Music with Shawn | 6 PM-8 PM
60 Lakeside Dr. | Bemus Point
For Info: splashbemus.com

TUESDAY, JUNE 16

Movies at The Reg: Project Hail Mary | 7 PM
Reg Lenna Center for The Arts | Jamestown
For Info: reglenna.com

Southern Tier Brewing Co Zeke's Music Trivia | 6 PM
2072 Stoneman Circle | Lakewood
For Info: lakewood.stbcbeer.com

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17 - THURSDAY, JUNE 18

Splash Bemus - Live Music with Shawn | 6 PM-8 PM
60 Lakeside Dr. | Bemus Point
For Info: splashbemus.com

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17

Dunkirk Farmers Market 9 AM-2 PM
45 Cliffstar Court | Dunkirk
For Info: 716-338-2460 or dunkirkfarmersmarket@gmail.com

Jamestown Mobile Market 11 AM-1 PM & 1:30-2:30 PM

Prendergast Library (11) & Silvertree Seniors - Anderson Manor (1:30) | Jamestown | For Info: jfmny.org

Music in the Green | 5 PM-8 PM
Village Green Park | Mayville
For Info: tourchautauqua.com/events/music-in-the-green-12

Chautauqua County Genealogical Society Meeting | 6:30 PM
American Legion 228 Maple Ave. | Cassadaga
For Info: 716-785-8420

Tarp Skunks Home Game | 6:30 PM
Diethrick Park | Jamestown
For Info: jamestowntarpskunks.com

THURSDAY, JUNE 18

Cardio Drumming | 9 AM-9:45 AM
Dunkirk Senior Center | Dunkirk | For Info: (716) 366-7530

Lakewood Farmers Market 9 AM-2 PM
Chautauqua Avenue & Alta Way | Lakewood
For Info: 716-763-8557 or lakewoodny.gov/farmers-artisans-market

Jamestown Mobile Market 11 AM-12 PM & 12:30 PM-1:15 PM & 2:30 PM-3:30 PM
The Chautauqua Center (11) & Silvertree Seniors - Methodist Gardens (12:30) & Chautauqua Opportunities (2:30) | Jamestown
For Info: jfmny.org

Forestville Farmers Market 1 PM-5 PM
Main Street | Forestville | For Info: 716-934-8534

Labyrinth Press Company - Paint Your Own Pottery | 4:30 PM-9:30 PM
12 East 4th Street | Jamestown | For Info: labpressco.com

3rd on Third | 5 PM-8 PM
3rd St. between Main & Spring | Jamestown
For Info: tourchautauqua.com/events/3rd-on-third-2

Step Up For Autism Color Run | 6 PM
200 Dunham Avenue | Celoron
For Info: 716-483-2344 or runsignup.com/Race/NY/Celoron/StepUpforAutismColorRun

Southern Tier Brewing Co Trivia Night | 6 PM
2072 Stoneman Circle | Lakewood

Cabana Sam's - Generation Gap | 7 PM
1028 South Shore Dr. | Irving | For Info: sunsetbayusa.com

Steelbound - DJ Slick Nick 8 PM-12 AM
30 Lake Shore Dr. E | Dunkirk | For Info: steelboundevl.com

The Wine Cellar - Open Mic Night 9 PM - 12 AM
309 N Main St | Jamestown
For Info: The Wine Cellar Facebook

Tarp Skunks Home Game | 6:30 PM
Diethrick Park | Jamestown
For Info: jamestowntarpskunks.com

FRIDAY, JUNE 19 - SATURDAY, JUNE 20

Yassou Festival | 11 AM-10 PM & 11 AM - 9 PM
St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church | Jamestown
For Info: tourchautauqua.com/events/yassou-festival

Splash Bemus - Nicholas Nasibyan 6 PM-8 PM
60 Lakeside Dr. | Bemus Point
For Info: splashbemus.com

Juneteenth Festival | events all day
Jackson Taylor Park | Jamestown
For Info: Jamestown Juneteenth Facebook

FRIDAY, JUNE 19

Bemus Point Farmers and Artisans Market | 9 AM-3 PM
Lakeside Dr. | Bemus Point
For Info: 716-338-246 or bemuspointny.org/farmers-market

Jamestown Mobile Market 11 AM-12 PM & 12:30-1:30 PM
TRC Community Health Center (11) & Silvertree Seniors - Carlson (12:30) | Jamestown
For Info: jfmny.org

Sunset Bay Beach Club - DJ Majik | 2 PM
Ben Cornell | 8 PM
1028 South Shore Dr. | Irving | For Info: sunsetbayusa.com

Pearl City Hops - Live Music 6 PM-8 PM
150 West 4th St. | Jamestown | For Info: pearlcityhops.com

Bemus Point Tap House - Rockabilly Steve | 6 PM-9 PM
72 Main Street | Bemus Point
For Info: bemustaphouse.com

Southern Tier Brewing Co - Ion Sky 6 PM
2072 Stoneman Circle | Lakewood
For Info: lakewood.stbcbeer.com

25 Years of Asking Questions: What is Patriotism, Really? | 6 PM-7 PM
Robert H. Jackson Center | Jamestown
For Info: roberthjackson.org/event/25yaq-patriotism/

Labyrinth Press Company - Music on the Stoop - Jerod Eggleston | 7 PM
12 East 4th Street | Jamestown
For Info: www.labpressco.com

Raven & Thorn Tavern - Trivia with Chris | 7 PM-9 PM
26 Water St. | Fredonia | For Info: ravenandthorn.com

Raven & Thorn Tavern - Menage-A-Caw Drag Show | 9 PM-11 PM
26 Water St. | Fredonia | For Info: ravenandthorn.com

Shawbucks - Karaoke | 10 PM
212 West 2nd St. | Jamestown | For Info: shawbucks.com

The Village Casino - Queen of the Beats | 10 PM - 1 AM
1 Lakeside Dr | Bemus Point
For Info: bemuspointcasino.com

Tarp Skunks Home Game | 6:30 PM
Diethrick Park | Jamestown
For Info: jamestowntarpskunks.com

SATURDAY, JUNE 20

CHQ Trails Day | All Day
Chautauqua County | For Info: choosechq.com/chqtrailsday

Jamestown Farmers Market 9 AM-1 PM
Third Street & Pine Street | Jamestown | For Info: jfmny.org

Westfield Farmers & Artisans Market 9 AM-2 PM
Moore Park | Westfield
For Info: 716-753-0367 or westfieldmkt@gmail.com

Sunset Bay Beach Club - Rockfest 1 PM
1028 South Shore Dr. | Irving | For Info: sunsetbayusa.com

Group Ther-Happy - 2XJam 1 PM-9 PM
103 Chautauqua Ave. | Lakewood
For Info: www.groupther-happy.com

Southern Tier Brewing Co - Ion Sky 6 PM
2072 Stoneman Circle | Lakewood
For Info: lakewood.stbcbeer.com

The Village Casino - Trentan Shutters 7 PM - 10 PM
1 Lakeside Dr | Bemus Point
For Info: bemuspointcasino.com

Group Ther-Happy - Dan Barney 8 PM-11 PM
103 Chautauqua Ave. | Lakewood
For Info: www.groupther-happy.com

Shawbucks - DJ Xcite | 10 PM
212 West 2nd St. | Jamestown | For Info: shawbucks.com

The Village Casino - That 80s Hair Band | 10 PM - 2 AM
1 Lakeside Dr | Bemus Point
For Info: bemuspointcasino.com

SUNDAY, JUNE 21

Bemus Point Tap House - Father's Day Golf Tournament | 10 AM
72 Main Street | Bemus Point
For Info: bemustaphouse.com

Presentation of The 2026 T. Richard Parker Award for Social Justice 10:30 AM
Unitarian Universalist Congregation | Jamestown
For Info: ujamestown.org/calendar

Father's Day at Southern Tier Brewing Co | 11 AM-8 PM
2072 Stoneman Circle | Lakewood
For Info: lakewood.stbcbeer.com

Cabana Sam's - Rockin Robin 1 PM
1028 South Shore Dr. | Irving | For Info: sunsetbayusa.com

A Taste of Ireland - The Irish Music and Dance Sensation | 4 PM
Reg Lenna Center for The Arts | Jamestown
For Info: reglenna.com

Group Ther-Happy - Flashbacks 5 PM-8 PM
103 Chautauqua Ave. | Lakewood
For Info: www.groupther-happy.com

Splash Bemus - Live Music with Shawn 6 PM-8 PM
60 Lakeside Dr. | Bemus Point | For Info: splashbemus.com

Editorial with Lori Cornell

Your Seat at the Ballpark



Publisher
Lori Cornell

With all four of my sons home from school for the summer, I must be in a nostalgic mood. Our recent "Farmers Market Edition" reminded me of their childhood garden "broccoli wars" and this week's "Tarp Skunks Edition" takes me back to many, many Northside nights at the ballfield.

We lived on Hotchkiss Street - pretty much a baseball's throw from Chautauqua County's historic Diethrick Park in Jamestown. We never had extra cash (still don't!) so I always looked for the bargain nights, especially the \$1 hot dog games. When the boys were very little, they ran around the stadium hunting down Bubba Grape, the purple ape, for a hug. As they grew, they ran around the stadium shagging fly balls and playing hide-n-go-seek with

their friends. We never missed a fireworks night. We owned about 25 prize Jammers hats. And we loved every minute of our hometown team.

Did I mention they ran? The unruly Cornell boys. But when we sat for a moment, to take in our team and the breathtaking sunsets across the outfield, it was always on the third base line bleachers, right around the second section toward the bottom rows. I don't know why. It was like a routinized church pew. That was just our place.

Now when I attend Tarp Skunks games, the sights and sounds may be different for me, but they're as strong as ever with General Manager Christian Dolce leading our winning team and inspiring the next generation of Whiffy fans. He continues to build the promising program for a future that's as exciting as Jamestown's legacy baseball past. Go Christian and Go Skunks!

For young and old alike, north county and south county the same, the Tarp Skunks are where it's at this summer. Take time to support our hometown team. Find your seat at Jamestown's quientenssial park.

It's just our place.

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THE BLESSINGS AND WORRIES OF FATHERHOOD



Pastor Dan & his grandson Colin

Featured Writer

Rev. Dan Soderburg

Pastor, First Covenant Church

Ahh, Father's Day! One of my favorite days of the year. To all you fellow Dads out there, I hope you have a great day; I hope you don't have to mow many lawns or dig many ditches today. Instead, I hope that today you enjoy the blessings of fatherhood!

Did you know that Father's Day is a fairly new holiday in our national calendar? Mother's Day has been around for over 100 years, when President Woodrow Wilson established it as a national holiday. But Father's Day wasn't established until 1972 by President Nixon.

Maybe some of you will spend some time on this fairly new holiday reminiscing about times you spent with your dad. I know I will! I have some great memories with my Dad, many years ago, watching the Jamestown Expos play baseball in the PONY league. I'll never forget the time my Dad ran down to the dugout to ask for a bat that had just been cracked by a player and then brought it to me as my own personal souvenir. My Dad passed away about 10 years ago, and I really miss him.

I love being a dad, and I really love being a grandfather. If I knew that Grandkids were so much fun, I would have had them first! There is nothing more fun than watching your grandkids run up to you and yell, "Papa, I love you!"

And yet, being a dad or being a grandfather comes with a tremendous burden. Raising a family, providing for

our families and being a good example can be a tremendous joy. But, it can also be a burden. It's a burden because "with more responsibilities comes more concerns," right? Such a heavy weight of responsibilities can become insurmountable fears.

Jesus had a message for fathers (and others) when He said, "Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not more valuable than they? Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own. (Matt. 6; 25-26, 34).

As a Dad, I often find myself worrying about my children (no matter how old they are) and my grandchildren. Our children bring great joy to us, but they can also bring us heartache. And when we look around at what's happening in our world, it can be even more overwhelming! I think that we all have a tendency to actually desire to worry about things. Worry is just another form of fear. So often we worry about things that are completely beyond human control.

Worrying is a lifestyle choice that we make every day. Perhaps this Father's Day, we can all take a load off from worrying and let Jesus do the heavy lifting. Rev. Daniel Soderberg is a graduate of Toccoa Fall College, Trinity Divinity School and North Park Theological Seminary. He is ordained in the Evangelical Covenant Church and serves at Zion Covenant Church and First Covenant Church in Jamestown, New York. He and his wife, Karen, have three adult children, and six grandchildren.

