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FREE WEEKLY
250

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Celebrate 250

Volume 3 • Issue 25 | June 29, 2026



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"Chautauqua County Courthouse (artistic rendering), circa 1908. Chautauqua County Archival Collection."

AMERICA 250 AT CENTER STAGE IN CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY

Featured Writer

Justin Gould
Chautauqua County
Media Information Officer

History will come to life in Mayville on Sunday, Aug. 2, as the Second Annual Chautauqua County History Expo returns with exhibits, reenactments, speakers, music, and hands-on activities celebrating both local history and America's 250th anniversary.

Building on the success of last year's inaugural event, the 2026 History Expo will be larger and more interactive as part of the nationwide America 250 celebration, commemorating the 250th anniversary

of the founding of the United States.

The free, family-friendly event will showcase Chautauqua County's rich history through exhibits, presentations, historical reenactments, live music, demonstrations, and hands-on activities. Visitors will have the opportunity to meet local historians, explore historical displays, and learn how Chautauqua County's story connects to the nation's history.

"This year's expo is about more than just looking back—it's about understanding how Chautauqua County fits into the broader American story as we approach the nation's 250th anniversary," said Chautauqua County Historian Norman Carlson, who chairs the History Expo committee. "We're expanding the event

with more exhibits, more programming, and more ways for families to engage with history."

Featured presentations will focus on Chautauqua County's role during the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. Speakers include Carlson, Traci Langworthy of SUNY Jamestown Community College, and Paul Fardink of the National Society Sons of the American Revolution. The Jamestown Harmony Express will also perform following its appearance at the national America 250 celebration in Washington, D.C.

Children and families can enjoy history-themed activities, interactive exhibits, a themed photo booth, and reenactors in period clothing. Attendees are encouraged to wear red, white, and blue or historical attire in recognition of the America 250 celebration.

Organizers are currently seeking exhibitors, historical societies, museums, libraries, genealogical organizations, authors, and municipal historians to participate. Exhibitor registration is free through June 30; after that date, a \$20 registration fee applies. Sponsorship opportunities are also available.

"The History Expo is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our community's heritage while inspiring future generations to appreciate and preserve it," said Chautauqua County Executive Paul M. Wendel Jr.

For additional information, exhibitor registration, sponsorship opportunities, or event updates, visit CHQHistoryExpo.com or follow the Chautauqua County History Facebook page.

A PUBLIC NOTICE OF HISTORY

Celebrating America's 250th

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY

HISTORY EXPO

AMERICA 250

chqhistoryexpo.com

August 2, 2026

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This Week Around Town

**MONDAY, JUNE 29, WEDNESDAY,
JULY 1-THURSDAY, JULY 2,
SUNDAY, JULY 5**

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

MONDAY, JUNE 29

**Sunset Bay Beach Club -
Line Dancing Fun | 7 PM**
1028 South Shore Dr. | Irving
For Info: sunsetbayusa.com

TUESDAY, JUNE 30

Bestor Fresh Market | 9 AM-1 PM
Bestor Plaza | Chautauqua Institution
For Info: chq.org

Paint CHQ Mural Artist Talk | 5:30 PM
214 Central Ave. | Dunkirk
For Info: choosechq.com/PaintCHQ

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

**Beach Dog Grill
Open Mic with Don | 6-9 PM**
Wright Park | Dunkirk
For Info: Beach Dog Grill Facebook

**Labyrinth Press Company - Music on
The Stoop - Oliver Burdo | 6-8:30 PM**
12 East 4th Street | Jamestown
For Info: labpressco.com

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

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1

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

Beach Dog Grill - Ladies Night! | 5 PM
Wright Park | Dunkirk
For Info: Beach Dog Grill Facebook

**8 Great Wednesdays in the Park
5:30-8:30 PM**
Barker Commons | Fredonia
For Info: festivalsfredoniany.org/8-great-wednesdays-in-the-park/

**Group Ther-Happy - Logan Alexander
& Laura "The Landshark" Ferraro
6-9 PM**
103 Chautauqua Ave. | Lakewood
For Info: groupther-happy.com

**Movies at The Reg:
Waiting for Guffman | 7 PM**
Reg Lenna Center for The Arts | Jamestown
For Info: reglenna.com

**Wicked Warren's -
Comedy Open Mic | 7-9 PM**
119 West 3rd Street | Jamestown
For Info: wickedwarrens.com

**The Wine Cellar -
Papa Muse (Solo Acoustic) 8-11 PM**
309 N Main St | Jamestown
For Info: The Wine Cellar Facebook

THURSDAY, JULY 2 - SUNDAY, JULY 5

**The Great Blue Heron Music Festival
All Day**
2361 Waits Corners Rd | Sherman
For Info: greatblueheron.com

THURSDAY, JULY 2

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

**Sunset Bay Beach Club -
Qwister | 3 PM & DJ Magic | 9 PM**
1028 South Shore Dr. | Irving
For Info: sunsetbayusa.com

**Paint CHQ Mural Dedication Ceremony
| 5:30 PM**
23 Central Ave. | Dunkirk
For Info: choosechq.com/PaintCHQ

**Southern Tier Brewing Co -
Trivia Night | 6 PM**
2072 Stoneman Circle | Lakewood
For Info: lakewood.stbcbbeer.com

**Bemus Point Tap House -
Retro Phonics | 6 PM**
72 Main Street | Bemus Point
For Info: bemustaphouse.com

**Southern Tier Brewing Co -
The In Crowd | 6-9 PM**
2072 Stoneman Circle | Lakewood
For Info: lakewood.stbcbbeer.com

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

**Wicked Warren's -
Birds of a Feather Live | 7 PM**
119 West 3rd Street | Jamestown
For Info: wickedwarrens.com

**The Village Casino -
Randy & Jamie | 7-10 PM**
1 Lakeside Dr | Bemus Point
For Info: bemuspoincasino.com

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

FRIDAY, JULY 3 - SATURDAY, JULY 4

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

FRIDAY, JULY 3

**Bemus Point Farmers and Artisans
Market | 9 AM-3 PM**
Lakeside Dr. | Bemus Point
For Info: 716-338-246 or bemuspoinny.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 -
SpinFest | 1 PM & The Strictly Hip | 9 PM**
1028 South Shore Dr. | Irving
For Info: sunsetbayusa.com

**Southern Tier Brewing Co -
That Ted | 3-3:40 PM
Juvenile Characteristics | 4-5:15 PM
Sean Patrick McGraw | 5:30-6:15 PM
Beard and the Bird | 6:30-7:10 PM
UBR | 7:30-9 PM**
2072 Stoneman Circle | Lakewood
For Info: lakewood.stbcbbeer.com

**Bemus Point Tap House -
Tommy Z Band | 6 PM**
72 Main Street | Bemus Point
For Info: bemustaphouse.com

**Pearl City Hops - Erik Thor
6 PM-8 PM**
103 Chautauqua Ave. | Lakewood
For Info: pearlcityhops.com

**Beach Dog Grill -
Live Music: White Bronco | 7 PM**
Wright Park | Dunkirk
For Info: Beach Dog Grill Facebook

**Group Ther-Happy -
Ryan Melquist | 8-11 PM**
103 Chautauqua Ave. | Lakewood
For Info: groupther-happy.com

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

**The Village Casino -
The Swamp Yankees | 10 PM-2 AM**
1 Lakeside Dr | Bemus Point
For Info: bemuspoincasino.com

SATURDAY, JULY 4

**Bemus Point Tap House -
Sunshine & Strength - HIIT | 9 AM
Yoga & Brew | 10 AM**
72 Main Street | Bemus Point
For Info: bemustaphouse.com

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

Fredonia Farmers Market | 9 AM-1 PM
Baker Commons | Fredonia
For Info: fredoniafarmersmarket.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 -
America 250 Beach Bash | 1 PM
AlleyCat | 8:30 PM**
1028 South Shore Dr. | Irving
For Info: sunsetbayusa.com

**Group Ther-Happy -
Black Widow Duo | 1-4 PM
DJ Felix | 6-9 PM**
103 Chautauqua Ave. | Lakewood
For Info: groupther-happy.com

**Southern Tier Brewing Co -
Jacob Blair | 1-4 PM
Johnny Bauer Duo | 6-9 PM**
2072 Stoneman Circle | Lakewood
For Info: lakewood.stbcbbeer.com

**Bemus Point Tap House - Michael Hund
& The Classic Rock All Stars
6 PM**
72 Main Street | Bemus Point
For Info: bemustaphouse.com

Shawbucks - DJ Xcite | 9 PM
212 West 2nd St. | Jamestown | For Info: shawbucks.com

**The Village Casino -
New Wave Nation | 10 PM-2 AM**
1 Lakeside Dr | Bemus Point
For Info: bemuspoincasino.com

SUNDAY, JULY 5

**Audubon Community Nature Center
First Sunday Story Time | 12:30-1 PM**
1600 Riverside Road | Jamestown
For Info: auduboncnrc.org/events

**Cassadaga Farmers Market
12:30-3:30 PM**
Ames Commons | Cassadaga
For Info: (716) 665-8855

**Bemus Point Tap House -
Derek Davis Band | 2 PM**
72 Main Street | Bemus Point
For Info: bemustaphouse.com

**Beach Dog Grill -
Live Music: Melissa Sauers | 3 PM**
Wright Park | Dunkirk
For Info: Beach Dog Grill Facebook

**Southern Tier Brewing Co -
Gypsy Queen | 3-6 PM**
2072 Stoneman Circle | Lakewood
For Info: lakewood.stbcbbeer.com

**Group Ther-Happy -
Osborn Nash | 6-9 PM**
103 Chautauqua Ave. | Lakewood
For Info: groupther-happy.com

**Cabana Sam's -
Sean Patrick McGraw | 7 PM**
1028 South Shore Dr. | Irving
For Info: sunsetbayusa.com

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

FOR A COMPLETE LISTING OF FOURTH OF JULY EVENTS SEE PAGE 5

Editorial with Lori Cornell

AMERICA 250 CHAUTAUQUA 215



Publisher
Lori Cornell

serving our Chautauqua County history as a foundational blessing for future generations to cherish and uphold, starting at the top with County Historian Norman Carlson. At nearly 90 years old, Norman is still working hard for us every day - not for fame or fortune - but for the passion and promise that our shared legacy may give us insight toward even stronger chapters yet ahead.

Speaking of local historians, we must also give due credit to our contributing historian here at the Gazette, Vince Martonis. He serves as the Town of Hanover Historian by day and selfless volunteers for our readers by night, generously sharing his archival collection at the drop of a hat. We are grateful to Mr. Carlson, Mr. Martonis and the many local historians that enrich both our community newspaper and our overall quality of life in Chautauqua County in so many ways.

Case and point, this August, in honor of America's 250th birthday, the Chautauqua County History Expo Committee will help us continue our 2026 Celebration with an exciting, one-of-its-kind event. See more detail within this edition and mark your calendars for August 2.

In the meantime, be sure to enjoy our quintessential American hometown Fourth of July this weekend. From every grill-fired backyard to the long-list of entertainment at our local venues featured in this centerfold to the extensive options for fireworks and lake lightings on page 5 to the largest county music festival of the year at the Great Blue Heron...we have a long and proud history of fun, family and friends here on The Fourth!

Happy Birthday America. Happy Independence Day, all.
This year's Fourth of July is a once-in-a-generation celebration.

We've been planning and anxiously anticipating this grand Celebrate 250 and extraordinary "Fourth of July" edition since January. The responsibility of well-representing such a landmark occasion is something we have taken seriously. That is why we were so grateful that the Chautauqua County History Expo Committee stepped up to help us, and why together we have endeavored to achieve our Tip O'Neill-esque mantra here at the Chautauqua Gazette. We are committed, as always, to all things local.

As the yesteryear Speaker of the House O'Neill often famously stated "All politics is local," we, too, at the Gazette celebrate our local history within the context of this very special national demarcation. As America turns 250 years old and we cherish the beautiful deluge of pomp and circumstance on the federal stage, we give equal props to our own exciting happenings here this summer. As we honor our nation's proud heritage, we also present this edition as a showcase to our own little 215-year-old piece of American history at home.

We recognize our strong and talented cadre of local historians that make this acknowledgement possible. Such professionals are wholly committed to pre-

CHAUTAUQUA GAZETTE

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Did you know?

This Independence Day marks a historic milestone: the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

On July 4, 1776, the Continental Congress adopted the Declaration, announcing that the 13 colonies were free and independent states. This year, communities across the country are celebrating the anniversary with special events and ceremonies as part of the nationwide America250 initiative.

Whether you're attending a parade, watching fireworks or gathering with family and friends, this year's Fourth of July is a once in a generation celebration of America's 250th birthday.

AMERICA 250

LEARN MORE: CHQHISTORYEXPO.COM

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Faith Matters

FREEDOM WITHIN: THE SPIRITUAL DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE



Featured Writer

Rev. Barbara Williams
Unity of Chautauqua
www.unitychq.org

"You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."
John 8:32

This year, our nation celebrates the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. For two and a half centuries, those words have inspired generations with a vision of liberty, self-determination, and human dignity.

As spiritual seekers, we recognize that there are two kinds of freedom. There is external freedom—the freedom to speak, worship, vote, and pursue our dreams. And there is spiritual freedom—the freedom of the soul.

One can possess political freedom and still be imprisoned by fear.

One can live in a free country and still be bound by resentment.

One can have countless choices and still be trapped by limiting beliefs.

Jesus spoke often of freedom, but not the kind won through governments or armies. He taught freedom from within. He taught liberation from the false beliefs that keep us separated from the love of God, knowing our divine nature and seeing the divine nature of fellow travelers on this earth adventure.

As we celebrate our nation's journey toward freedom, let us also celebrate our own spiritual declaration of independence. Just as a nation we struggle to remember and practice the tenets within our Constitution, so too our spiritual journey is one of forgetting then remembering that we are the beloved of God.

The Courage to Declare Freedom

The signers of the Declaration took an extraordinary risk. They were declaring that they would no longer be governed by forces that denied their inherent rights.

Spiritually, we are invited to make a similar declaration. At some point on the spiritual path, we awaken and realize:

"I do not have to be governed by fear."

"I do not have to be ruled by old wounds."

"I do not have to surrender my peace to circumstances."

This is spiritual independence.

Our founders declared that freedom was not granted by a king but was inherent. Likewise, our spiritual freedom is not something we earn. It is part of our divine inheritance. We are created in the image and likeness of God. Therefore, freedom is already planted within us. The spiritual journey is not about becoming free. It is about awakening to the freedom that has always been ours.

Freedom Through Truth

Jesus said, "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." Notice he did not say truth will make you comfortable. Truth often challenges our assumptions. Truth invites us to release old identities. Truth asks us to let go of stories that no longer serve us. Truth reveals that we are loved beyond measure. When we truly embrace that truth, something changes. We stop living as victims of circumstance. We begin living as expressions of Divine Possibility.

And this is our spiritual liberation.

Unity is a global, inclusive, spiritual community offering a positive, practical approach to Christianity based on the teachings of Jesus and the power of prayer. Unity honors the universal truths in all religions and offers uplifting resources to help people of all faiths apply spiritual principles in their daily lives. In practice, Unity blends teachings from Christianity, Eastern philosophies, and metaphysical thought. While we honor the teachings of Jesus Christ as a model of spiritual mastery, we see him as an example of humanities divine potential.

Unity emphasizes the creative power of mind. We believe that cultivating an awareness of our thoughts and feelings, accepting our humanity, and nurturing ourselves by cultivating constructive and loving thoughts, that we then bring about healing, peace and overall well-being into our lives and into our world.

Unity is both a spiritual path and a way of life. We offer a hopeful, empowering message that encourages individuals to live consciously, love generously, and realize their spiritual potential. By focusing on unity rather than division, love rather than fear, and spiritual principle rather than dogma, Unity provides a welcoming spiritual home for many seeking a deeper connection to the divine within themselves and in the world around them.

Discover more about Unity at
www.unity.org.

Chautauqua Lake Conditions Look Strong Heading Into Fourth of July Holiday



Submitted Photo

Drone view of Chautauqua Lake at Bemus Point during a county boat tour, showing current lake conditions as officials review seasonal maintenance efforts ahead of the Independence Day holiday and peak summer tourism.

Contributed by

Justin Gould

Chautauqua County Media
Information Officer

Last week, Chautauqua County Executive Paul M. Wendel Jr. joined Chautauqua Lake Association General Manager Heather Nolan-Caskey for the second Chautauqua Lake Boat Tour of 2026, providing an update on current lake conditions as the busy summer season gets underway.

During the tour, the pair traveled the entire lake including Burtis Bay, an area that experienced significant aquatic vegetation growth during the summer of 2025. Standing in a location that was heavily impacted by weeds one year ago, Wendel and Nolan-Caskey noted the dramatic difference in conditions this season.

"We're not seeing much," Nolan-Caskey said while demonstrating conditions with a lake rake. "It was shore to shore last year all the way through here."

Wendel credited the proactive approach being taken this year by the Chautauqua Lake Association and its partners. Harvesting operations

began early in the season, allowing crews to stay ahead of potential problem areas rather than reacting after conditions worsen.

While officials cautioned that weather and other environmental factors can quickly influence lake conditions throughout the summer, they emphasized that crews are actively monitoring conditions and remain prepared to adapt operations as needed.

"It's always easier to get ahead of it than try to play catch-up," Wendel said during the tour. "So far, it's been a good year."

Although summer conditions can change quickly, both officials expressed optimism about the lake's current condition heading into the Independence Day holiday and peak tourism season.

The June boat tour is the second of several planned lake tours in 2026 and provides residents and visitors with a firsthand look at ongoing efforts to maintain Chautauqua Lake. Additional updates are expected later this summer as crews continue monitoring and managing conditions across the lake.

Independence Day Celebrations

July 2-4

Dunkirk Fourth of July Celebration All Day

Dunkirk Memorial Park
Three days of fun with live music, vendors, and more. Fireworks display on July 4 at 9:30 pm.
For info: tourchautauqua.com/events/dunkirk-fourth-of-july-celebration

July 2-5

The Great Blue Heron Music Festival All Day

The Heron Farm and Event Center
A 33rd annual celebration of music, dancing, camping, and other wonderful festivities.
For info: <https://greatblueheron.com>

July 2

Stars & Strides 2-10 pm

Chautauqua County Fairgrounds
Featuring N.Y.S. Sire Stakes Harness Races, food trucks, games, vendors, live music, and more!

July 3

Silver Creek Fourth of July Fireworks and Music All Day

George Borrello Park
Fireworks and music at George Borrello Park on Front Street. Second Time Around will be playing. Hideaway Bay Resort is an excellent place to watch the fireworks display!
For info: silvercreekny.gov/calendar

Scoops & Liberty: Ice Cream Social 6-8 pm

Fenton History Center
Celebrate America's 250th anniversary and the 207th birthday of Gov. Reuben Fenton. Enjoy an evening of ice cream, music and historic fun.
For info: fentonhistorycenter.org

Jamestown Tarp Skunks Fireworks Night 7 pm

Russell E. Diethrick, Jr. Park
The Jamestown Tarp Skunks baseball team plays the Olean Oilers on Fireworks Night.
For info: jamestowntarpskunks.com

Independence Day Eve Music Festival All Day

Southern Day Brewery
Featuring That Ted, Juvenile Characteristics, Sean Patrick McGraw, Beard and the Bird, and Uncle Ben's Remedy.

July 4

Findley Lake 4th of July Celebration All Day

West Main Street
Featuring the Duck Race, Fire Company Chicken Bake Sale, Boat Parade, and Fireworks. The Duck Race will be held at 12:30 pm at the Waterwheel Overlook. Flares are

lit around the lake before fireworks begin at 10 pm.

For info: tourchautauqua.com/events/4th-of-july-celebration-in-findley-lake

Lakewood July 4th Summerfest & Fireworks 9 am

Chautauqua Avenue
Starts off with the annual Firecracker Run at 9 am, and crafts, gifts, food, refreshments, entertainment and more starting at noon! Music will be provided by Ion Sky and the night will be concluded with fireworks at dusk.
For info: lakewoodny.gov/fourth-of-july

Mayville 4th of July Celebration 10 am

Lakeside Park
Grand parade down Route 394 starting at 10 am followed by live music, food, games and more. Their annual fireworks display will take place at 10 pm.
For info: tourchautauqua.com/events/mayville-july-4th-celebration

America 250 – RUSH Late Model Touring Series 1 pm

Stateline Speedway
Head to the track early for BBQ and live music starting at 1pm. Race starts at 7pm. Fireworks to follow!
For info: www.facebook.com/events/2343096179459643/

Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra Independence Day Celebration 8 pm

Chautauqua Institution
For info: chq.org/event/chautauqua-symphony-orchestra-independence-day-celebration-2/

Flares and Boats Around Cassadaga Lakes 9:30 pm

A beautiful tradition that lights Cassadaga Lakes in celebration of Independence Day.
For info: cassadagalakesassociation.com

Bemus Point Fireworks Show 10 pm

The display will take place from barges in Bemus Bay and will be visible from the Village Park, Lakeside Drive, and all around the Village of Bemus Point. In honor of America's 250th anniversary, Bemus Point and Mayville are collaborating on a lake-wide celebration featuring 25-minute fireworks shows in both communities.
For info: facebook.com/events/1287600030020269/

Light the Lake - 10 pm

Chautauqua Lake
One of the most cherished summer traditions on Independence Day, visitors and residents alike will line the over 40 mile shoreline with flares.
For info: chautauqualakeassociation.org



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- Vendors
- Live music with Justin Williams
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- Beer & Wine tents
- Laser light show finale

JULY 2, 2026

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

2:00-10:00PM

A FREE FAMILY-FRIENDLY EVENT!

Chautauqua County's First Fourth of July? Just Another Workday.



The Holland Land Company Vault in Mayville, NY held original deed documents to land parcels countywide.