The Whiffy Fund: Opening the Gates for Every Kid



Tory Irgang, Chautauqua Region Community Foundation Executive Director and Randy Anderson, Jamestown Tarp Skunks Board Member

Contributed by

Jamestown Tarp Skunks

One of the greatest sights at Diethrick Park isn't always what happens on the field. Sometimes it's watching a young baseball or softball player walk through the gates wearing their uniform, glove in hand, excited for a night at the ballpark.

For the Jamestown Tarp Skunks, creating those moments is exactly what the Whiffy Fund is all about.

The Whiffy Fund was created with a simple goal, to make sure every child has the opportunity to experience a night at the ballpark regardless of financial circumstances. The program helps offset the cost of admission and is made possible through a partnership between the Jamestown Tarp Skunks, the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation, and the Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame.

What started as an idea to make baseball more accessible has grown into one of the organization's most impactful community initiatives. In the summer of 2024, the Whiffy Fund covered admission for more than 2,500 youth to attend Tarp Skunks games free of charge. The program continued to grow in 2025, providing free admission to more than 3,500 children. In just its first two seasons, over 6,000 local youth have been able to enjoy Tarp Skunks baseball through the Whiffy Fund.

"This program has been nothing short of a home run," said Tarp Skunks Board Member Randy Anderson. "It has provided access to so many children and youth groups who might not have had access before, and given them an evening of safe and fun time with friends and family."

For General Manager Christian Dolce, the program represents much more than free tickets.

"Baseball has always been a game that brings communities together," Dolce said. "Every kid should have the opportunity to experience a night at the ballpark. Whether it's their first game or their fiftieth, those memories can last a lifetime."

The impact of the Whiffy Fund extends far beyond simply getting kids through

the gates. Throughout the summer, youth baseball and softball teams from across Chautauqua County take advantage of opportunities that many young players only dream about.

Before games, kids often fill the field playing catch with Tarp Skunks Players. They then line up along the dugouts collecting autographs from the players and coaches. At more than half of the team's home games, youth teams have the opportunity to run onto the field alongside players during pregame introductions.

The Whiffy Fund also helps strengthen the connection between the Tarp Skunks and the next generation of baseball and softball players throughout the region. It gives young athletes a chance to see the game up close, meet role models, and develop an even greater love for baseball and softball.

Most importantly, it ensures that cost is never a barrier to enjoying baseball in Jamestown.

"This fund is an example of how the Foundation partners with community organizations to achieve a considerable and far-reaching impact," said Tory Irgang, Executive Director of the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation. "Gifts to the Whiffy Fund directly support access to Tarp Skunks games by our area's youth."

As attendance continues to grow and more families discover the Tarp Skunks experience, the organization's commitment to accessibility remains unchanged. The goal has never been simply to fill seats. It has always been about serving the community and creating opportunities for local families.

Thanks to the support of donors, sponsors, and community partners, thousands of children have already benefited from the Whiffy Fund, and thousands more will have the opportunity in the years ahead.

At its core, the Whiffy Fund represents what the Tarp Skunks are all about: community, family, and making sure every child has a chance to create memories at Diethrick Park.

Because for many kids, a free ticket isn't just a ticket. It's the beginning of a memory they'll carry with them for the rest of their lives.

Southern Tier Brewing Company and National Comedy Center Team Up to Support ALS Research



Contributed by

National Comedy Center

June 8, 2026 –Two hometown organizations with national reach are joining forces to support the fight against ALS. Southern Tier Brewing Company and the National Comedy Center have partnered to launch Bit by Bit Blonde Ale, a limited-release 5.1% Blonde Ale created to raise funds and awareness for ALS research. The beer is now available at Southern Tier Brewing Company taprooms and the National Comedy Center, as well as select local retailers, with proceeds benefitting ALS Therapy Development Institute (ALS TDI) and the Sean M. Healey & AMG Center for ALS at Massachusetts General Hospital.

Throughout the campaign, Southern Tier Brewing Company will donate \$1 from every draft pint sold and \$1 from every four-pack purchased to-go to support ongoing ALS research efforts. "We're honored to be partnering with the National Comedy Center for Bit by Bit," said Brandon Hank, Brand Manager at Southern Tier Brewing Company. "Craft beer has always been about community, so having the ability to raise funds for a great cause with another organization born in Chautauqua County is truly special."

The beer's name, Bit by Bit, draws inspiration from the comedy "bits" that have brought people together for generations while also reflecting the incremental progress being made every day in the fight against ALS. Just as breakthroughs in research happen bit by bit, every pint and four-pack sold contributes to advancing critical research and bringing hope to those impacted by the disease. The collaboration was created to celebrate community while supporting a cause that affects thousands of families across the country.

The initiative carries a personal connection for the National Comedy Center and the broader Jamestown

community. National Comedy Center Board Member Jon Albro, a Jamestown native, was recently diagnosed with ALS, underscoring the importance of supporting organizations working to advance research, improve treatments, and ultimately find a cure. "On behalf of the ALS community, I would like to thank Sara DeMink of Southern Tier Brewing Company for her leadership & friendship, the Southern Tier Brewing Company marketing team, and Journey Gunderson and the National Comedy Center team. The region is extremely fortunate to have two world-class organizations that contribute so much to the community. I'm very proud of this effort and thank everyone for participating," stated National Comedy Center Board Member Jon Albro.

Through Bit by Bit Blonde Ale, Southern Tier Brewing Company and the National Comedy Center hope to inspire guest to support ALS research while celebrating the power of community, laughter and local partnerships. ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease, is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord. Nearly 30,000 Americans are currently living with ALS, and every 90 minutes someone is diagnosed with the disease. Through the Ales for ALS program, breweries across the country help fund critical research and raise awareness for those impacted by the disease.

In addition to the beer release, Southern Tier Brewing Company will host a series of comedy-themed events and fundraising activities throughout June at its taproom locations, including a classic comedy movie night to be held June 16 at Southern Tier's Buffalo taproom, followed by Comedy Trivia night on June 25 at The Empty Pint in Lakewood, bringing together guests for evenings of community, entertainment and fundraising. Guests can learn more about the campaign, make donations, view event schedules, and enter giveaways by visiting: <https://stbbeer.com/bitbybit/>

Colorful Step Up for Autism Event takes place June 18



Contributed by
The Resource Center

The Resource Center will host the annual Step Up for Autism on Thursday, June 18, and this year's event promises to be the most colorful.

Organizers have created a "color run" for this year's main activity. Participants will have the option of walking or running along a 3-mile route through Celoron. Along the way, they'll pass stations where they can walk through a mist of powdered paint tossed into the air by volunteers. Folks who prefer to take part in the event without getting covered in paint can opt to bypass the paint stations.

For those who want to be part of the fun but don't want to do the 3-mile route, there will be a loop that takes participants around the perimeter of The Resource Center's property at 200 Dunham Avenue.

In addition to the color run, there will be music, food and prize drawings.

People can register ahead of time at <https://runsignup.com>, or they can register in person the day of the event starting at 5:00. The 3-mile run/walk will begin at 6:00.

Businesses, school groups and others are encouraged to put together teams of family members, friends and co-workers. Those planning to participate can create a fund-raising web page to collect donations. People can set up their own fund-raising page or create a team page that team members can promote to solicit donations.

Proceeds from the event will be directed to The Resource Center TRC Foundation Fund at the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation, and will support people on the autism spectrum and others with developmental disabilities.

Sponsors include Southern Chautauqua Federal Credit Union, Fenton Mobility, Kinetic and Winning Tree.

For more information about Step Up for Autism, phone 716-483-2344.

Ballparks, Beers, and Brotherhood: A Baseball Tradition Stops in Jamestown



Jason O'Malley, Carl Vandenburg, Brad Quello, Brad Meyers, Tim Scheid
Follow on X @BallparksBeersFC

Contributed by
Jamestown Tarp Skunks

When Jason O'Malley, Carl Vandenberg, Brad Meyers, Brad Quello, and Tim Scheid arrived in Jamestown on May 29 for this year's Opening Night of the Jamestown Tarp Skunks season, they weren't just attending another baseball game. They were continuing a tradition that has spanned more than two decades and thousands of miles.

The group, known as Ballparks + Beer FC, joined nearly 1,900 other fans at Russell E. Diethrick Jr. Park to experience one of the country's most enduring baseball communities. The Jamestown stop was part of a baseball road trip that also included the Buffalo Bisons, Johnstown Mill Rats, and Pittsburgh Pirates, giving the group a chance to experience baseball at multiple levels while exploring the unique communities that support it.

What began as a simple post-college road trip for friends from the Minneapolis area has grown into something much bigger. Looking for affordable ways to enjoy baseball, they started visiting minor league ballparks throughout the Midwest, drawn by historic stadiums, small-town charm, \$5 tickets, and \$3 beers.

More than 20 years later, the group recently completed what they believe was their 23rd annual trip.

While baseball is the common thread, the trips have always been about more than what happens between the lines. "It gives us a chance to connect as good friends alongside our busy family and professional lives," the group said. "We've been able to travel all over the country, meet amazing people, and visit places we otherwise may never have seen." What started with Midwest road trips expanded as the group discovered

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

Upcoming Events at the Fenton History Center

Contributed by
Fenton History Center

The upcoming tour on Saturday June 20 at 10 AM is about Jamestown's Hidden Alleys. Tucked away from view behind respectable facades, alleys were indispensable elements in American cities during the last half of the nineteenth century. The "impolite" realities of the industrial movement were hidden from Victorian society. Jamestown had 5 alleys – what are their stories? Learn about them on the Hidden Alleys tour. Participants will meet at the Fenton History Center at 10:00 a.m. The tour is led by Fenton volunteer Cindy Dustin. The cost is \$8 for members and \$12 for non-members. Participants can pre-register online, in person at the Fenton, or by phone at 716-664-6256.

The next lecture is "Appreciating the

Architecture of First Presbyterian Church at 100"

The Fenton History Center will host Dr. John Smagner on Tuesday, June 16 at 7 PM in the Gov. Reuben E. Fenton Mansion. Dr. Smagner, an architectural historian who often attended the church as a child, will engage listeners as he highlights the many details that make the church so special. With the support and commitment of the church community, John wrote the successful nomination to place the church on the National Register of Historic Places.

Constructed 100 years ago, First Presbyterian Church of Jamestown reflects the growth and pride of a thriving community. Ralph Adams Cram, the building's architect, was one of the early twentieth century's most influential architects. He drew inspiration from



his travels throughout Europe and from the Arts and Crafts Movement then becoming popular in the United States. This movement promoted the work of talented, local craftsmen as opposed to mass production and industrialization. The church today, as it did 100 years ago, stands as a masterpiece of this movement and of the hopes and dreams of the community.

The event is free and open to the public. Lectures are held in the dining room at the Gov. Reuben Fenton mansion. They are also streamed on YouTube. Donations are appreciated to support the Fenton History Center's mission to preserve local history and provide educational opportunities. Thank you to our sponsors Rodgers Land Surveying, Ahlstrom Schaeffer, and Weber Knapp.

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Ballparks, Beers, and Brotherhood: A Baseball Tradition Stops in Jamestown

Continued from Page 6

just how much quality baseball exists across the country. Today, Ballparks + Beer seeks out everything from Major League Baseball to independent leagues, summer collegiate wood-bat leagues, prospect leagues, and the Arizona Fall League, where some of baseball's top prospects continue their development after the regular season.

The group has traveled from New York to North Carolina, explored Arizona, visited iconic venues such as Dodger Stadium, and spent countless summer nights in small towns where baseball remains a centerpiece of community life.

Along the way, they've accumulated plenty of stories. One member still remembers seeing Muhammad Ali at Wrigley Field. Walking toward a suite, Ali paused to acknowledge the crowd and threw a few playful air punches, sending fans into a frenzy. Other memorable moments include winning a hog-calling contest in Wisconsin, competing in on-field tire races in Iowa, and throwing out a ceremonial first pitch at a New Hampshire Fisher Cats game during the group's 20th anniversary trip.

Some of their favorite memories hap-

pen after the final out. Whether it's trying regional foods, sampling local beers, or striking up conversations with fans at neighborhood establishments, the group says the friendships formed along the way often become just as memorable as the games themselves.