*Research by County
Historian Norman Carlson,
edited by Katrina Fuller.*

The first Chautauqua County Fourth of July on record was that of 1798, and it was no celebration, just a common workday for the surveyors of the Holland Land Co. Several crews spent the Fourth, a Wednesday, in the county, since the survey of all township and range lines in the purchase had begun that summer at the southwest corner.

There wasn't a permanent resident between the state line and Cattaraugus Creek on July 4, 1798, when eight men woke at their camp 1,500 feet south of Hunt Road, 2,200 feet west of Big Tree Road and 900 feet southeast of the present railroad tracks. John Elliot of Radnor Township, Pa., led the crew, with chain bearers, axmen, flagmen and packhorse men in tow. Breakfast, as usual, was bacon, potatoes and tea or coffee without milk.

The party set out due east through chestnut, ash, white oak and pine, the timber shifting to hemlock, basswood, sugar maple, hickory and beech as they pushed on. They made camp that evening where Southwestern Drive now meets the southeast corner of Sunset Hill Cemetery, three miles for the day, less than this crew's average.

They weren't alone. Richard Stoddard's crew surveyed north to the lake near Stow. Amizi Atwater's group covered three miles from near Dinsbier Road to Mayville. And a crew led by a man named Shepard (or Shopard, Shepard or Shepherd, depending on the historian reporting the details) surveyed north toward Lake Erie near Ripley and Westfield.



Norman Carlson, a native of Busti, serves as Chautauqua County Historian. He has extensive experience, with nearly 30 years as Collections Manager at the Fenton History Center in Jamestown and has been highly active in various local history organizations for decades.

Notably, he has volunteered with the Busti Historical Society for fifty years. His dedication to preserving and promoting local history is deeply-rooted.

The role of the County Historian is critical toward the preservation of Chautauqua County's history. Carlson stands available to the community as a strong asset and resource. For more information about Chautauqua County history visit: chqgov.com/county-historian/county-historian or contact Norman Carlson directly at: (716) 753-4857 or carlsonn@chqgov.com.

Meanwhile, John Thompson, in charge of the whole operation, was having the worst Fourth of anyone: his horse had given out, he'd missed connecting with Atwater's crew and he'd gone two days without food.

One last twist: among Atwater's flagmen was Amos Sottle, later recognized as the earliest white settler in Chautauqua County. So buried in these terse survey notes of chains, links and timber species is also, quietly, the start of local history.

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NOTABLE QUOTES FROM AMERICAN PRESIDENTS

Courtesy of
Metro Creative

Americans will celebrate the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the United States throughout 2026. Many a notable leader has influenced the country in its 250-year history, and the following are some notable quotes from American presidents over the course of the nation's history.

· "If we can but prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people, under the pretense of taking care of them, they must become happy." - Thomas Jefferson, 1802

· "Peace is the best time for improvement and preparation of every kind; it is in peace that our commerce flourishes most, that taxes are most easily paid, and that the revenue is most productive." - James Monroe, 1817

· "Officeholders are the agents of the people, not their masters." - Grover Cleveland, 1886

· "In the history of mankind, many republics have risen, have flourished for a less or greater time, and then have fallen because their citizens lost the power of governing themselves and thereby governing their state; and in no way has this loss of power been so often and so clearly shown as in the tendency to turn the government into a government primarily



for the benefit of one class instead of a government for the benefit of the people as a whole." - Theodore Roosevelt, 1903

· "Governments do not make ideals, but ideals make governments." - Calvin Coolidge, 1926

· "No government is perfect. One of the chief virtues of democracy, however, is that its defects are always visible and under democratic processes can be pointed out and corrected." - Harry S. Truman, 1947

· "Mankind must put an end to war - or war will put an end to mankind." - John F. Kennedy, 1961

· "A president's hardest task is not to do what is right, but to know what is right." - Lyndon B. Johnson, 1965

· "American has never been united by blood or birth or soil. We are bound by ideals that move us beyond our backgrounds, lift us above our interests and teach us what it means to be citizens." - George W. Bush, 2001

· "Change will not come if we wait for some other person, or if we wait for some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek." - Barack Obama, 2008 (delivered while campaigning for president in an election Obama ultimately won)

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~ Benjamin Disraeli

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2026 GREAT BLUE HERON MUSIC FESTIVAL · JULY 4TH WEEKEND · SHERMAN, NY

PERFORMANCE & WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

FRI	DAVID'S STAGE	DANCE TENT	DRAGON STAGE	TIGER MAPLE STAGE	REVIVAL TENT	FRI
1 PM					OPENING INTENTIONS W/ JEN RAINES & TARA LAURENZI	1 PM
2 PM						2 PM
3 PM	JACKSON CAVALIER			OPEN JAMS W/ TIGERS & FOLKS (BRING INSTRUMENTS)	YOGA TARA LAURENZI	3 PM
4 PM						4 PM
5 PM	LOGAN B & DIRTY LEAF	EASTERN BOYS IN WESTERN SHIRTS	FUNKNUT	RIVER GLEN	FINDING EASE IN SOCIAL SPACES - DOM DODDS	5 PM
6 PM						6 PM
7 PM	SMILO & THE GHOST	PA LINE	TONY CAMM & THE ALL-STARS OF FUNK	ACT CASUAL	FRIENDS OF BILL	7 PM
8 PM						8 PM
9 PM						9 PM
10 PM	THE DIP	DOUBLE TIGER	BOMBARGO	TSAVO HIGHWAY	SOBER SAFE SPACE	10 PM
11 PM						11 PM
12 AM	DRIFTWOOD	BIG SOMETHING	GIANT PANDA GUERRILLA DUB SQUAD	YETSU		12 AM
1 AM		ZYDECO DANCE INSTRUCTION		LATE NIGHT DRUM CIRCLE AT THE CAFE IN THE WOODS BRING YOUR DRUM & A CHAIR		1 AM
2 AM		BUFFALO ZYDECO	FOLKACES & FRIENDS			2 AM
SAT	DAVID'S STAGE	DANCE TENT	DRAGON STAGE	TIGER MAPLE STAGE	REVIVAL TENT	SAT
8 AM					HEART CENTERED JAPA MEDITATION DANIELLE DEVINE	8 AM
9 AM						9 AM
10 AM					YOGA TARA GRAHAM	10 AM
11 AM	BILL WARD			BEGINNING BANJO WITH BARRY SMITH	QIGONG MOLLY GREEN	11 AM
12 PM	FUZZY & THE RUSTBELTS	ZYDECO DANCE INSTRUCTION	SUGAR PACKETS	OLD-TIME FIDDLE W/ JUSTINE & ALISON PARKER	DRUMMING JIM DONOVAN	12 PM
1 PM						1 PM
2 PM	LUA FLORA	MO MOJO	PA LINE	BLUES HARMONICA W/ MIKE HILL	SOUND JOURNEY ONETONE SONIC ALCHEMY	2 PM
3 PM						3 PM
4 PM	STEEL WHEELS	SMILO & THE GHOST	SURFING FOR DAISY	BEGINNING GUITAR W/ LOGAN B.	TAI CHI CHRISTOPHER SIERZCHULA	4 PM
5 PM						5 PM
6 PM	DANIEL RODRIGUEZ BAND	DRIFTWOOD	THE FITZKEE BROTHERS	OPEN OLD TIME JAM W/ TIGERS (BRING INSTRUMENTS)	EXPLORING CONTACT IMPROV SARAH PAOLINI	6 PM
7 PM						7 PM
8 PM	PIXIE & THE PARTYGRASS BOYS	HOT LIKE MARS	MOSAIC FOUNDATION	SUMMER & ERIC	FRIENDS OF BILL	8 PM
9 PM						9 PM
10 PM	DONNA THE BUFFALO	ROOTSHOCK	RIPE	LOGAN B & DIRTY LEAF		10 PM
11 PM						11 PM
12 PM	TONY CAMM & THE ALL STARS OF FUNK	BOMBARGO	MOONTRICKS	HERON HOUSE BAND	SOBER SAFE SPACE	12 PM
1 AM						1 AM
2 AM		SNEEZY	HOT LIKE MARS	LATE NIGHT DRUM CIRCLE AT THE CAFE IN THE WOODS BRING YOUR DRUM & A CHAIR		2 AM
SUN	DAVID'S STAGE	DANCE TENT	TIGER MAPLE STAGE	REVIVAL TENT	SUN	
8 AM				HANDPAN BREATH JOURNEY JIMMY WILSON	8 AM	
9 AM					9 AM	
10 AM				YOGA KARA BEMIS	10 AM	
11 AM	SONGWRITERS CIRCLE			KIRTAN MEGHAN CALLAHAN	11 AM	
12 PM	TIGER MAPLE STRING BAND	SUN KING WARRIORS	OLD TIME JAM W/ FOLKACES BRING YOUR INSTRUMENTS	FEATHER BUNDLES DIANE CLARK	12 PM	
1 PM					1 PM	
2 PM	THE FITZKEE BROTHERS	SNEEZY	JOHNNY HART & THE MESS	ALOHA BREATH & SOUND HEALING MATTHEW OVERFIELD & TARA LEE	2 PM	
3 PM					3 PM	
4 PM	THE MEDICINALS	SURFING FOR DAISY	TYLER WESTCOTT		4 PM	
5 PM					5 PM	
6 PM	FLYING OBJECT	IT'S A SURPRISE!	RICHIE STEARNS		6 PM	
7 PM					7 PM	
8 PM	DONNA THE BUFFALO				8 PM	
9 PM					9 PM	
10 PM					10 PM	



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The 33rd Annual Great Blue Heron Music Festival

July 2–5, 2026 | Sherman, New York

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Contributed by
**The Heron Farm
& Events Center**

The Great Blue Heron Music Festival returns for its 33rd year over Independence holiday weekend, **Thursday-Sunday, July 2–5, 2026, at The Heron Farm & Event Center** in Sherman, New York. This year's lineup features 48+ artists across four stages, with a program that leans into funk and groove—with old-time mountain music crashing into reggae and funk melting into electro-afrobeat—while weaving together fan favorites and exciting new names, including Ripe, The Dip, Donna the Buffalo, Moontricks, Big Something, Bombargo, Pixie & The Partygrass Boys, Driftwood, Hot Like Mars, Daniel Rodriguez, Mosaic Foundation, Smilo & the Ghost, PA Line, Root Shock, Buffalo Zydeco, Surfing For Daisy, and more!

A summer tradition since 1992, the Great Blue Heron Music Festival is an annual family-friendly celebration that brings thousands of music lovers to the rolling hills of Western New York each July. The festival is host to a wide variety of live original music plus instrument workshops, dance lessons, late-night drum circles, an open mic, and dedicated programming for younger children and teens running throughout the weekend. The Great Blue Heron Music Festival fills four days and nights with fun, free-spirited, friendly people who come together each year as a community united by music.

“One very unique thing about Blue Heron is how many different generations of people attend our festival,” says festival owner Julie Rock-

castle. “It’s a very family-friendly event! Over 400 children are here during the weekend along with their parents and, oftentimes, grandparents, too! We believe the magic of this place stems not only from the partnerships made in 30+ years, but also it’s taken hundreds, maybe thousands, of volunteers, plus family and friends, to make this event thrive for so many years. Thank YOU for celebrating with us along this incredible journey!”

The Heron offers camping out among the breezy fields and shady woods that grace the property, and there is a vast system of trails throughout its 400 acres for hiking. There is a spring-fed, lifeguard-protected swimming pond, referred to by some as the “mystic waters,” which is an extra bonus on a hot summer day. Visitors can also participate in yoga, meditation, and wellness programming in the Revival Tent; browse food and craft vendors; and enjoy local beer, wine, hard cider, slushies, and other beverages in The Heron’s Keg Room.

Camping opens Thursday, July 2nd, alongside an official Kickoff Party (aka Prefest Barnapalooza Hoedown) at the PFM Barn, featuring Folkfaces, Eastern Boys in Western Shirts, and more. The event is free to all, and a food truck will be on site.

Weekend tickets are on sale now for two-, three-, and four-day passes, with upgrades available for RV and vehicle-side tent camping. One-day tickets are available for Saturday and Sunday. All

tickets include free Red Lot parking and walk-in tent camping in the woods. Full details at [greatblueheron.com](https://www.GreatBlueHeron.com).

More about the Music & Schedule:

The eclectic Great Blue Heron Music Festival lineup is spread across four stages throughout the weekend—including David’s Stage, located in the heart of the festival and named for co-founder David Tidquist; the intimate Tiger Maple Stage, with daily musician-led instrument workshops, an evening Maple Jam showcasing regional and national touring artists, and midnight drum circles on Friday and Saturday; the magical and immersive woodland Dragon Stage; and a big-top Dance Tent that swings through the night.

Friday, July 4th

Friday is headlined by **The Dip**, the Seattle-bred rhythm and blues outfit with precise arrangements, deep grooves, and a three-piece horn section that has earned them one of the most devoted live followings in the country. They’re joined by **Big Something**, the North Carolina jam rock powerhouse known for their high-energy sets and genre-spanning sound; and Canadian-based **Bombargo**, who drops a vibrant splash of soul over their distinctive “vintage-pop” sound, with music industry icon Sir Richard Branson saying of them, “I haven’t seen this type of energy since The Rolling Stones!” Also on Friday: the beloved reggae-rock collective **Giant Panda Guerilla Dub Squad** makes their return to the Heron with their signature wall of sound, as does the heartfelt folk-rock of Binghamton favorites **Driftwood**, a pe-

renial crowd favorite whose story-driven songwriting has made them a Heron institution. **Donna the Buffalo** will do a late-night dance tent takeover as their alter-ego, **Buffalo Zydeco**.

Saturday, July 5th

Saturday is anchored by **Ripe**, the Boston-born, funk-pop, alt-rock collective whom People Magazine described as a “former ‘party band,’ all grown up” in a recent feature. Joining them is the inimitable **Donna the Buffalo**, the Finger Lakes-rooted roots-rock institution that has served as the Heron’s unofficial house band for decades, performing multiple sets over the weekend; Western Canada’s **Moontricks**—the duo behind some of the most hypnotic, campfire-ready electronic folk in recent memory—makes what is sure to be a highly anticipated Heron debut. Funk and groove continue with the infectious **Sneezy**, the Chicago-based outfit whose tight, joyful style and wild stage antics expand a concert into a true show. **Pixie & the Partygrass Boys** bring their high-spirited bluegrass energy to keep the dancefloor moving well into the night. Both **Sneezy** and **Hot Like Mars**—another Chicago-based funky, soulful rock export—will be the late-night party bands until 4am at the Dragon Stage and Dance Tent.

Theme Night: Red After Dark begins at 7pm Saturday and goes through the night. Everyone is encouraged to wear red—it could be something simple or a full-on costume—and be part of the art as the sun starts to set, the lights shift toward red, and the evening takes over. The festival’s creative director, **Todd Wagner**, says, “Red is the color of love. Of fire. Of that feeling when a song hits you somewhere deep

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17



Submitted Photos



My Trip to Washington, DC



Maple Grove Jr.-Sr. High School's AP Government Students pictured in front of the World War 1 Memorial in Washington DC, March 4

Contributing Writer

Ryan Chamber-Leonard

"I am sincerely hoping a new generation can restore civility to our political process; To end a 'me against you' mentality that seems to pervade politics here and globally."

~ One of the anonymous donors for our class. We thank them profusely for their support.

The Gazette wishes to congratulate Ryan Chamber-Leonard on his graduation from Maple Grove Jr.-Sr. High School last weekend. We are sincerely grateful for the time and talents he shared during these last two years as our featured student writer. We know he will find much success in his next chapter at Binghamton University and beyond.

From the words of one of our anonymous donors that made this trip possible, to the spoken (and unspoken) thoughts of every student that laid down their tracks in Washington D.C. last month, it is my belief that all of us can see precisely why this monumental trip is so incredibly important, and why giving students this opportunity is a program that must be continued for years to come. This is a trip that defines high school experiences, and one that nobody in this class will likely ever forget. It feels appropriate to revisit this fantastic experience on the cusp of America's 250th anniversary.

From March 2 through March 4, Maple Grove Jr/Sr High School had its AP Government class fly to the capital of our nation, Washington D.C., to see firsthand how our nation operates. With a group of 14 students, including myself, and chaperoned by our teachers, Patty Rizzo and Wayne Quattrone, the class spent our time in D.C. learning about our capital, exploring the city and finding landmark locations that seem almost fictional until you see them in person.

Although we faced an unfortunate flight delay on the first day of our trip, one that cost us the chance to visit a few landmark locations, our energy bounced right back once we landed in D.C. The defining experience of that first night, a sentiment I'm sure many of my classmates would share, was our extensive trolley night tour. Accompanied by our wonderful tour guide, Smiley, we got to see some of our nation's most historic, revered and iconic monuments, which was a truly amazing experience, and one that I would love to revisit if I ever went back.

During our second day in D.C., we had the great privilege of seeing our government's inner workings before our very eyes. As many of you who are caught up on the news likely

know, Kristi Noem was recently fired from her position as the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the AP Government class actually saw the events that led to that decision just days before. We were able to visit the Dirksen Building, during which we sat in on Kristi Noem's hearing. Later, in the Capitol Building, we watched Senator Thom Tillis speak on Noem as well. Walking through the halls of the Russell Building, the Capitol Building and the streets of D.C. all characterized this day, and gave us an experience that only a lucky few are able to have. While many of our government's policies, decisions and mechanisms feel merely like social media headlines at times, our group got to see under the hood of all those headlines and posts. Now, we are among the few young Americans able to say that we've walked in both the House and Senate buildings, that we've walked through the halls our politicians use and that we saw beyond the debates and campaigns.

On the last day of our trip, we had the privilege of walking through even more monuments, even standing right under the Washington Monument, which felt larger than life, and saw the White House from a distance. While this day was not as packed as the other two, we had plenty of time to dwell on what we just experienced, a once-in-a-lifetime privilege that a scarce few ever receive in their high school career. Many students would likely say that they rarely see high school topics applied in real life, yet we got to watch everything we learned in class happen right in front of us. In the words of my classmate Logan Quattrone, "As a young adult coming into the governmental system, it is important to actually understand how it works." While not all of us will regularly interact with politics in our careers or

Red Flares on the Lake: A Chautauqua Fourth of July Tradition



Submitted Photo

File photo: Red flares and fireworks light up Chautauqua Lake during a Fourth of July celebration at Lakeside Park in Mayville, NY.

From the archives of CHQ County Historian Norman Carlson

Chautauqua Lake's familiar Fourth of July glow has deeper roots than many may realize. As County Historian Norman Carlson documents in a July 5, 1934 account, the now-traditional red flare display along the shoreline was once a new and inspiring experiment — one that residents quickly recognized as having lasting potential.

Carlson writes that "the feature of the Fourth of July display hereabouts was undoubtedly the red flare showing along the shores of Chautauqua Lake, timed between ten and ten fifteen o'clock in the evening." He described the scene as "beautiful and truly inspiring to those who made it a point to see it from vantage points on or about the lake."

Even in its early years, observers saw the possibility of something enduring. Carlson noted that the display "may well be made an annual custom" and could eventually create "a Chautauqua Lake significance such as the famed Chautauqua salute," drawing visitors "just to see it."

Credit for the idea, Carlson wrote, "is properly given to Earle O. Hultquist," with execution led by the James-

town Chamber of Commerce, which "sponsored it and used its influence to sell the idea to cottage owners and others about the lake."

He also pointed to the community effort behind the display, suggesting that with broader participation — including "hotel managements, groups of Boy Scouts or other workers to fill in the vacant spots and make the placing of the flares uniform and general" — the event could grow in both beauty and scale.

According to Carlson, the entire effort was accomplished "with very little expense to any single individual and probably a total expense of no more than \$350."

He closed with a simple acknowledgment of the collaboration behind the tradition, stating: "We commend the originator of the idea, the sponsor and all who had a part in it."

As Chautauqua County celebrates America 250, this early account offers a reminder that some of our most iconic traditions began as simple community ideas — carried forward by shared pride in place and history.

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

Southern Tier Brewery Hosts Eve of Independence Day Music Festival

Contributed by
Southern Tier Brewery

On Friday, July 3, the grounds of Southern Tier Brewery will be the site of a growing one-day music festival, honoring our Nation's birthday and joining all the events surrounding it. This year, the tradition continues with several bands and small acts taking the stage to keep the party dancing. Beginning at noon and stretching into dusk, the stage will alight with a variety of ensembles. The venue will be open at 11 a.m., and beginning at 3 p.m., Rochester's That Ted, Juvenile Characteristics, a Northeast PA and WNY favorite, Nashville recording artist Sean Patrick McGraw, Beard and the Bird from San Diego and Western New York's Uncle Ben's Remedy are all slated to perform.



Original members, Jason Hummell, Kris Chapman and Jason Sample started the band in early 2009 and played together for most of 5 years. In early 2014, the band added its first new member, Mitch Adelman on electric guitar and pedal steel. Upon Mitch's departure in 2025, James Willaman was added as the newest member of Juvenile Characteristics. The rhythm section of the band found its completion in 2019 when percussionist Geoff Marenchin was added to complete the band. Many changes have accompanied their musical growth over the course of 18+ years, including the addition of new instruments, percussion and more intricate harmonies, but one thing has never changed...the shows are fun, and the atmosphere is always filled with love!



That Ted is a musician and elementary school teacher from Rochester, NY. He has been in and out of several groups since the early 90s, but nothing has stuck. Now, he shows up solo and rocks cover songs with the sole purpose of facilitating a good time at the party for everyone. A person in sunglasses in front of a neon sign

Juvenile Characteristics is a 5-piece acoustic/electric band committed to playing their own original music and their favorite covers. The covers they choose to play are songs that the band would want to listen to if they were going to see live music. The original music is written from the band members' hearts based on their experiences and dreams.