The love of baseball remains at the center of everything. "Baseball is something we all relate to from growing up," they said. "We always anchor back to small-town baseball and its importance to the community. Meeting people who love their team and their city brings us closer to the places we visit."

That appreciation for local communities is one reason Jamestown made an impression. For a group that has spent more than two decades exploring baseball's hidden gems, Jamestown represented exactly what they enjoy most: passionate fans, a historic ballpark, and a community that embraces the game.

After 23 years on the road, Ballparks + Beer shows no signs of slowing down. There are still ballparks left to visit, communities left to discover, and stories left to collect, one game, one town, and one beer at a time.

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New Neighbors Coalition to Commemorate World Refugee Day Through Poetry and Refugee Sunday Service

Contributed by
New Neighbors Coalition

The New Neighbors Coalition invites the community to commemorate World Refugee Day at two separate free community events at St. Luke's Undercroft, 410 N. Main Street, Jamestown. World Refugee Day, observed annually on June 20th, is a global initiative led by the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) to honor the courage and resilience of refugees worldwide and to raise awareness about their plight. It is an opportunity to recognize the millions of forcibly displaced individuals worldwide and reaffirm our commitment to supporting and protecting their rights.

Evening with Rumi – June 18 at 6pm
Held in commemoration of World Refugee Day, this gathering will reflect on

the enduring wisdom of the 13th-century poet whose words continue to resonate across cultures and generations. Guided by a student of Persian literature recently returned from Iran, participants will explore the first story of Rumi's Masnavi, Book I, using the Nicholson translation, along with several shorter poems. No preparation or prior reading is required.

Momina Di Blasio, director of the New Neighbors Coalition, notes the timeliness of Rumi's teachings: "In much of his poetry, Rumi invites us to let go of our ego and seek meaningful relationships with others. Through stories and parables, he reminds us that growth often happens when we listen deeply, approach the world with curiosity, and view one another with compassion. Centuries later, these lessons still ring true and reflect the foundational principles that guide our program's work."

Refugee Sunday Service – June 28 at 10am

A special Refugee Sunday service will be held at St. Luke's Episcopal Church offers an opportunity to reflect on the shared call to welcome the stranger, love our neighbors, and to accompany those seeking safety and a place to call home. The service will include special prayers, songs, a themed sermon and flag procession. "This is an opportunity to acknowledge that our faith, as Jesus taught, is exhibited by 'the measure we use' and that in welcoming our world neighbors we remember that our citizenship is of a heavenly calling" suggests, the Rev. Luke Fodor, Rector.

New Neighbors Coalition is a community-based immigration support effort housed at St. Luke's Episcopal Church. For general inquiry, to volunteer and to



stay connected, follow www.facebook.com/NewNeighborsCoalition, email Momina Di Blasio at momina@stlukes-jamestown.org or call the St. Luke's office at (716) 483-6405.

A Community Tradition That Keeps Growing

Continued from Front Page

year for our organization. We set all-time records in sponsorship revenue, ticket sales, concessions, merchandise sales, and community engagement. Our ballpark was filled with families, youth teams, and fans of all ages who continue to make Tarp Skunks baseball one of the premier summer destinations in Western New York.

On the field, the organization has also reached new heights. The Tarp Skunks recorded a franchise-best 30 wins and earned the first playoff victory in team history. While winning games is important, what makes me most proud is the connection our players, coaches, and staff continue to build with the community.

That connection is evident everywhere we go. Whether it's school visits, parades, youth baseball and softball events, community appearances, fireworks nights, or special promotions, our schedule has been packed with opportunities to engage with local families. The support we receive throughout the year reminds us that we are much more than a baseball team.

One of the initiatives I am most proud of is our Whiffy Fund. We believe every child should have the opportunity to experience baseball at Diethrick Park regardless of financial circumstances. Through the Whiffy

Fund, any child who wears their baseball or softball uniform to the park receives free admission. In 2025 alone, more than 3,500 kids attended games through this program. Over the last two seasons, that number has grown to more than 6,000 children. Seeing young fans walk through the gates excited for a night at the ballpark is a reminder of why we do what we do.

As we continue to grow, our mission remains the same: provide affordable family entertainment, create memorable experiences, and make a positive impact throughout the community. None of this would be possible without the support of our fans, sponsors, investors, host families, volunteers, and community partners who believe in what we are building.

As I enter my fourth season as General Manager, I am incredibly grateful for the trust and support this community has shown our organization. The Tarp Skunks have become more than just a baseball team. They have become a gathering place for families, friends, and neighbors to create memories together.

Thank you for being part of this journey. We are excited for what lies ahead and look forward to making even more memories with you at Diethrick Park this summer.



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FESTIVAL ITALIA 2026

Contributed by
Festivals Fredonia

Fredonia's Annual Festival Italia or otherwise known as the Fredonia Italian Heritage Festival will again be held at the Fredonia Beaver Club, 64 Prospect St., this year on June 20, 2026 from 11:00 am – 6:00 pm.

Festival Italia features craft and merchandise vendors, lots of music, and plenty of Italian food and wine. Listen to some great music from our Italian themed bands. Come eat food, drink some wine, shop, dance, laugh and have a good time!

Kicking off the activities in the morning will be the blessing of the festival followed by music from The Dave Golando combo, featuring popular musicians from the Buffalo Music Hall of Fame, from 11:30AM - 1:00PM

The Formula Band follows with very popular Italian dance music from Buffalo, bringing a touch of Italian flair to every event! They will take the stage from 1:30PM – 3:30PM.

Rounding out the day's crowd favorite entertainment will be Mary and Gabriel Giuffre, aka The Happy Days Band, bringing high-energy and excitement to the festival from 4:00PM – 6:00PM. You won't want to miss this fun, interactive show!

During your time at Festival Italia, please visit one of the on-site local restaurants offering Festival Italia specials – Super Duper Catering, Coughlan's Pub, Mark's Blasdel Pizza, Rural Ministry spaghetti, meatballs and cannoli, Not Your Mother's Kitchen, Chai's Chocolates (Italian gelato and ice) and CIAO's Italian cookies!

Grab some Italian themed merchandise items and basket raffle tickets at our Festivals Fredonia tent!

Don't forget to sign up for the 7th Annual Fredonia's Best Meatball Contest, and annual Wine Making Contest. Download the form or fill out your information online at www.festivalsfredonia.ny.org/festival-italia

Schedule of Events:

- 11:00AM -**
Blessing of the Festival
Food and Vendors will be open following the Blessing of the Festival
- 12:30PM -**
Meatball and Wine Judging Contest
- 11:30AM - 6:00PM**
Music
- 11:30AM – 1:00PM**
Dave Golando Combo
- 1:30PM – 3:30PM**
The Formula Band
- 4:00PM – 6:00PM**
The Happy Days Band

Throughout the afternoon, in between the music, there will be several activities: Morra, a fast-paced Italian numbers competition; Italian singers in the Beaver Club banquet room; various displays of Sicily and Italy on the interactive computer/TV screens; remote presentation of Dr. Suzanne Cope's newest book "Women of War: The Italian Assassins, Spies, and Couriers Who Fought the Nazis"!

Special thanks to our GOLD Level sponsors for 2026: Southern Chautauqua Federal Credit Union, The Fredonia Beaver Club, and DFT Communications!

About Festivals Fredonia:

Festivals Fredonia's mission is to contribute to a high quality of life in Fredonia and surrounding communities by presenting lively, varied recreational and cultural opportunities to Village and area residents and visitors. Festivals Fredonia is always looking for energetic volunteers to assist in planning and carrying out each year's festivals. Contact us at festivalsfredoniany@gmail.com

Festival Italia
Fredonia, NY

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

- 11:00am Blessing with Father Bob to open the festival
- 11:30am-1:00pm The Dave Golando Band
- 1:30pm-3:30pm Formula Band
- 4:00pm-6:00pm Happy Days Band

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Zonta Club of Jamestown Celebrates Member Milestone Anniversaries



The Zonta Club of Jamestown recently recognized several members for their years of dedicated service and commitment to the club's mission of building a better world for women and girls.

During the club's June meeting, members were honored for reaching significant anniversary milestones in their Zonta membership.

Celebrating five years of membership were Linda Richards and Jo Haumesser. Recognized for ten years of service was Debbie Piotrowski. Bonnie DeJoy was honored for her twenty years of dedicated membership, while Laura Corey and Suellen Carlson were recognized for an impressive twenty-five years of service to the organization.

These milestone anniversaries represent decades of collective dedication to the Zonta Club of Jamestown and its efforts to improve the lives of women and girls through service, advocacy, education, and philanthropy. The honorees have contributed their time, talents, and leadership to support numerous community initiatives and programs throughout the years.

Founded in 1921, the Zonta Club of Jamestown is part of Zonta International, a leading global organization of individuals working together to build a better world for women and girls. Through service projects, scholarships, advocacy efforts, and educational programs, the club continues its mission of empowering women and promoting gender equality throughout the Jamestown area.

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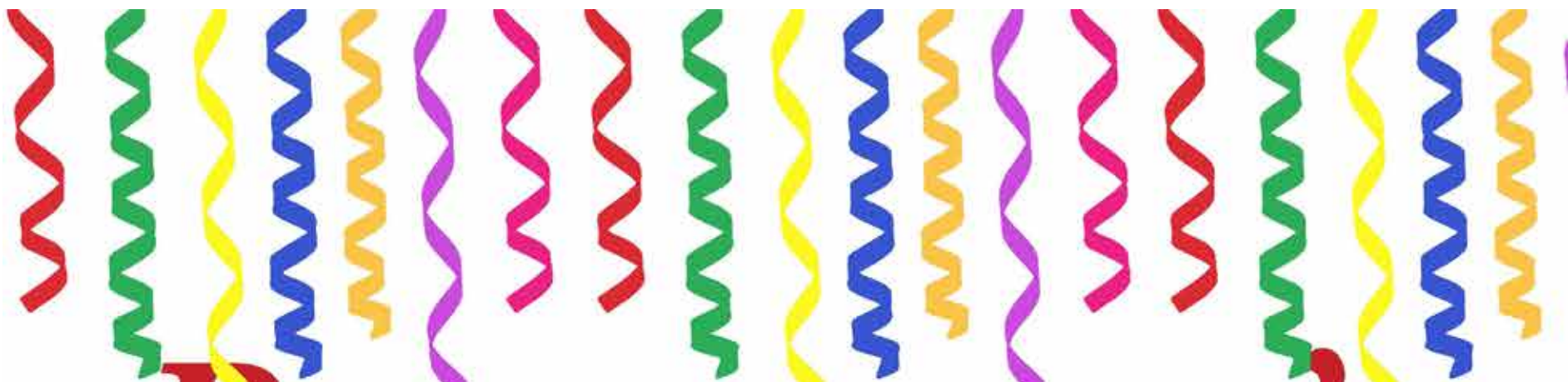
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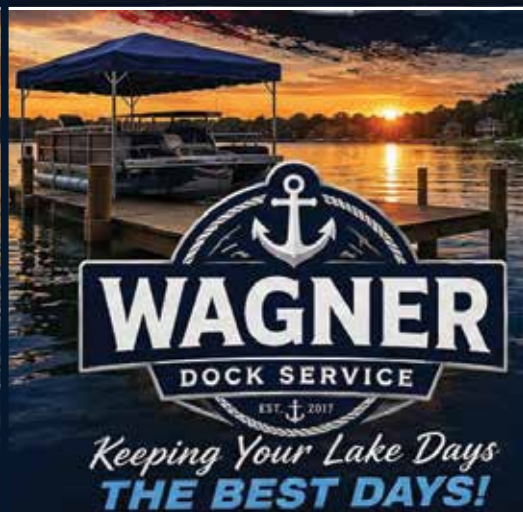
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Albany's Long Session Ends. Now Comes the Real Test



Contributing Writer
Jordan Nicholson

After 57 days of delays, negotiations and late-night votes, New York State finally has a budget.

At \$268.5 billion, the Fiscal Year 2027 spending plan is the largest in state history, representing a roughly 5.7% increase over last year and touching nearly every aspect of life in the state, from schools and roads to health care and economic development. While much of the public attention focused on finger pointing and the political drama in Albany, the more important question is what the budget means for Chautauqua County.