The Beard and the Bird is a bi-coastal musical duo formed by husband-and-wife Jon Hasz and Cathryn "Cat" Curry Hasz. They are well-known for their

soulful, vintage renditions of 1920s western swing, jazz and folk, alongside unique twists on modern pop covers.



Sean Patrick McGraw is an American independent country music singer-songwriter known for his gritty, traditional sound influenced by artists such as Dwight Yoakam, Johnny Cash, Willie Nelson, and Steve Earle. Raised in the working-class town of Dunkirk/Fredonia, New York, he began playing music at a young age, performing in local bands before moving to Los Angeles and eventually Nashville to pursue a career in country music. After gaining national attention as a semi-finalist on *Nashville Star*, his breakthrough came in 2009 when a standout performance at the Stagecoach Festival led to a spot on Toby Keith's "America's Toughest Tour." McGraw has since built a successful independent career through relentless touring, often performing more than 150 shows a year, while releasing albums including *My So Called Life*, *Hard Way to Make an Easy Living*, *Hillbilly Hippie* and *A Contender*. His songwriting has been recorded by artists such as Montgomery Gentry and Aaron Pritchett and featured in television shows including *True Blood*, *Sons of Anarchy* and *Nashville*. Known for his authentic storytelling, blue-collar themes and grassroots approach, McGraw has earned a loyal fan base and a respected place in the independent country music scene.



Uncle Ben's Remedy is a Western New York-based Americana, alt-country and roots rock band known for its heartfelt storytelling, high-energy performances and deep connection to small-town life. Formed in 2014, the group blends traditional country, folk and rock influences into a sound they describe as "music as medicine," drawing inspiration from the people, places and experiences that shaped them. Led by vocalist and guitarist Ben Westlund, the band features Harmony Griffin, Shawn Huestis, Brendan O'Connor and Josh Mullin, and has built a loyal following through original songs, festival appearances and six studio releases. Their music combines relatable lyrics, strong musicianship and a community-centered spirit that reflects the roots and culture of Western New York.

Since 2023, the Lakewood Brewery has been hosting a summer party on the eve of Independence Day to commemorate the occasion, and steer clear of the myriad of other events and family gatherings happening on the 4th of July.

In the last two years, the management collaborated with a regional music publishing company to put together a docket of musical acts to entertain the crowd throughout the day. Southern Tier Brewery is located at 2072 Stoneman Circle in Lakewood. Admission is free, and food and beverages will be available for purchase.

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Wednesday, July 1st Ladies Night! 5 pm
Friday, July 3rd Live Music: White Bronco 7 pm
Sunday, July 5th Bloody Mary Special 10 am-2 pm
 Live Music: Melissa Sauers 3 pm

Wright Park, Dunkirk, NY



UPCOMING EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1
 Logan Alexander & Laura "The Landshark" Ferraro • 6-9
FRIDAY, JULY 3
 Ryan Melquist • 8-11
SATURDAY, JULY 4
 Black Widow Duo • 1-4 | DJ Felix • 6-9
SUNDAY, JULY 5
 Osborn Nash • 5-8

103 Chautauqua Ave. • Lakewood, NY 14750 • 716.526.1067
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JULY 4TH WEEKEND LINE-UP FESTIVITIES

• LIVE MUSIC •
THURSDAY, JULY 2
 6PM • RETRO PHONICS
FRIDAY, JULY 3
 6PM • TOMMY Z BAND
SATURDAY, JULY 4
 6PM • MICHAEL HUND
 & THE CLASSIC ROCK ALL STARS
SUNDAY, JULY 5
 2PM • DEREK DAVIS BAND

• OTHER FESTIVITIES •
FRIDAY, JULY 3
 4PM • COWBOY HAT HAPPY HOUR
SATURDAY, JULY 4
 9AM • SUNSHINE & STRENGTH - HIIT
 10AM • YOGA & BREW
 10PM • VISIT BEMUS POINT
 FIREWORKS SHOW | BEMUS BAY
SUNDAY, JULY 5
 10AM • BLOODY MARY'S
 11AM • HAIR OF THE DOG... AND A BURGER!



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UPCOMING EVENTS

**TUESDAY,
 JUNE 30**

**MUSIC ON THE STOOP
 OLIVER BURDO
 6 PM - 8:30 PM**



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UPCOMING EVENTS:

July 2
4th of July Craft Party:
 6:30 pm
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July 5
Trivia With Chris: 7-9 pm
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JUNE 30	Cabana Sam's Terry Buchwald 7 PM
July 2	Cabana Sam's & Sunset Bay Beach Club Swift Kick 7 PM Qwister 3 PM DJ Magic 9 PM
July 3	Sunset Bay Beach Club SpinFest 1 PM The Strictly Hip 9 PM
July 4	Sunset Bay Beach Club America 250 Beach Bash 1 PM AlleyCat 8:30 PM
July 5	Cabana Sam's Sean Patrick McGraw 7 PM

1028 South Shore Dr., Irving
716-934-9953 • sunsetbayusa.com



THIS WEEK

Thursday, July 2
The In Crowd 6-9

Friday, July 3
That Ted 3-3:40 | Juvenile Characteristics 4-5:15
Sean Patrick McGraw 5:30-6:15
Beard and the Bird 6:30-7:10 | UBR 7:30-9

Saturday, July 4
Jacob Blair 7-4 | Johnny Bauer Duo 6-9

Sunday, July 5
Gypsy Queen 3-6 PM



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EVERY THURSDAY - 6PM



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JULY 3RD • THE SWAMP YANKEES 10pm-2am
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July 2.....Of a Feather - Live 7 PM

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PLEASE NOTE NAMES OF GUESTS IN MEMO LINE

CONTACT:

Nikki Fagerstrom Pierce
fpdistrict15@gmail.com

Maria Kindberg
mariakindberg@icloud.com

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Honoring Our Founding Patriots: Revolutionary War Soldiers at Lake View Cemetery

Featured Writer

Connie Pilato

National Society Daughters of the American Revolution

and Ebenezer Learned; as a Private under Captain Curtiss and Colonel Shepherd; and as a Corporal under Captain Adam Martin and Colonel Timothy Bigelow.

Tucked within the historic grounds of Lake View Cemetery in Jamestown, New York lies a remarkable connection to the earliest days of our nation. Among those interred are several veterans of the American Revolutionary War—men who helped secure the freedoms we enjoy today.

As the nation approaches America 250, commemorating 250 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence, their stories take on renewed meaning. This milestone invites us to reflect not only on the founding of our country, but also on the individuals whose courage made that founding possible.

Revolutionary War Patriots at Rest

The following patriots, honored for their service, are laid to rest in Lake View Cemetery:

• **Daniel Hazeltine** (A053479) (1761–1828)

Served as a Private in Massachusetts under Captains Samuel Craggin, Ephraim Hartwell, and Philip Ammidon; and Colonels Sprout and Nathan Tyler.

• **John Cowing** (A026886) (1753–post 1840)

Served as an Ensign aboard a frigate in Rhode Island under Captain Benjamin Hoppin and Colonel Christopher Lippett. He also served in the 2nd Regiment of Continental Troops of Rhode Island.

• **Cyrus Fish** (A041237) (1762–1816)

Served as a Drummer in Connecticut under Captain Stanton.

• **Eliphlet Stewart** (A109472) (1759–1837)

Served as a Private, Corporal, and Lieutenant in Connecticut, Rhode Island, and New York under Captains Halsey and Springer, and Colonels Topham and Vrooman.

• **Benjamin DeLamanter** (A031427) (1762–1832)

Served as a Private in New York under Captain Elihu Marshall; Colonels S. Roswell Hopkins and Morris Graham; and Lieutenant Colonel Marianus Willett.

• **Joseph Dix** (A032400) (1753–1822)

Served in multiple roles throughout the war—as a Sergeant under Captain Timothy Parker and Colonels Warner

• **Isaac Staples** (A108818) (1764–1848)

Served as a Private in Massachusetts under Captain Joseph Killam and Colonels Rufus Putnam and Joseph Vose in the 1st Regiment.

• **William Washington**

Also interred at Lake View Cemetery, William Washington represents one of the many patriots whose final resting place is known, yet whose story has been largely lost to time, with details of his life and Revolutionary War service remaining incomplete.

• **Thomas Mathews**

Thomas Mathews rests at Lake View Cemetery, a reminder that while his presence is recorded, much of his personal history and service to the cause of independence is no longer fully known.

• **Andrew Crawford**

Interred at Lake View Cemetery, Andrew Crawford stands among

those early patriots whose contribution to the Revolutionary War is acknowledged, even as the fuller account of his life and service has faded from historical record.

A Legacy Preserved

Many of these men made their way to Western New York following the war, joining others in building communities across Chautauqua County, New York. Their presence in Jamestown reflects a broader story of early American migration and settlement, as veterans of the Revolution carried their hopes—and their hard-earned freedoms—into new frontiers.

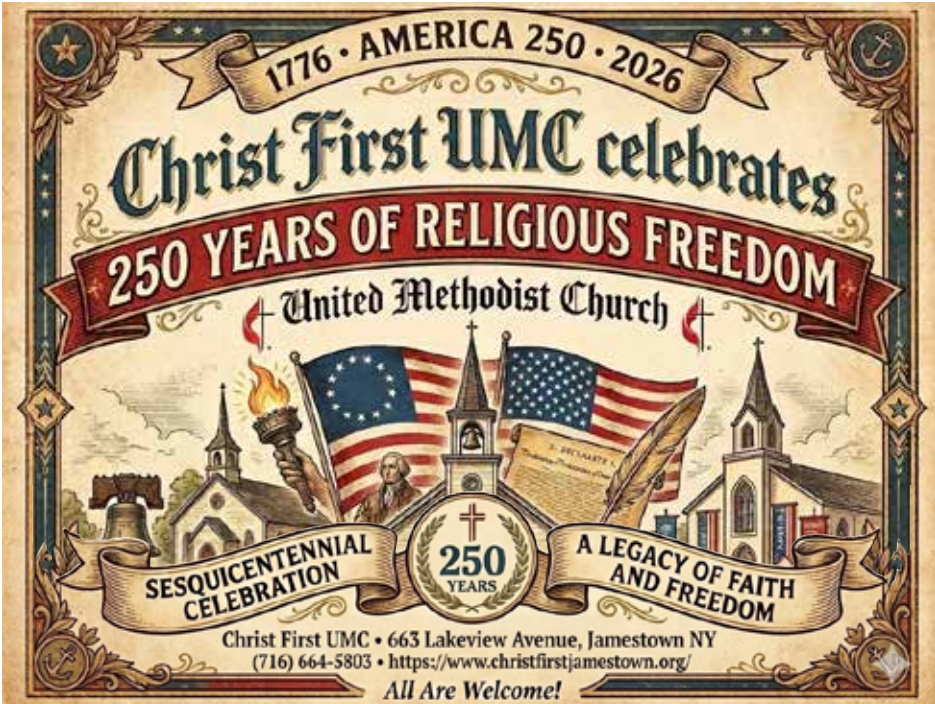
Today, the Jamestown Chapter, NSDAR plays a vital role in honoring and remembering these patriots. Through commemorations, educational outreach, and the marking of graves, the chapter ensures that their sacrifices are not lost to history.