The answer is that, like all budgets, the impacts will be gradual, but significant. Education remains one of the biggest winners. The state approved another increase in school funding, continuing a trend that has helped local districts manage rising costs while limiting pressure on local property taxpayers. Without this aid, a more substantial increase in school taxes or necessary cuts to school staff and services would severely hamstring districts, particularly some of the smaller ones found in the county. For these districts, state aid remains one of the most important and reliable revenue sources available.

Higher education also remains a priority. Continued investment in the SUNY system provides support for institutions such as SUNY Fredonia, which remains one of the largest employers and economic drivers in northern Chautauqua County. While colleges across the Northeast continue to face enrollment challenges, state operating and capital support will remain critical to the university's future, especially with a state

moratorium on SUNY tuition raises.

Infrastructure funding may ultimately have the most visible impact. The state maintained funding for several major transportation programs, including \$648 million for CHIPS road aid, \$150 million for PAVE-NY, \$200 million for BridgeNY and \$100 million for Extreme Winter Recovery funding. These programs help local governments repair roads and bridges without relying solely on local tax dollars. In a county with hundreds of miles of roads stretching from Ripley to Silver Creek, multiple interstate highways, and some of the harshest winters in the state, these funds are the means by which we are able to travel safely.

The budget also maintains \$714.7 million in Aid and Incentives for Municipalities (AIM) funding and continues a \$50 million temporary municipal assistance program, providing additional support for local governments facing rising labor, equipment and public safety costs.

One of the most closely watched policy changes approved this year was reform of New York's Tier VI retirement system. Since its creation in 2012, local governments, schools and public agencies have argued that Tier VI made it more difficult to recruit and retain workers by requiring longer service periods and later retirement ages than previous pension tiers. The enacted reforms reduce vesting requirements from ten years to five years and make other adjustments intended to improve recruitment for teachers, police officers, firefighters, and public employees. Supporters view the changes as a necessary modernization of the state's labor policies, while critics have raised concerns about long-term pension costs. For communities across Western New York struggling to fill public-sector positions, particularly teachers, the reforms could provide a modest but meaningful boost to recruitment efforts.

Climate and energy policy remained a major focus of the legislative session as New York continued pursuing the ambitious emissions-reduction goals established under the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act. State

leaders approved additional investments in renewable energy, energy efficiency and grid modernization while scaling back some of the more ambitious aims of the legislation. Supporters argue the investments are necessary to address climate change and create new clean-energy jobs. Opponents such as Senator Borello and Assemblyman Molitor continue to question necessity, affordability, and the pace of implementation. For rural communities and manufacturers, the challenge will be balancing environmental goals with concerns about energy reliability and rising utility costs.

Motorists received some attention in this year's budget through measures designed to address rising automobile insurance costs. State lawmakers approved reforms intended to crack down on insurance fraud and reduce costs associated with unnecessary claims and litigation. While it remains unclear how quickly consumers may see savings, lawmakers from both parties acknowledged that increasing insurance premiums have become a growing concern for families already dealing with higher costs for housing, groceries, and energy. Whether the reforms translate into meaningful reductions in monthly premiums will be closely watched in the years ahead.

Perhaps no local issue better illustrates the importance of state investment than the ongoing water challenges facing Fredonia. The village's aging water system has become one of the most pressing infrastructure concerns in Western New York. While this budget does not contain a single line item that magically solves Fredonia's problems, New York continues to dedicate hundreds of millions of dollars toward clean water, drinking water and environmental infrastructure programs statewide. As Fredonia seeks long-term solutions, state assistance will almost certainly have to be part of the equation. The same is true for many communities across Chautauqua County that face aging water and sewer systems installed generations ago. The budget also includes significant affordability measures. State leaders approved approximately \$1 billion in energy rebate checks that are expected to reach 8.2 million New Yorkers, while

also continuing various tax relief efforts aimed at middle-class households. For many families still coping with inflation, rising utility costs, and housing expenses, those programs may provide some welcome relief.

Yet even as Albany celebrates a completed budget, uncertainty remains. Throughout negotiations, state officials repeatedly warned about the potential impact of federal funding reductions. New York relies heavily on federal support for Medicaid, health care, social services and education. Any substantial reductions from Washington could create new challenges for counties, municipalities and school districts across the state. This means the cuts included in the Trump administration's "One Big Beautiful Bill" that are scheduled to go into effect next year could have a stark impact on New York's finances and the FY27-28 budget.

For communities like ours, the success of this budget will not be measured by press releases in Albany. It will be measured by whether roads are repaired, whether water systems are upgraded, whether schools remain strong, whether SUNY Fredonia can thrive, and whether local governments can deliver services without imposing additional burdens on already exhausted taxpayers. The deliverance of these funds is not a guarantee; every county in New York State is going to want an outsized portion of these dollars. The activism and advocacy on our own behalf is what makes the difference.

The legislative session is over. The speeches have been given. The votes have been cast.

Now comes the harder part: turning \$268.5 billion in spending into tangible improvements that people can actually see.

In short, for Chautauqua County, that work starts now.

Jordan Nicholson is a Gazette Contributing Writer and Chautauqua County-native with more than twelve years experience working with both major parties at every level of elected government.

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STATEMENTS ON THE END OF THE 2026 LEGISLATIVE SESSION



George M. Borrello
SENATE DISTRICT 57

DISTRICT OFFICE: 716-664-4603
SATELLITE OFFICE: 716-372-4901
ALBANY OFFICE: 518-455-3563
borello@nysenate.gov

Senator George Borrello Responds:

"After months of delay, Albany Democrats delivered a \$268.5 billion budget and a legislative session that failed on every issue weighing most heavily on New Yorkers: affordability, public safety, fiscal responsibility, and government accountability. This is what one-party rule looks like when it no longer fears voters: a budget that keeps spending, keeps taxing, and keeps putting special interests ahead of the taxpayers funding it. The results speak for themselves: criminals have more protections than victims, sanctuary laws put ideology ahead of public safety, and New York City's fiscal recklessness gets bailed out while upstate families pay the tab. And as if that weren't enough, they have moved to rig New York's electoral maps, not to better serve voters, but to grab more power.

The meaningful course corrections of this session — a five-year delay in the electric school bus mandate and adjustments to the Climate Law's most unworkable provisions — happened because Republicans spent years exposing how these policies were hurting New Yorkers, and because a governor facing re-election couldn't afford to keep ignoring them. Let's be clear: these were political calculations, not a change of priorities. The underlying agenda remains firmly in place. New Yorkers will continue to face upward pressure on utility costs from Climate Act mandates, forced electrification remains the ultimate objective, and the rapid expansion of industrial-scale solar developments continues to cover the productive farmland, forests, and scenic open spaces that generations of New Yorkers have worked to preserve.

The radical policies that now define the Democratic Party have transformed New York from a beacon of opportunity into a state that far too many families, workers, retirees, and businesses are choosing to leave. Higher taxes, rising energy costs, declining affordability, public safety failures, and endless mandates have become the hallmarks of one-party rule.

New York still has every advantage needed to succeed. We have world-class institutions, abundant natural resources, innovative businesses, and hardworking people. But realizing our potential will require leaders who are focused on serving the public rather than protecting their own political power. Rather than continue down this reckless path, we must restore balance in our state government. I am hopeful that the voters will choose common sense over chaos in this upcoming election."



Andrew Molitor
ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 150

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

Assemblyman Andrew Molitor Responds:

"This legislative session should have been about making New York affordable again. It should have been about lowering energy costs, improving the business climate, reducing the crushing cost of Medicaid and giving families, farmers, seniors and small businesses a reason to believe this state can still work for them. That did not happen.

"Instead, in the final days of session, Albany's Majority chose power over people. They snuck in late constitutional amendments, changed draft language and advanced new judicial districts with far too little transparency, far too little debate and far too little respect for the public.

"These were not routine bills. These were not harmless procedural changes. These were attempts to alter the rules of government itself. When constitutional amendments appear at the end of session, when draft language shifts in the dark and when judicial districts are pushed through before New Yorkers can understand the consequences, the people are right to call it what it is: A power grab.

"The Constitution should not be treated like a campaign document. Judicial districts should not be remade in a backroom rush. Draft language should not change at the last minute while the public, local governments and even legislators are left scrambling to find out what is actually being voted on.

"This is the Albany pattern at its worst: ignore affordability, ignore taxpayers, ignore small businesses, then move the most serious changes when the fewest people are watching. Western New York deserves a government focused on lowering costs, creating jobs, strengthening local economies and making this state livable again. Instead, we got secrecy, speed and political self-preservation.

"I will continue to stand against this kind of government. I will oppose rushed constitutional changes, hidden draft language, last-minute redistricting schemes and judicial restructuring without proper scrutiny. The people of this state deserve open government, honest debate and leaders who remember they serve the public, not themselves."

Cummins Employees Donate Toys to AHN Westfield Hospital Pediatric Patients



Seen in photo are from right to left are Dr. Rodney J. Buchanan, AHN Westfield Hospital Administrator and Patricia Gaughan DiPalma, WMHF Executive Director who accepted numerous toys for the community hospital's littlest patients. The toys were collected by members of the Cummins Jamestown Engine Plant (JEP) Easter Toy Drive Committee.

Accompanying the pair are Jennifer Lundmark, Cummins JEP Community Relations Coordinator, Matt Davis, New Product Introduction Team and Brandie Sischo, Final Parts Mounting Assistant Team Leader.

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TARP SKUNKS 2026

TARP SKUNKS CURRENT ROSTER

#	Player	POS	B/T	Ht	Wt	Hometown
1	Tito Kiefer	IF	R/R	6'	180	Waterford, CT
2	Grant Moore	OF	L/R	6'1"	191	Johnstown, OH
4	Paul Dulanto	C	R/R	6'1"	215	Massapequa, NY
5	Matthew Dumas	OF	L/L	5'7"	140	Lake City, FL
6	Eric Weeks	IF/OF	R/R	5'10"	189	Pittsburgh, PA
7	Jackson Enders	IF	R/R	5'11"	175	Cheshire, CT
9	Justin Bremner	OF	R/R	6'	213	Twinsburg, OH
10	Santino Musone	P/OF	R/R	6'2"	180	Erie, PA
11	Anthony Trommer	OF	R/R	5'10"	190	Treose, PA
12	Tait Johnson	P	R/R	6'1"	205	Round Rock, TX
13	Logan Price	P	R/R	6'		Pheonix, AZ
14	Nolan Smith	IF	L/R	6'2"	200	Hamburg, NY
15	James Dixon	3B/SS		6'	195	Clifton Park, NY
16	Joseph Santos	P	R/R	5'9"	190	Merrick, PA
17	Rocco Almonte	P	R/R	6'5"	215	Erie, PA
18	Blake Herman	C/UTIL	R/R	5'10"	182	Gowanda, NY
19	Joaquin Rodriguez-Costa	IF	L/R	6'6"	230	Harbeson, DE
20	Chase Beran	P	R/R	6'3"	200	Pittsburgh, PA
22	Camp Churchill	P	R/R			Abilene, TX
23	Collin Pence	P	R/R	6'4"	220	New Braunfels, TX
24	Mike Gunn Jr.	OF	R/R			New Castle, PA
25	Caleb Jordan	IF	L/R	5'11"	170	Bell Buckle, TN
26	Jack Santi	P	L/L			Murfreesboro, TN
27	Cohen Harris	P	R/R	6'2"	216	Randleman, NC
29	Zachary McLean	P	R/R	6'4"	225	Monaca, PA
30	Jack Castillo	P	R/R	6'1"	200	Massapequa Park, NY
32	Heath Fetchick	C	R/R	6'	205	Chardon, OH
34	Reno Spagnoli	UTIL	R/R	6'	190	West Orange, NJ
37	Kolden McCall	P	R/L	6'3"	250	
39	CJ Dugan	OF	R/R	6'	168	Spring Hill, TN
40	Aidan Gruber	P	R/R	6'	190	Frewsburg, NY
44	Nate Muncy	UTIL	L/L	6'2"	205	Ravenna, OH
45	Branston Lindquist	C	R/R	6'2"	220	Jamestown, NY
65	Ryan Tatar	P	R/R	6'2"	175	Allison Park, PA
66	Sean Spitaleri	C/3B	L/R	6'	225	Glen Rock, NJ
96	Eli Bryant	P/IF	R/R	6'2"	205	Beaver Dam, WI

Skunks 2026: The Unstoppable Season



Featured Writer
Angelo Restivo

The Jamestown Tarp Skunks are off to an impressive start - nearly undefeated. At this point last season, they sat at 3-4. So, what's changed?

More than anything, it's the atmosphere surrounding the club. The Skunks play with energy, confidence, and a sense of fun that has become contagious throughout the organization. Personalities like Tito Kiefer and Grant Moore have helped create a lively clubhouse, and the community has embraced it. Whether it's kids shouting "six-seven" when Eric Weeks steps to the plate or fans singing "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" during the seventh-inning stretch, Jamestown has rallied behind its team.

So, what's next for the Tarp Skunks? Keeping their foot on the gas.

That starts with the playmakers. Through the team's first nine games, Grant Moore has posted a team leading batting average, while also driving in multiple RBIs. Branston Lindquist, a Chautauqua County native, has been a tremendous team player, recording the most RBIs on the team and is great at drawing walks. If Jamestown keeps the bats hot, the possibilities are endless. The Skunks average nine runs per game and have scored as many as 15 runs in a contest, including 11 in the first two innings of one game.

So, what is the one thing holding the Skunks back? Defense.

The Skunks currently allow an average of over six runs per game, having suffered a mercy-rule defeat in a tough loss early on this season. On June 2 against Olean, the same game in which they scored 15 runs, they allowed 11. The defending PGCBL champion Saugerties Stallions averaged 5.5 runs allowed per game and had six games in which they surrendered only one run. The Skunks have allowed fewer than five runs in only two games this season. By comparison, last year's Stallions had already accomplished that feat five times at this point in the season.

While Jamestown's offense has been explosive, the numbers suggest that improving run prevention will be key if the Skunks hope to

sustain their early success and contend for a PGCBL championship.

As of now, Jamestown owns one of the best records in the PGCBL, and the goal is to keep it that way. How do they do that?

The first step is limiting fielding errors. While the outfield core is strong, many hits against the Skunks have come from infield bloopers where players react a split second too late. Staying fundamentally sound and focusing on the basics will be crucial as the season progresses.

Just as important is staying calm. Don't let pressure linger. If the opposing team strings together a few runs, don't dwell on it. That's often how slumps begin.

The Skunks' biggest competition in the Western Division is the Batavia Muckdogs, a well-run and proud organization. Jamestown and Batavia are very comparable teams, both featuring high-powered offenses and sharing a loss to Olean. In the East, the Skunks must contend with Saugerties, which, despite already having three losses, remains the defending champion and should not be overlooked.

So, what is in store for the Tarp Skunks?

If the bats stay hot and the defense improves, Jamestown should be considered a legitimate title contender. This team appears poised to remain in the playoff picture and could make a serious run at a PGCBL championship come late July. If that happens, the Skunks will add another memorable chapter to Jamestown's rich sports history.

So, are the Skunks due to stink?

Definitely not. These Skunks seem to have had their stink glands removed and are ready to show a city fighting to reclaim its historic sports relevance exactly what winning baseball looks like.

Angelo Restivo is a Jamestown native preparing to start his sophomore year at St. Bonaventure University. He is interning this summer with the Jamestown Tarp Skunks as a social media coordinator. During the school year, he is the production director at St. Bonaventure's student radio station WSBU 88.3FM "The Buzz". He also commentates Division One sports for the Bonnies and hosts a sports talk show.

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Photo Credit: Missy Paterniti



Home Run: Tarp Skunk Players, Dads Share Baseball Memories

Continued from Front Page

Submitted Photos



Tarp Skunk Kolden McCall



Tarp Skunk Kolden McCall =& his dad, Kirby



Kolden McCall

"We're playing a game that we've played since we've played ball - not caring about how we play, but rather just having a good time," he said. "Gotta find the fun in everything you do."

Kolden knows his baseball days may not

last forever, but he is grateful for the love and support of his parents.

"There will come a time when I have to hang up the cleats and it comes to an end, but each game that my parents are there to support me, because they've never wavered in their support for me," he said.

Kerby McCall, Kolden's father, said he first recognized his son loved baseball on a ride home from the 2019 Babe Ruth season's last game. He remembers Kolden saying that baseball was his favorite sport.

"It was at that very moment that I was committed to do all I could to help him



Branston Lindquist

succeed," Kerby said. "The game of baseball and life are very similar in the sense that they are both filled with a lot of ups and downs. It is important not to get too high or low and to battle to the end, no matter what the game of baseball or life throws your way. Kolden has faced adversity, but keeps on swinging."

Kerby said his favorite memory of Kolden's baseball activities happened during his senior year when he threw 16 strikeouts and hit a home run at the plate for Maple Grove. The fantastic plays allowed the team a 7-to-1 win over their rival team. While the win was an impressive one, Kerby said he is most proud of Kolden's commitment and hard work when it comes to baseball, as well as his love for the game. He is also extraordinarily proud of his son's position on the Tarp Skunks team.

"I count it as an honor that he was asked to be part of this Tarp Skunks community," he said. "We hope he makes the most out of every opportunity in life."

Branston Lindquist, a catcher on the Tarp Skunks team and student of the



Tarp Skunk Branston Lindstrom & his dad, Ben

University of Toledo, said his dad also played a large role in his love for baseball. His favorite memory is when his father taught him to "block the ball" in their front yard when he was nine years-old.

"My dad has been a huge contributor to everything I have done in baseball and is constantly there to help me out, whether that is through the game itself or the mental part," he said. "Having my dad in the stands for every game is always great, and it's even better to know he is always there for me through the ups and downs of a season."

Branston said his dad taught him to always "give 100 percent no matter what," and to "not take any moment for granted."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18



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Ticket Prices:

Reserved - \$14

Grandstand - \$9

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HOME

AWAY

JUNE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
14 ELM 6:30pm 4:00pm	15	16 @NEW	17 OLN 6:30pm	18 NF 6:30pm	19 NIA 6:30pm	20
21	22	23 @NF	24	25 BAT 6:30pm	26	27 NF 6:30pm
28 @NF	29	30 @NF				

JULY

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

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

Sunday, June 14th - 4:00pm & 6:30pm

Wednesday, June 17th - 6:30pm

Thursday, June 18th - 6:30 pm

First Responders Night - Buyout Night - All Tickets FREE
Presented by: Live CHQ

Friday, June 19th - 6:30 pm

Youth Baseball/Softball Night - Presented by: Logistics

Thursday, June 25th - 6:30 pm

Free Ticket Night - Presented by: Logistics

Saturday, June 27th - 6:30 pm

Kids Camp Day/Night

Presented by:

Builders Exchange of the So. Tier and Univera Healthcare

Saturday, July 3rd - 7:00 pm

Fireworks Night - Presented by: Jamestown Mattress

Tuesday, July 7th - 6:30 pm

\$2 Night & FREE tickets

Presented by: Cattaraugus County Bank

Friday, July 10th - 6:30 pm

FREE Ticket Night - Presented by: Wegmans

Sunday, July 12th - 4:00 pm & 6:30 pm

FREE Ticket Night - Presented by: Greater Chautauqua FCU

Wednesday, June 15th - 6:30pm

Wednesday, June 17th - 6:30pm

Strike Out Cancer Night

Sunday, July 19th - 4:00 pm

United Way Night

Tuesday, July 21st - 6:30 pm

\$2 Night

Presented by: Brandon "BZ" Zebrowski Memorial Found.

Saturday, July 25th - 6:30 pm

Xmas in July Fireworks

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June 20th

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June 21st

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FRIDAY, JUNE 19TH
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Generation Gap 7 PM

JUNE 19Sunset Bay Beach Club
DJ Majik 2 PM • Ben Cornell 8 PM

JUNE 20Sunset Bay Beach Club
RockFest 1 PM

JUNE 21Cabana Sam's
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Home Run: Tarp Skunk Players, Dads Share Baseball Memories

Continued from Page 15

He uses these lessons on the field to this day, and is grateful for the opportunity to play ball in the Chautauqua County area.

"It is something that means a lot to me and my family," he said. "It's a great opportunity to play baseball in front of an awesome community."

Ben Lindquist, Branston's father, said he first realized his son loved baseball when he was nine years old. Ben said Branston wouldn't accept the fact that his Little League All-Star coach told him he most likely would not be the starting catcher.

"So, he asked me and my dad to work with him every day over the next two weeks to help him get better," Ben said. "He ended up being the starting catcher and hasn't quit working hard since."

Ben said he coached his son's teams when Branston was age 4 through 12, but wanted to provide new opportunities with different coaches to strengthen his skills and broaden his horizons.

"He essentially moved away from home as a sophomore to attend a private high school, St. Mary's in Lancaster, and lived with a billet family with his summer/travel coach," he said. "Not many 15-year-old kids are mature enough to handle that, but it was what he wanted and what he knew he needed to give himself the opportunity to play baseball at the highest level. That is what he always said when people asked him if he wanted to play college or professional baseball."

Ben said he is extremely proud of his son's drive to reach his goal of playing baseball on a professional team. He said he knows how hard Branston worked to get here, and he is proud every time he sees him take the field.

"It's a goal he set for himself years ago, and like most of his other goals, he has worked hard enough to get the opportunity," he said. "It's definitely a proud dad moment whenever I hear his name announced and watch people cheer for him. Then, to see him signing autographs for kids coming off the field definitely fills the heart, win or lose."

"What Is Patriotism, Really?" Examines the Complexity to Show Love for One's Country

Contributed by

Robert H Jackson Center

Professor Helen Knowles-Gardner, Research Director at the Institute for Free Speech, will speak Friday, June 19, from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Robert H. Jackson Center. Her presentation will address what it means to be patriotic as part of the Center's 25 Years of Asking Questions lecture series, sponsored by the Southern Chautauqua Federal Credit Union.

From flag-waving to flag-burning, Americans have long debated whether patriotism requires obedience or allows for dissent. Inspired by *West Virginia v. Barnette*, this program explores competing visions of patriotism and the role of free expression in a democratic society. In his opinion, Robert H. Jackson famously argued that no government can prescribe what shall be orthodox in matters of opinion, placing liberty at the center of Ame-

rican identity. Registration and additional information are available at the Jackson Center's website. <https://www.roberth-jackson.org/event/25yaq-patriotism/>

Helen Knowles-Gardner is Research Director at the Institute for Free Speech, a scholar of American law and politics, and Managing Editor of the Supreme Court Historical Society's *Journal of Supreme Court History*. A former political science professor of nearly two decades, she has written extensively on the First Amendment and freedom of expression. She is the co-author and editor of multiple books on free speech, including *Judging Free Speech: First Amendment Jurisprudence of U.S. Supreme Court Justices* and *Free Speech Theory: Understanding the Controversies*. Her broader scholarship includes work on Supreme Court jurisprudence, including a book on Justice Anthony Kennedy's approach to liberty. She holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from Boston University and a B.A. in American Studies from Liverpool Hope University.

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Wildflower cream couch w/ottoman, 5 cane chair oval table dining room set, round oak table, blue plaid loveseat, tall country hutch, burgundy ottoman, glass/marble top foyer table, china cabinet, oak desk w/chair, arm/rocking/shower/misc. chairs, barstools, wood/wicker end tables, hope chest, storage/small benches, dry sink, tea cart, TV trays, home/country/hand painted/Amish decor, wall art, kitchen cart, plants/stands/planters, Small World rhythm/Quartz/butterfly wall clocks, lamps, rugs, lrg. mirrors/easels, former owner of Owl's Nest owl/frog collection, Pfaltzgraff huge china/canister/crock set, Rowe Pottery Works, Johann Haviland Bavaria china set, blue/white dishes, glassware, vases, teapots/cups, The Cats Meow wooden ledgers, HP printer, kitchen (sm. appliances, cook/bakeware), florals, baskets, oversized frames, dolls/chair, toy train sets, puzzles for days, yarn, ribbon, magazines, queen metal scroll head / footboard, full beds, nice wooden twin beds, bedding/linens, quilts/racks, women's clothes/size 7 shoes, purses, canvas bags, vacuums, iron/board, beauty/first aid/painting/gift wrap supplies, Xmas (trees, lrg. wooden cutouts/lantern, decor, Byers' Choice carolers), folding table, plastic carts/bins, Bestler guitar, Coleman lantern, box/window fans, coolers, light fixtures, creeper, paint, chemicals, Toro Personal Pace auto-drive GTS/150cc lawn mower, Worx blower, yard tools, garbage cans, wooden glider, butterfly birdbath, garden, sun dial, red mulch, and more!