Remembering Their Sacrifice

The quiet beauty of Lake View Cemetery invites reflection—not only on individual lives, but on the shared legacy of those who fought for independence. These Revolutionary War patriots remind us that the foundations of our nation were laid not only by famous figures, but also by ordinary individuals who answered an extraordinary call.

As we look ahead to America 250, their legacy challenges us to remember, to honor, and to carry forward the ideals of liberty and service that they helped secure.





My Trip to Washington, DC

Continued from Page 10

education, politics and government are undeniably intertwined with all of our lives, and are one of the few things that everyone should be truly educated in, for the sake of our country as a whole and our own respective lives.

To that end, I believe that each one of my classmates, as well as myself, would definitely say that this opportunity is one that every student deserves to have the chance to receive, and a truly memorable one from our high school careers. When I look back on my senior year at Maple Grove, this will always be a defining moment of not just this year, but of my entire education. If I had the chance, this is one of those precious few experiences I would choose to relive the exact same way. I'm incredibly grateful for the opportunity and those who helped me get there.

The opportunity to learn about our government this intimately is one that every American deserves, and an aspect of education that is integral, no matter where you are in life. Objectively, politics affect every American; regardless of age, stan-

ding, or beliefs, and it is vital that we protect every American's right to knowledge in an age where it has become even more difficult to be truly educated. This trip is an experience that none of us in the AP Government class will forget, and that will define our high school experience in the future.

On behalf of the Maple Grove AP Government class of 2025-2026, I would like to extend our greatest thanks to those who made this extraordinary trip possible: Our anonymous and public donors who supported the trip both financially and in their advocacy, our families at home who supported their children through the whole year our Maple Grove family, Mrs. Julie Verdonik, Mr. Wayne Quattrone and our teacher and biggest supporter; Mrs. Patty Rizzo. This once-in-a-lifetime trip would not have been possible without all your help, and I, as well as the whole class, are incredibly thankful for all of you and your support. Thanks to all of you, every student in our class was able to go on this trip and we cannot thank you enough for that.



SUDOKU

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

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!

rel: intermediate

CROSSWORD

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

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. __ chat
- 5. Statue near the Pyramids
- 11. A process to change the look
- 14. Herb
- 15. Think about excessively
- 18. Bass vocal part
- 19. Supreme Allied Cmdr. of NATO
- 21. A major division of geological time
- 23. New Zealand parrot
- 24. Cognitive contents
- 28. Lump of yarn
- 29. Atomic #109
- 30. Let go of
- 32. Indian title of respect
- 33. Whereabouts unknown
- 35. Electronic data processing
- 36. Drivers' licenses count
- 39. Snakelike fishes
- 41. They precede C
- 42. Popular personal computers
- 44. Intermediate community stage in ecological succession
- 46. Wings
- 47. Indicates position
- 49. Pleasantly smooth or soft
- 52. Jeweled headdress
- 56. In slow tempo
- 58. __ Falls
- 60. Reassertions
- 62. Eras
- 63. Hyphen

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Corporate executive
- 2. A plant used for flavoring food
- 3. Opinion or belief
- 4. Sheep in their second year
- 5. Intensities of sound
- 6. Indicates support for
- 7. Expression of laughter
- 8. OJ trial judge
- 9. Pointed ends of pens
- 10. True bugs genus
- 12. Lawyers argue theirs
- 13. Body parts
- 16. Closes tightly
- 17. World Heritage site in Nigeria
- 20. Islamic calendar month
- 22. Commercial
- 25. "Westworld" actor Harris
- 26. They __
- 27. Religious guilds
- 29. Woman (French)
- 31. Parts per billion (abbr.)
- 34. Brew
- 36. Spiritual leader
- 37. Indigo bush
- 38. Burn with a hot liquid
- 40. Older citizen
- 43. Scad fish genus
- 45. Morning
- 48. Line passing through the center (abbr.)
- 50. Double S-shaped curve
- 51. Small, thin person
- 53. Older
- 54. Mars crater
- 55. Humanities
- 57. Word element meaning ear
- 58. To the __ degree
- 59. Residue
- 61. It cools your home



SUNDAY, AUGUST 2, 2026

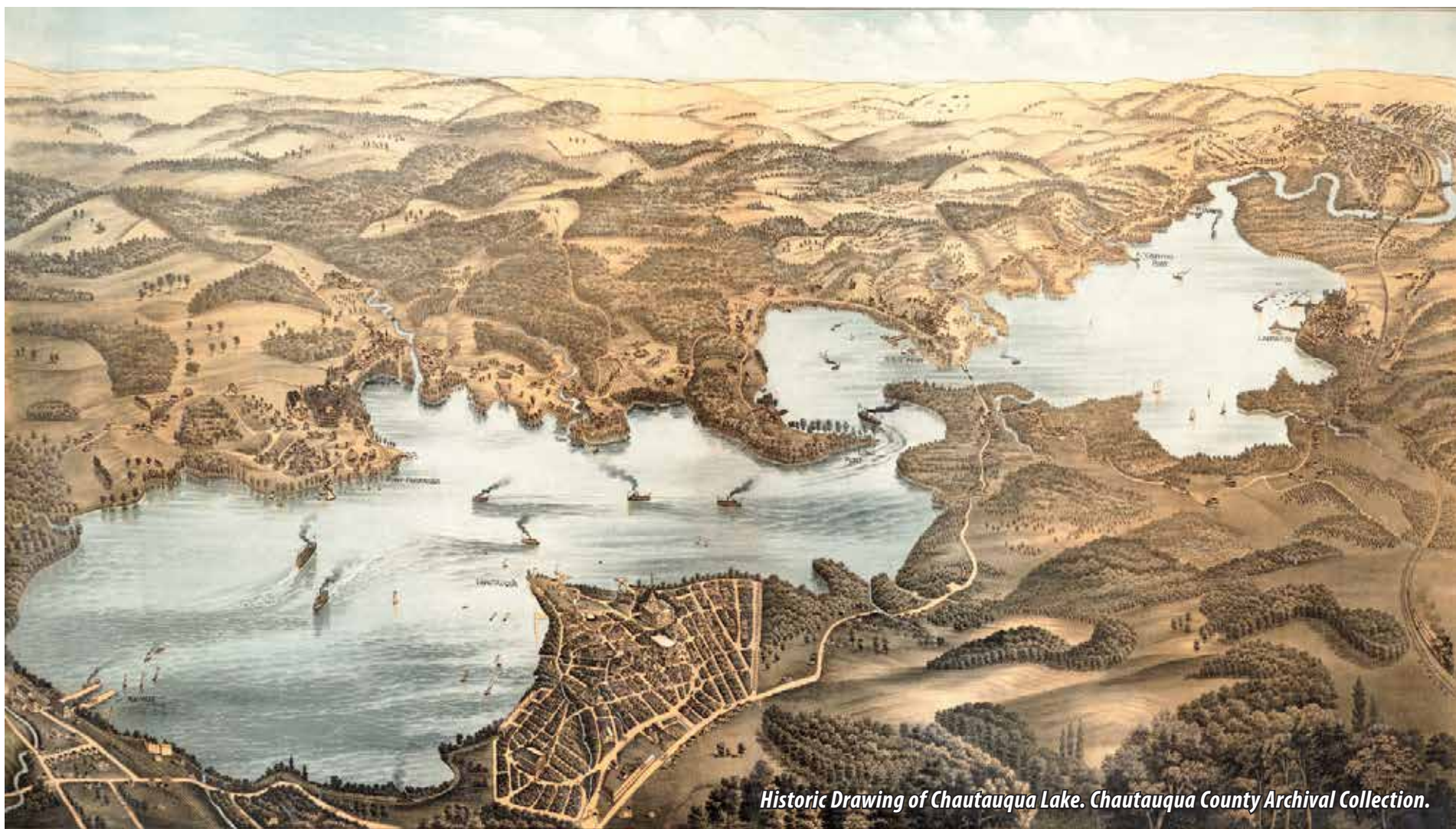
TOWN OF CHAUTAUQUA MUNICIPAL BUILDING

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Historic Drawing of Chautauqua Lake. Chautauqua County Archival Collection.




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CONNECT WITH US & GET INSPIRED



The 33rd Annual Great Blue Heron Music Festival

Continued from Page 9

Submitted Photos



and you don't totally know why. It's passion, it's warmth, and it's the sky doing something unbelievable right before dark. It's all of us together."

Sunday, July 6th

Sunday closes the festival with **Sun King Warriors**, featuring members of the legendary Pittsburgh roots-rock band Rusted Root—bringing a percussive, world-music-infused power that makes for a fitting, celebratory close to the weekend. **Donna the Buffalo** once again takes the stage, as well as Americana-grit folk band from Erie, **Smilo & the Ghost**—whose soulful, introspective songwriting has developed a loyal following.

This year's programming reflects a deliberate embrace of groove-centered music across all stages and all days. Alongside the headliners, the bill includes **Tony Camm & the All-Stars of Funk**, **Root Shock**, **Mo' Mojo**, **Mosaic Foundation**, **Surfing for Daisy**, **The Steel Wheels**, **The Medicinals**, **Tiger Maple String Band**, **Sawa Sawa**, **Folkfaces & Friends**, **Richie Stearns**, **Tyler Westcott**, **Johnny Hart & the Mess**, **The Fitzkee Brothers**, **Tsavo Highway**, **PA Line**, **Flying Object**, and many more—representing one of the most eclectic and funk-forward lineups in the Heron's history.

Location Notes:

Sherman, NY, located just outside of Jamestown, is 30 minutes east of Erie, about 90 minutes southwest of Buffalo, around 2 hours northeast of Cleveland, Akron, and Youngstown, about 2.5 hours north of Pittsburgh, a little over 3 hours west of Ithaca, and a little over 3 hours north of Wheeling and Morgantown WV—making it an easy detour or destination for folks throughout western New York, northeastern Ohio, and northern West Virginia. The festival is located at 2361 Waits Corners Rd., Sherman, NY, United States, New York 14781.

Other Amenities & New This Year: Bathhouse Upgrades

Festival-goers will find a significant new amenity awaiting them in 2026: a newly constructed **bathhouse featuring four private shower units**, sinks, and flush toilets with full plumbing and an **outdoor sink station** will be available for dishwashing throughout the weekend.

"We're looking forward to helping our guests be more comfortable," explains Rockcastle. "It's simple, but these simple things make a big difference."

The Heron is a campground with safe, chlorinated drinking water, and along with the new bathhouse, there are ample porta-john facilities. Firewood and ice are for sale at the festival. Proceeds go back to the land for equipment and facility upgrades.

The Heron Farm Store is located near HQ and the Main Gate. The store is stocked with frozen meats, including grass-fed beef, heritage pork, and organic pastured chicken. There are also soups, dips, honey, maple syrup, and sometimes fresh shiitake mushrooms! Attendees can purchase burgers for their camp dinners or stock up on their way home. The farm uses regenerative and organic practices.