Sale Photos available Tuesday morning at

<https://www.estatesales.net/NY/Lakewood/14750/4958616>

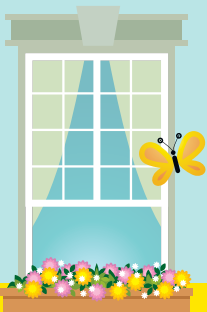
Facebook at Eventz by Scott or www.eventzbyscott.com

Sale conducted by Scott Mekus / Eventz by Scott

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Business of the Week

Celebrating Local Businesses & Giving them the Spotlight!

From Festivals to the Ballpark: 3C's Catering's 30-Year Recipe for Community



Editor-in-Chief
Katrina Fuller

she became not just his partner in life but in the business as well. Together, they began pushing 3C's in new directions. Concessions became a natural extension of what they did best, and the opportunities followed. They took on the concession operations for the original Jamestown Jammers, bringing their scratch-made food philosophy to the ballpark. They ran the Midway Concessions for three years. When the Tarp Skunks came to town and took up residence at the Jamestown ballpark, 3C's came with them. And most recently, they expanded further, acquiring concession operations for the Olean Oilers as well. Two ballparks, two teams and a whole lot of hungry fans.

Eleven years ago, Karen and Robert made another leap: food trucks. What began as one truck has grown into a fleet of two, rolling out to county fairs, festivals and private events across the region. That commitment to growing their own produce isn't a marketing line; it's the backbone of how Karen and Robert approach food. Everything on a 3C's menu is made from scratch. That's been true from the beginning, and it remains the standard today.

"Everything we do is from scratch and we grow many of our own ingredients," Karen said.

The menu has developed some devoted followers over the years. Ask around and two items come up again and again: the Award Winning carrot cake and the homemade applesauce. Both have become signatures of the brand, the kind of thing people seek out specifically. Beyond the fan favorites, 3C's has built a reputation around farm-to-table options that reflect what's in season

If you've been to a Tarp Skunks game, grabbed a bite at a local event or spotted a food truck at a summer fair in Chautauqua County, there's a good chance Karen and Robert Cross have already fed you. The husband-and-wife team behind 3C's Catering has spent three decades building one of the most recognizable food service operations in the region, and if the lines at their concession windows are any indication, the community keeps coming back for more.

The story of 3C's begins the way the best ones do: with a passion, a dream and a family willing to bet on it. Thirty years ago, Robert Cross graduated from culinary school and went into business with his parents. What started as a small catering operation rooted in Robert's training and his family's belief in him grew into something far larger than any of them might have imagined. The business found its footing serving private events and catered meals, building a reputation in the area one plate at a time.

Karen entered the picture in 2003. She and Robert married in February of 2004, and



Robert, Karen, Hannah, Lexi & Lydia

and what's coming out of their own garden.

season: they're there.

"We love bringing quality food and service to all the events we participate in," Karen said. It's a simple mission statement, but it's one they've made good on across thirty years of community events, game days and gatherings of every kind.

As for what comes next, they encourage anyone who wants to stay in the loop to follow them on Facebook at @3CsCateringNY, where they post upcoming events, new menu items and everything else happening with the business. 3C's Catering can be reached at 716-267-4403 or online at 3CsCatering.com. Whether you're planning a private event or just hoping to catch one of their trucks at a fair near you, it's worth a look. Thirty years in, Karen and Robert Cross are still cooking, still growing and still feeding their neighbors from scratch.

For Chautauqua County, there's something meaningful about a local business that has grown alongside the community for three decades. When the Jammers were here, 3C's was at the ballpark. When the Tarp Skunks arrived, 3C's showed up again. Festival season, fair season, wedding



3C's

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Chautauqua Regional Youth Ballet Celebrates Retirement of Artistic Director Monika Alch After 30 Years of Leadership

Contributed by
Chautauqua Regional Youth Ballet

After three decades of transformative leadership, the Chautauqua Regional Youth Ballet (CRYB) announces the retirement of Artistic Director Monika Alch in June 2026.

A native of Vienna, Austria, Ms. Alch began her ballet training at age four in the Vienna Conservatory, Vienna, Austria and completed her training at the Vienna State Opera. Her first professional engagement followed receiving her diploma as a soloist in dance at age 15. In the summer in 1960 in Cannes, France, she studied in an advanced student seminar under teachers Rosella Hightower, Anton Dolin, Jerome Robbins and Alicia Markova and with such illustrious fellow students as Rudolf Nureyev, Eric Bruhn and Milorad Miskovitch.

Ten years of professional experience followed in opera theaters of Klagenfurt, Gratz, and Salzburg (summer festivals under Herbert von Karajan with ballet master Waszlav Orlikovsky). In the United States, she performed with Ballet Metropolitan for five years with director Wayne Soulant.

Shortly after he marriage to tenor Mario Alch they moved to the US, Ms Alch taught ballet and ballet history at Shenandoah

Conservatory of Music, in Winchester, Virginia. She operated her own private ballet studio while living in Columbus, Ohio, was rehearsal director for the Columbus Dance Ensemble and taught on the staff of Ballet Metropolitan. She served as president of the Lily Dale Fine Arts Council for ten years and also served on the Lily Dale Board for six years.

When Ms. Alch took the helm at CRYB, she brought with her a wealth of professional experience and a clear vision for classical ballet training. Under her leadership, the school evolved into one of the region's premier classical ballet programs, recognized for its strong technical training, artistic excellence, and commitment to nurturing young dancers.

During her tenure, CRYB became a cultural cornerstone of the Chautauqua region. Through annual productions, original choreography, and a balance of classical and contemporary works, generations of students were given opportunities typically found only in larger metropolitan areas. The organization's full-length Nutcracker Ballet became a beloved holiday tradition, featuring professional guest artists, elaborate sets and costumes, and performances that have introduced thousands of local children and families to the magic of live ballet. CRYB's special school performances have provided many area students with their first experience attending a professional-quality theatrical production.

One of Ms. Alch's most enduring contributions was the establishment of CRYB's preprofessional division, creating a structured pathway for serious students to pursue advanced training close to home. As a result, countless young dancers were able to develop their talents without leaving the region, proving that exceptional ballet training could thrive in a rural community.

Her influence is reflected in the accomplishments of her students. CRYB alumni have gone on to professional dance careers, leadership positions in the arts, and prestigious collegiate and summer training programs. Among them are Jordan Leeper, now a principal dancer with Atlanta Ballet; Cecelia Johnson, recently hired by American Contemporary Ballet in Los Angeles; Maddie Jones, who performed with the José Limón Second Company in New York; Brittany Bush-Morizio, Ballet Director of Greater Boston School of Ballet; among many others who have pursued professional careers in dance and arts leadership."

Beyond technical training, Ms. Alch instilled in her students a deep appreciation for artistry, musicality, discipline, and perseverance. Her emphasis on excellence shaped not only skilled dancers, but confident, focused young people whose success extends far beyond the stage.

"Monika's influence on this organization and this community cannot be overstated,"



said Board President Galena Duba-Weaver. "For three decades, she has inspired generations of young people through her passion, dedication, and unwavering commitment to the art of ballet. Her legacy will be felt for years to come."

While retiring from her role as Director, Ms. Alch will remain an important part of the CRYB family as Faculty Emeritus, offering private coaching and occasional master classes in classical repertoire.

Executive Director Elizabeth Bush reflected, "Monika's legacy lives on through the countless students she has trained, the standard of excellence she established, and the vibrant organization she helped build over the past 30 years. We are profoundly grateful for her dedication and look forward to celebrating her extraordinary contributions to CRYB and our community."

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Chautauqua County Board of Elections Announces Early Voting Information for June 23 Primary Election



Contributed by
Chautauqua County

The Chautauqua County Board of Elections is reminding eligible voters that Early Voting for the June 23, 2026 Primary Election began Saturday, June 13.

Chautauqua County Board of Elections Commissioners Luz E. Torres and Nacole L. Ellis also announced the deadline for anyone not registered to vote in Chautauqua County for the June 23, 2026 Primary is Saturday June 13, 2026.

The Chautauqua County Board of Elections will be open from 9AM to 5PM for anyone wishing to register. Per New York State election law, voters who are already registered would have needed to change their political party affiliation by February 14, 2026 to be eligible to vote in this Primary Election.

All Democratic party members in the County and Republican party members in the Town of Kiantone will be eligible to vote in the June 23, 2026 Primary Election.

“All other party members or voters without a designated party are not eligible to vote in this Primary Election” noted Commissioner Torres.

The Chautauqua County Board of Elections has designated two Early Voting poll sites for the Primary Election. Early Voting will be held at the Robert H. Jackson Ctr., 305 E 4th St. Jamestown, NY 14701, voters should enter through the main doors off of Prendergast Ave. The additional Early Voting site will be held at the Chautauqua County Fairgrounds 4-H Bldg. / Ag & Expo Center, 1089 Central Ave. Dunkirk, NY 14048.

Early Voting starts on Saturday June 13th and continues through Sunday June 21st. Early Voting will not be held on Monday, June 22nd. For more detailed information on times they are as follows: Saturdays and Sundays from 9AM to 5PM, Monday and Tuesday from 12PM to 8PM and Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 10AM to 6PM.

Voters who cast their ballot early will not be able to cast a ballot during subsequent Early Voting days or on Election Day. If you request an Early Mail or Absentee Ballot, you will only

be able to vote a Provisional Affidavit Ballot, which can be counted if you have not already returned your Ballot.

Commissioner Ellis would like to remind voters to visit the Chautauqua County Board of Elections website www.votechautauqua.com.

“Sample Ballots are available to view prior to going to vote and will also be available at both Early Voting Sites,” noted Commissioner Ellis.

Federal/State/Local Primary Election
(June 23, 2026 Election)
Early Voting Poll Sites & Hours:

Only two Early Voting sites will be open for the June 23, 2026 Primary Election (Countywide Democratic Primary and Republicans ONLY in the Town of Kiantone)

Choose any of the following locations to cast your ballot early:

Robert H. Jackson Ctr. Prendergast Ave. Entrance 305 E. 4th St. Jamestown, NY 14701	Chautauqua County Fairgrounds 4-H Bldg. Ag & Expo Center 1089 Central Ave. Dunkirk, NY 14048
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SATURDAY
JUNE
13
8AM to 5PM

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
JUNE	JUNE	JUNE	JUNE	JUNE	JUNE	JUNE
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
8AM to 5PM Noon to 8PM Noon to 8PM 10AM to 6PM 10AM to 6PM 10AM to 6PM 8AM to 5PM						
SUNDAY						
JUNE						
21						
8AM to 5PM						

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	9		3	5	4	7		
7							3	4
	8				6	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

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CLUES DOWN

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Indoor plant 2. Marketable 3. Rather 4. Collected 5. A bag-like structure in a plant or animal 6. Irish hip-hop trio 7. Ageless 8. Course requirements 9. Pokes at 13. TV channel 14. They ___ 17. Cooking material 18. Investment account 20. Iron-containing compound 22. Swiss river 27. Small coin (French) 28. Electronic countermeasures 29. Taxi | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 31. Helps little firms 32. Unhappy 33. Midway between northeast and e 37. Glowing 38. Item to be addressed 39. An informal body of friends 40. Intrinsic nature of something 41. Neural structures 42. Brews 43. A place for ships 44. One who sings holiday songs 47. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.) 48. Scottish town 49. The most worthless parts 51. Sticky 52. Put to work 53. Precursor to the EU 58. Retrospective analysis (abbr.) |
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CHQ TRAILS DAY

JUNE 20



A variety of outdoor events are planned as part of the 2026 CHQ Trails Day on Saturday, June 20 and organized by the Friends of Chautauqua County Greenways group. Activities focusing on family-friendly group hikes, mountain bike rides, horse-drawn wagon rides, and canoeing and kayaking are all planned throughout the day. More information available at ChooseCHQ.com/CHQTrailsDay.

Second Annual CHQ Trails Day to Celebrate Chautauqua County's Trail Network

Countywide events encourage everyone to get outside and enjoy the outdoors on June 20

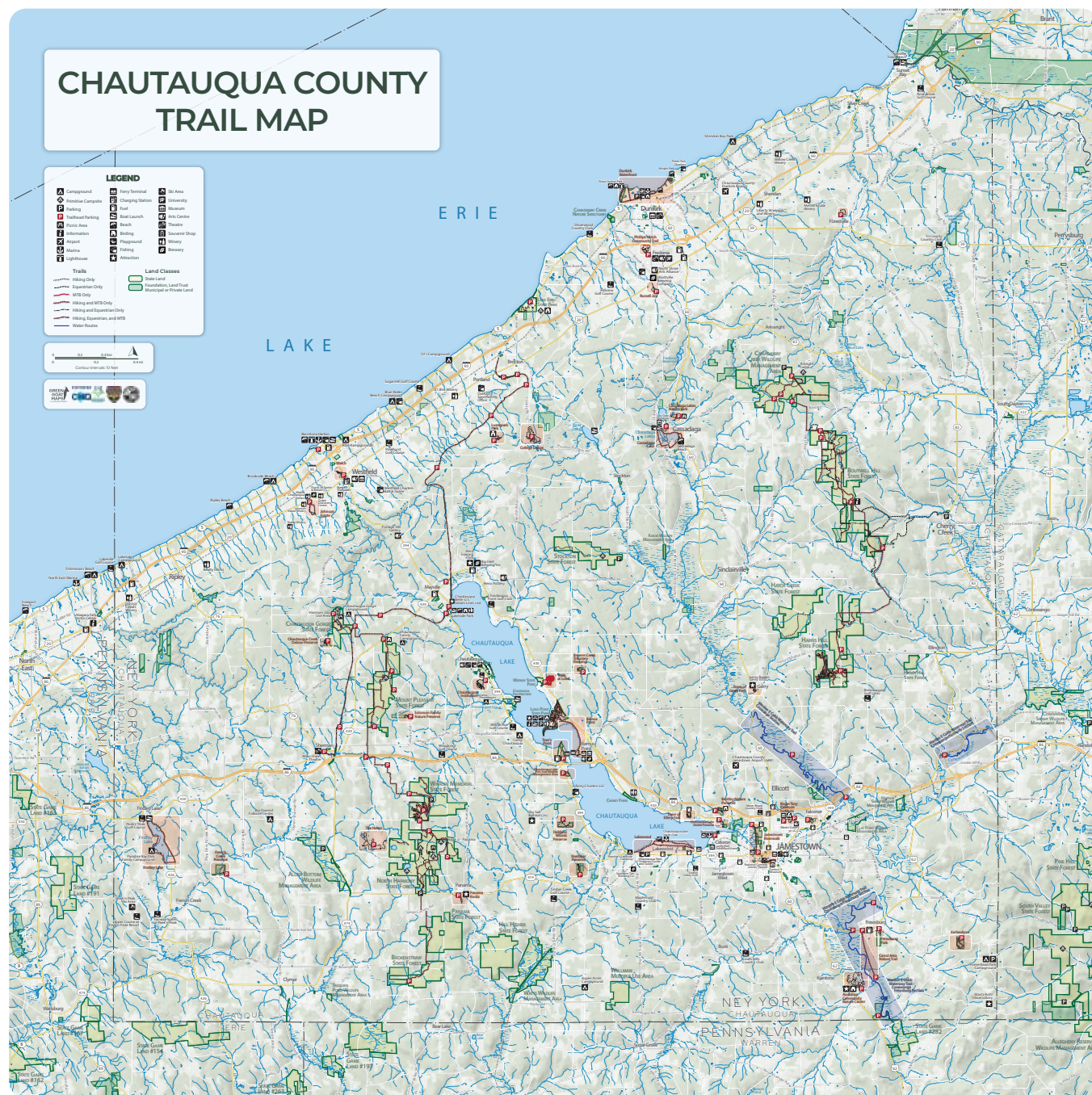
Contributed by
Chautauqua County
Partnership for
Economic Growth

Chautauqua County is calling all hikers, bikers, paddlers, families, and outdoor enthusiasts to hit the trail for 2026 CHQ Trails Day, a countywide celebration taking place Saturday, June 20, 2026, with a variety of guided activities and choose-your-own adventures happening at locations across Chautauqua County.

Presented by the Friends of the Chautauqua County Greenways (FCCG), CHQ Trails Day is designed to spark excitement for the region's trail system and inspire more people to explore the 250+ miles of publicly accessible recreational trails that connect communities, parks, forests, waterways, and scenic overlooks throughout the county.

CHQ Trails Day offers something for every pace and every age, from first-timers curious about local trail options to experienced trail users ready for a new route. Participants can join a scheduled group activity, bring friends for a casual outing, or plan a self-guided trip that fits their interests and ability level. Whether the goal is a short family-friendly walk, a longer hike, a ride on well-loved rail trails, or time on the water, CHQ Trails Day is an invitation to make the most of early summer and experience the outdoors close to home.

For those who love to paddle, Everwild Land Trust will host guided canoe/kayak trips at Kyle's Landing Preserve, with a tentative, weather- and conditions-dependent 2.5-mile paddle down the upper Cassadaga Creek led



by an Everwild Land Trust guide. Participants will travel through a series of preserves, with a shuttle provided from Kyle's Landing Preserve to the launch point, and a few kayaks available for those who do not own one (participants should plan to wear a personal flotation device; reservations will be

required through Everwild Land Trust, with details to be shared soon).

Mountain bikers can join a beginner/intermediate, no-drop group ride organized by the Western New York Mountain Bicycling Association at Chautauqua Gorge State Forest in Mayville,

beginning at 10:00 a.m. Riders will meet at the main parking lot at the end of Hannum Road and cover the "Gorge Loop" along with the Chautauqua Rails to Trails route; participants are encouraged to bring water and a snack and to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23



CHQ TRAILS DAY

JUNE 20

Second Annual CHQ Trails Day to Celebrate Chautauqua County's Trail Network

Continued from Page 22

wear a helmet.

Also at 10 a.m. is a family-friendly hike in southern Chautauqua County at the Dobbins Woods Preserve, off of Bly hill Rd. in Ashville. This event is also being organized by Everwild Land Trust. This nature walk will be guided by an Everwild staff member and is open to all abilities, ages, and interest.

Families looking for an easygoing way to get outside can head to Boutwell Hill State Forest's Homestead Loop Project in Cherry Creek from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. for a family-friendly outing hosted by the Chautauqua County Equestrian Club and Boutwell Hill Ski Club. The event will include free horse-drawn wagon rides over the Homestead Trail, food for participants, and the option of a hike on the trail; attendees are encouraged to come prepared for summer conditions.

Another family option takes place at Portland Town Park in Brocton at noon, where Chautauqua Rails to Trails will host a Family Picnic & Hike—an ideal midday meet-up for neighbors and visitors to enjoy a relaxed trail experience together.

For those interested in seeing trail improvements up close, the Chautauqua County Parks Commission and Parks Department will lead a Family Group Hike at the Earl Cardot Eastside Overland Trail, departing at 1 p.m. from the Harris Hill State Forest lot at the corner of Gerry-Ellington Road in Gerry. The hike will highlight recent trail work, with distance options ranging from approximately 2 miles to 3.5 miles, and leashed, well-behaved pets are welcome.

Beyond the scheduled activities, CHQ Trails Day is also about empowering people to plan the day that's right for them. The CHQ Trails interactive map

makes it easy to discover trail opportunities across Chautauqua County for hiking, mountain biking, cross-country skiing, paddling, horseback riding, and more, helping users choose routes by interest and location and encouraging new experiences in every corner of the county.

"CHQ Trails Day is a celebration of the incredible places that are right here in our backyard—and an open invitation to experience them with fresh eyes," said Twan Leenders of Everwild Land Trust and Co-Chair of the FCCG Advisory Board.

"Whether you join a group event or create your own adventure, we want CHQ Trails Day to be the spark that gets people out on the trails and coming back all season long," said John McCune of Chautauqua Rails to Trails and Co-Chair of the FCCG Advisory Board.

FCCG works with partners throughout the county to support trail development, stewardship, and awareness, with the goal of making it simple—and exciting—for people of all ages to find a trail that fits their interests. CHQ Trails Day also highlights the way trails help connect communities and encourage healthy, active lifestyles while showcasing the natural beauty that makes Chautauqua County a destination for outdoor recreation.

Most activities are designed to be welcoming and accessible, but participants are encouraged to review event details in advance, come prepared with appropriate footwear, insect repellent, and water, and follow all guidance from event organizers. For paddling activities, safety equipment and on-water readiness are essential; for biking activities, helmets and basic supplies are strongly encouraged. As always, trail users should prac-

tice Leave No Trace principles and help keep these shared spaces clean, safe, and enjoyable for everyone.

For more information, visit ChooseCHQ.com/CHQTrailsDay.

About FCCG - The Friends of Chautauqua County Greenways is housed under CCPEG and is an organization whose aim is to collaborate and build on private/public partnerships to position themselves to raise the necessary capital and programmatic resources to realize the

primary objectives outlined in the 2012 Greenway Plan. FCCG includes an array of trail user groups including the Chautauqua Rails to Trails (CR2T), Everwild Land Trust (Previously known as the Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy), The Chautauqua County Equestrian Trail System (CCETS), Boutwell Hill Ski Club, Chautauqua County Parks Department, and the Chautauqua County Department of Planning and Development. For more information, please visit choosechq.com/agencies/ccpeg/friends-of-chautauqua-county-greenways/.

About CCPEG - The Chautauqua County Partnership for Economic Growth serves as the main convener of economic development partners and resources to advance key projects that achieve economic prosperity in Chautauqua County. It also serves as the catalyst and broker of resources for advancing economic prosperity efforts and is the central coordinating entity for improving the quality of life in our communities, thereby attracting people and businesses to Chautauqua County to live, work, recreate, and invest. For more information, please visit chqpartnership.org.



ChooseCHQ.com/CHQTrailsDay



You're Invited to **HIT THE TRAILS!**



ChooseCHQ.com/CHQTrailsDay

Featuring: Hiking, Mountain Biking, Kayaking, Horse-Drawn Carriage Rides
Taking place at various locations across Chautauqua County.

Presented by the Friends of the Chautauqua County Greenways



CHQgazette.com

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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PUZZLES ON PAGE 21



Music in the Green

Village Green Park, Mayville - 5-8pm
June 17, July 22, & August 26

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& 4:30pm-10pm
Sunday Closed



Music in the Green

Village Green Park, Mayville - 5-8pm
June 17, July 22, & August 26



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6:00 - 7:00: Adam McKillip
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CHAMBER CORNER

Positivity Makes a Difference

Article Contributed by

Daniel J. Heitzenrater

Chautauqua County Chamber of Commerce
President and CEO

It creates a powerful ripple effect that extends deep into our local business community.

Walk into any business, and you can instantly sense the vibes of that business. Are you greeted as you walk in? Is it welcoming? Is this going to be a positive experience for you? In today's fast-paced, instant gratification world, a company's culture is its most valuable asset, and the most successful organizations realize that a culture rooted in positivity is a powerful competitive advantage. One that can't be beat by an online giant's deep discounts.

It all starts from within. When leadership prioritizes a positive company culture, one built on recognition, open communication, and care, it fundamentally alters employee attitudes. Positivity acts as a buffer against burnout. Employees who feel valued and supported don't just show up to clock in, they show up to contribute and give back to an organization that cares for them. This shift in mindset transforms "have to" into "want to," directly fueling productivity and retention.

But the impact of a positive workplace doesn't stop at the exit doors.

When your team members work in an environment that lifts them up, they carry that constructive energy out into the rest of our community. They bring it to their interactions with local customers, creating exceptional service experiences. They bring it to their families, neighbors, and local non-profits. To take it the next step, when businesses celebrate each other's wins and approach local challenges with a collaborative, positive mindset, the entire business community thrives. A positive business community becomes a magnet, attracting more businesses, more customers, and inviting new investment.

At the CHQ Chamber, we consistently see that optimism is contagious. By fostering positivity within our own walls, we aren't just building healthier companies; we are building a more vibrant, connected, and prosperous Chautauqua County. Let's continue to invest in our people, lead with encouragement, and remember that a rising tide of collective positivity truly lifts all boats.