Recycling and waste management are high on The Heron's list of priorities. Patrons are asked to help by sorting at the **Rainbow Recycling** stations, not bringing glass, "leaving no trace" behind, and bringing reusable containers to help keep this festival as sustainable as possible!

Watch the 2025 Festival Recap Video Shot and edited by Jay Strausser Visuals and Taylor Lewis:



<https://youtu.be/Bgl9M1YIGAY?si=UW1XgBqKsTZbU0w>

Tickets and further information: GreatBlueHeron.com

Farm store, lodging, and event info: theheron.org

4TH OF JULY

Trivia

1. In what year did the Continental Congress officially adopt the Declaration of Independence?
2. Which Founding Father famous for his large signature was the first to sign the Declaration of Independence?
3. Who was the primary author of the Declaration of Independence?
4. Which city hosted the first official annual Fourth of July coordinated fireworks display in 1777?
5. Which iconic American landmark is traditionally tapped 13 times every Independence Day?
6. Which country gifted the Statue of Liberty to the United States?
7. Which two U.S. presidents and signers of the Declaration of Independence died on the exact same day on July 4, 1826?
8. In what year did the 4th of July become an unpaid federal holiday, and when did it become a paid federal holiday?
9. What major American eating competition is held every 4th of July on Coney Island?
10. What music is traditionally played during 4th of July fireworks displays, famously featuring real cannon fire?



Trivia questions supplied by the Fenton History Center. Celebrate America's 250th anniversary and the 207th birthday of Gov. Reuben Fenton with the Fenton History Center on July 3rd during the Scoops & Liberty ice cream social at the museum on 67 Washington St.

fentonhistorycenter.org

Eating Contest 10. The 1812 Overture
1. 1776. 2. John Hancock 3. Thomas Jefferson 4. Philadelphia 5. The Liberty Bell 6. France 7. Thomas Jefferson and John Adams 8. 1870 and 1938 9. Nathan's Hot Dog

Kids Choose Free Books at Warren July 4th Parade

Free Books for Kids Town Board Member Cathryn Buonocore, left, a teacher at St. Joseph Catholic School, is working with Free Books Founder/Director Ruby Wiles to prepare the hundreds of books they and other volunteers will give away at Warren's 4th of July parade. "When children don't read over the summer, they are behind when they go back to school," says Wiles. "This is a thrilling time to engage children in reading!" Wiles and her team will circulate with their wagonloads of books while spectators wait for the parade to begin at 11 a.m. and as it travels east along Pennsylvania Avenue in downtown Warren. Free Books for Kids Town is a nonprofit whose mission is children's literacy and education. To learn more, go to FreeBooksKidsTown.com.



Submitted Photo

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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

C	H	I	T	S	P	H	I	N	X			
R	E	D	E	C	O	R	A	T	I	O	N	
O	R	E	G	A	N	O	O	B	S	E	S	
B	A	S	S	O	S	A	C	E	U	R		
E	R	A	K	A	K	A	K	A	K	A		
I	D	E	A	S	S	L	U	B				
M	T	D	R	O	P	S	R	I				
M	I	A	E	D	P							
I	D	S	E	E	L	S	A	B				
M	A	C	S	E	R	A	L					
A	L	A	E		M	I	D					
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PUZZLES ON PAGE 15

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EXPERIENCE YOUR CHAUTAUQUA THIS 2026 SEASON!

Every summer at Chautauqua is different — shaped by the people, ideas and performances that fill each week with discovery. But one thing stays the same. When the world feels uncertain, there's still a place to think clearly. A season of ideas, performance and community on the shores of Chautauqua Lake. A place to step away from the noise and experience something shared. A summer community built around thoughtful dialogue, cultural experience and connection across perspectives. From leading thinkers to world-renowned artists, Chautauqua is a place to listen and learn — together.

Community is always welcome.
Sunday gate entry and parking until 5 pm are free of charge.

WEEK ONE THEME:

ICONS AND INSTIGATORS: WOMEN WHO CHANGE THE WORLD

Special highlights this week:

- **The United States Army Field Band and Soldiers' Chorus**
Sunday, 6/28 at 3:00 pm
- **Alicia Olatuja** | Tuesday, 6/30 at 8:00 pm
- **Sutton Foster and Kelli O'Hara** Thursday, 7/2 at 8 pm.
Concessions will be available*
- **Preservation Hall Jazz Band** | Friday, 7/3 at 8:00 pm
- **Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra Independence Day Celebration** | Friday, 7/4 at 8:00 pm

*Food and beverages purchased at the Amphitheater may be enjoyed within Odland Plaza. Inside the Amphitheater, only water bottles and Chautauqua souvenir cups are permitted. Outside food and beverages are not allowed. Water bottles must be empty upon entry.

A "clear container" policy will be utilized at the Amphitheater and all other venues all summer. For more information visit: clear.chq.org



Submitted Photo: Sutton Foster and Kelli O'Hara

WEEK 1 SCHEDULE

SUNDAY 6/28	MONDAY 6/29	TUESDAY 6/30	WEDNESDAY 7/1	THURSDAY 7/2	FRIDAY 7/3	SATURDAY 7/4	SUNDAY 7/5
						Week Two Begins	Art in the Park 11-4
10:45am Three Taps of the Gavel. Ecumenical Service of Worship and Sermon. The Rt. Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde , bishop, Episcopal Diocese of Washington	9:15am The Rt. Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde 10:45am Norah O'Donnell , contributing correspondent, "60 Minutes". Deborah Roberts , co-anchor, ABC's "20-20"; sr. nat. affairs correspondent, ABC News	9:15am The Rt. Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde 10:45am Alyse Nelson , president and CEO, Vital Voices Global Partnership. With Vital Voices Fellows: Nika Kovac , Breeze Liu , Leah Lizarondo , Kakenya Ntaiya , Aline Sara	9:15am The Rt. Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde 10:45am Kerri Walsh Jennings , Olympic gold medalist athlete, U.S. women's beach volleyball. Tara VanDerveer , Olympic gold medalist coach, U.S. women's basketball 2:00pm Susannah Heschel , Emi M. Black Distinguished Prof.; chair of Jewish Studies, Dartmouth, 8:00pm The Raleigh Ringers	9:15am Faith Journeys Service. The Rt. Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde 10:45am Sutton Foster , Tony Award-Winning actress. Kelli O'Hara , Tony Award-winning actress 2:00pm Yolanda Pierce , Dean and Univ. Disting. Prof. of Religion and Lit., Vanderbilt Div. Sch. 4:00pm Theater. NPW 1. Ahoy-Hoy 8:00pm Kelli O'Hara and Sutton Foster with the CSO. Stuart Chafetz , conductor	9:15am Ecumenical Communion Service 10:45am Sylvia Earle , president and chairman, Mission Blue; Explorer at Large, National Geographic Society 2:00pm CLSC Author Presentation. Anna North , <i>Bog Queen: A Novel</i> 4:00pm Theater. NPW 1. Ahoy-Hoy 8:00pm Preservation Hall Jazz Band	2:00pm Theater. NPW 1. Ahoy-Hoy 3:00pm Clf. Dennis Wilder , former senior U.S. intelligence official and policymaker 8:00pm Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra Independence Day Celebration. Stuart Chafetz , conductor	10:45am Ecumenical Service of Worship and Sermon. The Rev. Robert W. Henderson , senior minister and head of staff, Covenant Presbyterian Church 3:00pm School of Music: Faculty Spotlight Concert 3:30pm WCR. Noah Falck (poetry) and Sunita Puri (prose) 8:00pm Sacred Song Service

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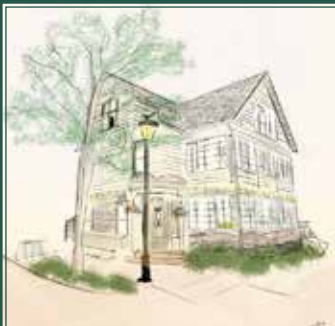
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Submitted Photo -
Rev. Mary Elita Masters

Join us and spend an inspirational
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This Sunday, July 5th at 11 am we
welcome Rev. Mary Elita Masters, minister
emeritus of Unity of Buffalo, presenting:

"A Unity Lesson on Prosperity"
*What to do when it appears there
is not enough*

"Prosperity" comes from the Latin root which
literally translates "according to hope" or
"to go for-ward hopefully." Thus, prosperity is
not so much a condition of life as it is
an attitude toward life.

Other Services:

Sundays: Denominational services begin at 9:30 a.m. followed at 11 by a
renowned speaker in the amphitheater. Sunday activities run from 6/28 through
8/30 and are free. Parking is free on Sundays until 5 p.m. Our Unity Sunday
Celebration services are held in the beautiful Hall of Missions, adjacent to the
Hall of Philosophy, Sundays at 9:30 a. m.

Wednesdays: On Wednesday evenings from 6:30-7:30 p.m. the visiting Unity
minister presents a Positive Path for Spiritual Living free workshop, held at the
Turner Community/Athletic Center.

Detailed descriptions of both our Sunday and Wednesday activities are found at
www.unitychq.org.

unity A positive path
for spiritual living

Unity Worldwide Ministries is an open-minded, open-hearted spiritual community that
honors all paths to God and helps people discover and live their spiritual potential
and purpose. Unity seeks to apply the teachings of Jesus as well as other spiritual
masters in a positive and practical way. unity.org

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Festivals Fredonia Brings Summer to Life with 8 Great Wednesdays in the Park

*Contributed by
Festivals Fredonia*

Summer evenings in Fredonia are about to get a whole lot better. Festivals Fredonia is thrilled to announce the inaugural 8 Great Wednesdays in the Park, a free, family-friendly outdoor concert series running every Wednesday from July 1 through August 19, 2026 at Barker Commons in Downtown Fredonia. Grab your lawn chair, bring the kids, and get ready for eight weeks of incredible live music, great food, and the kind of warm summer nights that make small-town life so special.

Each week brings a brand-new theme and a talented local or regional act to the Barker Commons gazebo, with pre-show activities starting at 5:30 PM and music rocking the park from 6:30 to 8:30 PM. The lineup is as diverse as it is exciting:

- **July 1** - Country Night with Everett Lee & Underground Stampede
- **July 8** - Americana Night with Unknown Legends
- **July 15** - Classic Rock Night with Screamin' East
- **July 22** - Rock Night with The Freeze
- **July 29** - Hard Rock Night with White Bronco
- **August 5** - Jazz Night with 23 SkiDoo
- **August 12** - 50's & 60's Night with DJ Joe Gould
- **August 19** - Blues Night with Jeff Fetterman

The fun starts before the music does! Each week will feature pre-show activities including art, dance lessons, and more from 5:30 to 6:30 PM. Hungry? Enjoy hot dogs fresh off the grill along with offerings from local food vendors. Raise a glass with beverages available from local alcohol vendors, and settle in for a night of pure summer fun. Admission is completely free — because good times should be for everyone.