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YASSOU FESTIVAL

Opa! St. Nicholas Readies the 42nd Annual Yassou Festival for Father's Day Weekend

Featured Writer

Stavros Singleton

From the round church on the hill come the sounds of Greece, but long before you're within earshot, the smell hits you first. Oregano, lemon, cinnamon, and charcoal. For one weekend each June,

the grounds of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Jamestown transform into something closer to a village square on a Greek island. This year marks the 42nd time the church has welcomed the community to its annual Yassou Festival, a celebration of Greek culture and faith.

Rain or shine, the festival returns this Father's Day weekend: Friday, June 19, from 11am to 10pm, and Saturday, June 20, from 11am to 9pm. Admission is \$3, and children 12 & under get in free. The name itself is a greeting: yassou, a casual "hello," but also a toast to health, and to life.

twisted koulourakia, braided sweet bread, and rizogalo (cinnamon-dusted rice pudding). The showstopper is the loukoumades: hot, deep-fried honey puffs made to order, available on their own or piled over ice cream as a sundae. Experience the national pastime of modern Greece by sipping on an ice-cold frappe while idling away the afternoon. For the evening party, enjoy a glass of wine, or a bottled Greek beer. The dance at the center

"There is something electric about the atmosphere under the tent on a Friday night," says Alexis Singleton, who leads the event. "It's an intense feeling of community and vitality that makes you realize how important those things are to every human being."

A table that doesn't quit

For many visitors, the draw is the food, and the kitchen does not disappoint. The main line features chicken souvlaki grilled on the skewer, gyro piled with strips of lamb, and keftedes (Greek meatballs), each served with Greek salad, pita, and chips. There's spanakopita (homemade spinach-and-feta pie), and for the kids (and plenty of adults), George's Famous Greek Hot Dogs, dressed with Greek sauce.

Save room. The bakery is its own event: baklava layered with walnuts and honey syrup, powdered-sugar kourambiedes,

As the bouzouki rises, the Yassou Dancers take the floor, performing in traditional costume to the live sounds of The Aegeans. Greek folk dance is built on the line and the circle, dancers linked hand to hand, moving as one, and watching it is half the fun. The performances run Friday and Saturday at 1, 5, and 8 p.m.

Here's the part regulars wait for. At the end of each show, the dancers reach out and pull the audience in. The line opens, strangers join hands, and for a few minutes the distinction between performer and spectator simply dissolves. In an era of screens and scattered attention, a circle of people moving to the same rhythm feels almost radical. At Yassou, it feels like Saturday night.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 27



YASSOU FESTIVAL

Opa! St. Nicholas Readies the 42nd Annual Yassou Festival for Father's Day Weekend

Continued from Page 26



Built by volunteers, for a cause

What sustains a festival this size is people. More than 100 volunteers this year, including students from local Honor Society and Key Club, treat the weekend as a labor of love rather than a job. Their work supports the festival's purpose: it is the major fundraiser for the ministries of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church.

Beyond the food and the music, the weekend offers a Greek boutique stocked with gifts, jewelry, toys, and icons, plus guided tours of the church itself, offered daily at 2 and 4 p.m. For the families who trace their roots to Greece, it's a chance to pass tradition

to a new generation. For everyone else, it's an open invitation to borrow that heritage for a weekend.

If you go

The 42nd Annual Yassou Festival runs Friday, June 19 (11am to 10pm) and Saturday, June 20 (11am to 9pm) at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Jamestown. Admission is \$3; children 12 & under are free. Rain or shine. For more, visit StNicholasJamestown.org or find the festival on Facebook.

Come for the loukoumades. Stay for the joy. As the Greeks say, yassou, and welcome.

42nd Annual



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Justin Hubbard Receiving Unitarian Social Justice Award

Contributed by

**Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Jamestown**

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Jamestown (UUCJ) is presenting their 2026 T. Richard Parker Award for Social Justice to Justin Hubbard, founder and leader of the Jamestown Justice Coalition this Sunday, June 21 at 10:30 a.m.

All are welcome to the service and reception that follows at 1255 Prendergast Avenue in Jamestown. There is parking behind the building and across the street in the Christ First United Methodist Church lot. To participate virtually, use the link at UUJamestown.org/calendar.

The Jamestown Justice Coalition was established in 2020 during the height of the Black Lives Matter movement. Its mission is "Pursuing recognition, dignity, and equity for people in our community and promoting justice and democracy for all."

A teacher at Salamanca High School, Hubbard received the national American Civic Education Teacher Award in 2022. He has been a panelist, presenter and keynote speaker for a variety of organizations including the NYS Bar Association, NYS Education Department Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and Columbia University Teachers College.

The T. Richard Parker Memorial Award was established in 1985 and is presented to a person or group in the Jamestown area that contributed significantly to the cause of social justice during the preceding year. Social justice is distinguished from charity as efforts to create social change to assist groups or classes of persons in a permanent way, rather than being temporary assistance to specific individuals. The award includes a monetary gift from an endowment fund.

Earlier recipients included Ronald Graham, for his work in the formation of the Jamestown Striders program; Helga



Hulse, for giving piano and choir singing lessons to women inmates at the Chautauqua County Jail; Gregory Peterson, for his initiative in establishing the Robert H. Jackson Center; Rev. Nicholas Rafael, for his work in founding St. Susan Center; David Shepherd, for organizing with several community organizations that serve the needs of disadvantaged people; and Ruby Wiles, for her work providing free books to children.

Recent awardees have been the Jamestown Mobile Market for bringing fresh food to neighborhoods in Jamestown that lack the availability of fresh food; the Wellness and Forensic Center of Western New York & Northwestern Pennsylvania for starting a medical clinic, the first of its kind in New York state, to attend to the medical and psychological care of victims of sexual violence; and the New Neighbors Coalition for helping immigrants to become established in Jamestown.

The UUCJ has parking behind its location at 1255 Prendergast Avenue and spaces across the street in the lot of Christ First United Methodist Church.

Learn more about the UUCJ at UU-Jamestown.org and on their Facebook page, [Facebook.com/JamestownUU](https://www.facebook.com/JamestownUU). For information on the Jamestown Justice Coalition, visit their website at JamestownJusticeCoalition.org or follow on [Facebook.com/JamestownJusticeCoalition](https://www.facebook.com/JamestownJusticeCoalition).

Audubon Building Admission Free for Juneteenth, Photo Contest Deadline is June 30



Enjoy free admission to the Audubon Community Nature Center building from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. this Friday, for Juneteenth, the commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States. Explore three floors of interactive indoor exhibits, see live animals and check out the Blue Heron Gift Shop. Outdoors, you can visit the live birds of prey and explore more than five miles of trails for free, as always, dawn until dusk. With \$1,600 in prize money and a June 30 deadline, it's time to submit your photos—or vote for your favorites—in Audubon Community Nature Center's 2026 Nature Photography Contest. Pictured is previous Youth Winner "Spring Peeper" by Benjamin Genter of Columbus, Indiana. Details at AudubonCNC.org/Photo-Contest. Learn more at AudubonCNC.org or (716) 569-2345. Audubon is at 1600 Riverside Road, one-quarter mile east of Route 62 between Jamestown and Warren.

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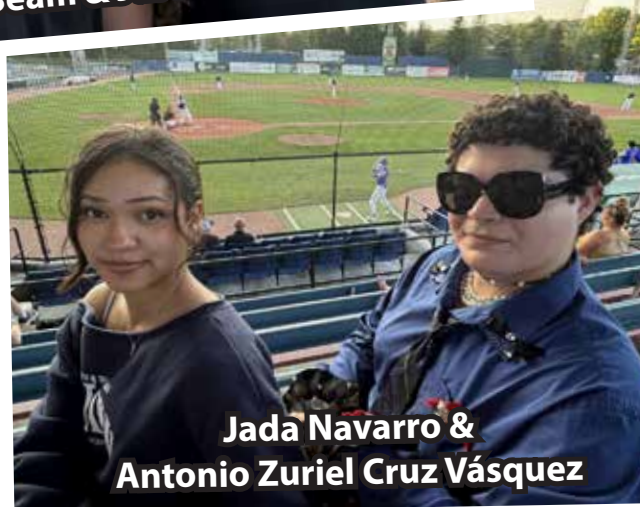
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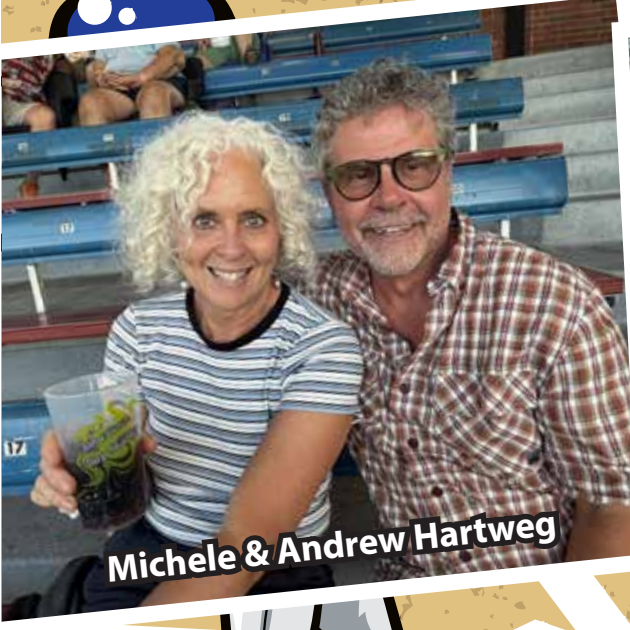
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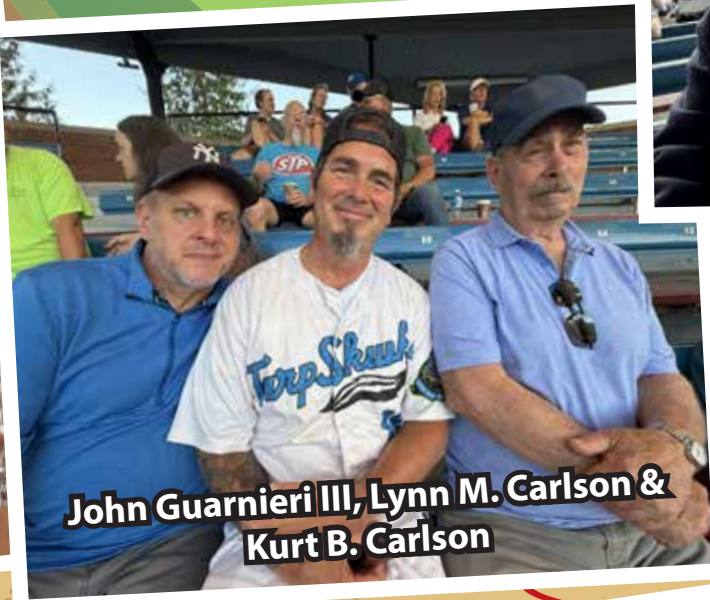
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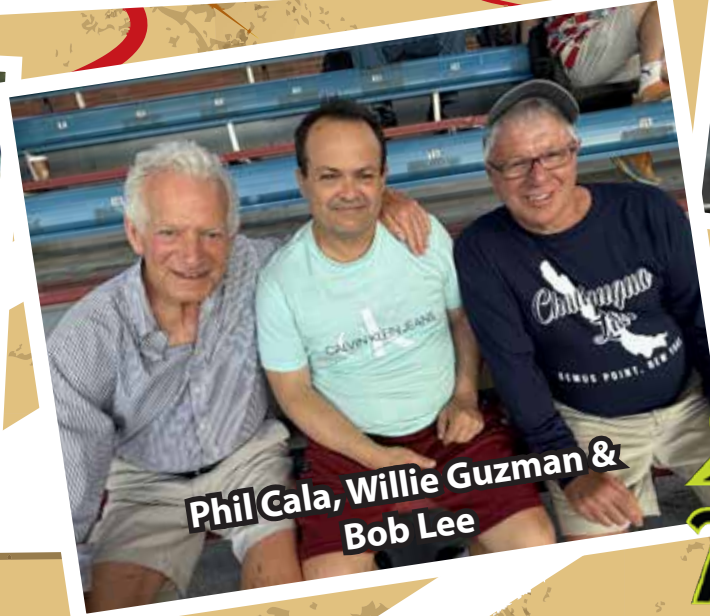
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