Festivals Fredonia is also excited to welcome local non-profit organizations to participate each week. Non-profits are invited to set up a table and connect with the community in a fun, relaxed setting. Interested organizations are encouraged to reach out to us at festivalsfredoniany@gmail.com for more information.

8 Great Wednesdays in the Park is proudly sponsored by Gugino & Ryel Financial. Their generous support makes this free community event possible, and we are incredibly grateful for their partnership.

For the full schedule and more information, visit us at www.festivalsfredoniany.org/8-great-wednesdays-in-the-park or find us on Facebook and Instagram. Festivals Fredonia is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization in partnership with the

Village of Fredonia, the Town of Pomfret, area merchants, organizations, and volunteers. We are dedicated to providing quality events and entertainment for the Fredonia community.

Rain or shine - we'll see you in the park!

Sponsored by:



8 Great Wednesdays in the Park

Barker Commons in Fredonia, NY from 5:30pm to 8:30pm

July 1, 2026

Country Night with **Everett Lee & Underground Stampede**

July 8, 2026

Americana Music with **Unknown Legends**

July 15, 2026

Classic Rock Night with **Screamin' East**

July 22, 2026

Rock Night with **The Freeze**

July 29, 2026

Hard Rock Night with **White Bronco**

August 5, 2026

Jazz Night with **23 SkiDoo**

August 12, 2026

50's & 60's Night with **DJ Joe Gould**

August 19, 2026

Blues Night with **Jeff Fetterman**

Audubon Photo Contest Deadline is Tuesday, Free Story Time This Sunday



Tuesday, June 30, is the deadline for entering and voting in Audubon Community Nature Center's 2026 Nature Photography Contest at AudubonCNC.org/Photo-Contest. Pictured is "American Red Squirrel" by Alex York of Oshawa, Ontario, a Youth entry recognized earlier. You and your favorite 2-8-year-old(s) can go on nature reading adventures at First Sunday Story Time, 12:30 - 1 p.m. this Sunday, July 5. Stop by the Blue Heron Gift Shop, then—indoors and out—visit Audubon's live animals and enjoy the Nature Play Areas. Audubon is located at 1600 Riverside Road, one-quarter mile east of Route 62 between Jamestown and Warren. To learn more, call (716) 569-2345 or visit AudubonCNC.org/events.

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WATCH CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY'S STORY UNFOLD IN NEW AMERICA 250 VIDEO

Contributed by

Justin Gould
Chautauqua County
Media Information Officer

As the nation prepares to celebrate its 250th anniversary, Chautauqua County Government and the Chautauqua County Historian's Office have released America 250: Chautauqua County's Story, a new educational video highlighting the county's contributions to American history.

Narrated by local student volunteers Mattie Sillemann, Kennedy Thurston, and Blake Case, the video explores key chapters of Chautauqua County's past, including the Holland Land Company, the historic Stow Ferry, the Barcelona Lighthouse, and Jamestown's nationally recognized voting machine industry. The project was created to inspire young people to connect with local history while demonstrating how Chautauqua County helped shape the nation's story.

The video was shared with schools throughout the county as an educational resource for Flag Day and America 250 activities.



"As we prepare to celebrate America's 250th birthday, it is important that we remember history happens at the local level," said County Executive PJ Wendel. "The students who participated in this project represent the future of our communities, and I am proud that they helped tell the story of

how Chautauqua County has contributed to our nation's journey."

Residents can watch the video and explore additional educational resources at CHQGov.com/America250.

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The Busti Party: July 4, 1816 Independence Day Celebration in Busti, NY



Illustration (fictional rendering): An artistic interpretation of an Independence Day celebration in Busti, NY, July 4, 1816. Chautauqua County Archival Collection.

From *Young's History of Chautauqua County*, pp. 331–332.
Account compiled by County Historian Norman Carlson.

One of Chautauqua County's earliest Independence Day celebrations is preserved in Young's History of Chautauqua County under the account known as "The Busti Party," held July 4, 1816.

Carlson describes it as "a noteworthy celebration of independence in the Town of Ellicott," held at Stephen Frank's home in present-day Busti. Though modest in size, the structure had been adapted for the occasion, as "the chamber was finished off for a ball-room, in which there was a ball in the evening."

He notes the conditions of early travel and daily life: "The day was pleasant, but cool. The roads were bad, and there were no pleasure carriages in the country." Attendees often arrived on horseback, with "the married men, if they had horses, carried their wives behind them on horseback," while others came "on foot."

The gathering reflected both community spirit and political division. Carlson writes that the turnout was "more especially of the democrats," following a recent local election, and that "the federalists, feeling sore on their defeat, did not enter into the spirit of the celebration." He adds that "some tried to get up a celebration at Jamestown but failed."

Formal organization of the day included "Theron Plumb... president of the day, and Levi Leonard, orator," while "Lemuel Smith of Sugar Grove, Pa., was attending clergyman, and offered prayer."

Entertainment was simple but memorable. "The only music was the firing of an anvil, and a violin by Ebenezer Davis." Food and drink reflected frontier resources, including "Monongahela whisky, maple sugar, and milk," with participants choosing among "clear whiskey, grog, sling, or milk punch."

The meal and program were held outdoors under a constructed arbor. "The oration was pronounced under a large bower of green bushes on crotches and poles," followed by a communal meal featuring meats and other provisions served "all for 25 cents each," even as "flour was \$15 a barrel."

Carlson notes the presence of early sett-

lers and veterans, listing Revolutionary War soldiers including "Jacob Fenton, --- Wellman, John Owens, Jasper Marsh, Stephen Wilcox, Joseph Loucks, Eliphallet Steward, and perhaps others."

The celebration also reflected the political tone of the era. A widely remembered toast declared: "May every federalist ride a hard trotting horse, with a porcupine saddle and a pair of cobweb trousers."

The evening ended in sharply changing weather. Carlson writes that "before morning the weather was uncomfortably cold," with returning attendees, "especially the ladies in white dresses," suffering from "the severity of the cold." He adds that "the grass was frozen stiff, and the ground quite hard," part of what was known as the "cold season," when even "a snowstorm... loaded the tree-tops heavily with snow" in June of that year.

Carlson places the event within the broader early history of the Town of Ellicott, noting its original 1813 boundaries and early settlements. He identifies Stephen Frank as a key figure whose home "was, for a short while, an early tavern for public accommodation and thus a natural place for holding the party."

He also contrasts competing historical accounts of early Independence Day celebrations, observing that "the Jamestown account credits itself as the main celebration," while "the Busti account considers itself the only celebration," cautioning that "historians, like gossipers, who rely on just one source, beware."

Carlson concludes that these gatherings were likely "the first publicly organized patriotic celebrations in the county," offering insight into early "local feelings of national identity and partisanship," as well as frontier customs ranging from food pricing to early music, dance, and "anvil shoots."

He situates the broader hardship of 1816 within what is now known as the global "year without a summer," linked to the eruption of Mount Tambora in 1815.

For more local history, explore the Chautauqua County Historian's resources online at: chautauquacountyny.gov/county-historian/resources



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bemuspointny.org/farmers-market

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year-round

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Accepts: SNAP, Fresh Connect,
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fredoniafarmersmarket.org

Jamestown Farmers Market

Saturdays, 9 AM-1 PM

June 6-November 21

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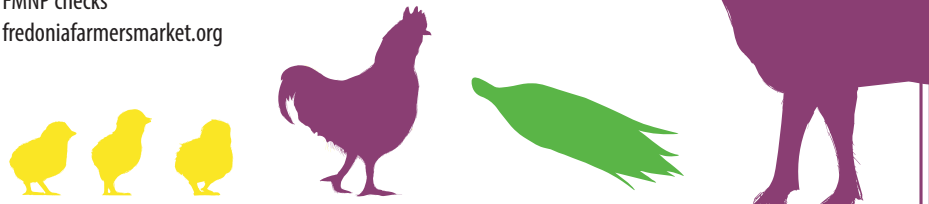
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Paint CHQ Mural Project Begins in Dunkirk

Dedication ceremony scheduled for July 2, Artist Talk will take place on June 30

Contributed by
Paint CHQ

The Chautauqua County Partnership for Economic Growth (CCPEG) is pleased to announce the commencement of a new public art mural at 125 Central Ave. in Dunkirk, as part of the Paint CHQ program that launched in 2025.

After several delays prevented the originally selected artist from creating the mural in the fall of 2025, organizers have now moved forward with a new artist and design. Mural artist ARCY, based out of Connecticut, has been tapped to paint the large-scale installation, which will bring color, creativity, and a renewed sense of place to one of Dunkirk's key downtown corridors. The latest Paint CHQ project in Dunkirk continues the effort to enhance communities across Chautauqua County through transformative public art by celebrating local identity, inspiring community pride, and contributing to the ongoing revitalization of the county's cities, villages, and business districts.

With work on the new mural now underway, community members and visitors are encouraged to stop by the site during the painting process to witness the artwork take shape and learn more about the impact public art can have on community development and economic vitality.

As part of the project, the public is also invited to attend a free Artist Talk on Tuesday, June 30, where ARCY will share insights into the mural's design, creative inspiration, and artistic process. The event will offer attendees a unique opportunity to engage directly with the artist and gain a deeper understanding of the story behind the work. The Artist Talk will begin at 5:30 p.m. and will take place at the SUNY Fredonia Center for Innovation & Economic Development (CIED), 214 Central Ave., Dunkirk.

The project will conclude with a Mural Dedication Ceremony on Thursday, July 2 at 5:30 p.m., celebrating the completed artwork and recognizing the partnerships that made the project possible. Residents, business owners, community leaders, and visitors are encouraged to attend.

"Paint CHQ continues to demonstrate how public art can serve as a catalyst



Submitted Photo

Paint CHQ Dunkirk muralist ARCY, based in Connecticut.

for community engagement, placemaking, and economic development," said Rebecca Wurster, Planning Coordinator for the Chautauqua County Department of Planning and Development and CCPEG. "We are excited to bring another impactful mural project to Chautauqua County and look forward to celebrating its long awaited completion with the Dunkirk community."

Paint CHQ is an initiative of the Chautauqua County Partnership for Economic Growth and the Chautauqua County Department of Planning and Development that supports the creation of high-quality public art throughout Chautauqua County. By transforming public spaces into vibrant community assets, the program helps strengthen local identity, encourage tourism, and enhance quality of life for residents and visitors alike.

For more information on Paint CHQ, visit ChooseCHQ.com/PaintCHQ.

About CCPEG - The Chautauqua County Partnership for Economic Growth (CCPEG) 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. It is an initiative of the Chautauqua Region Economic Development Corporation (CREDC). For more information visit CHQPartnership.org.



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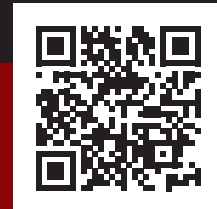


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WNY Forward Fund to Offer Second Round of Grants for Exploration of Strategic Realignment in the Nonprofit Sector to Create Strength, Stability and Sustainability

Local Funders Collaborative Seeks to Support Community in Face of Federal Cuts and Shifting Priorities

Contributed by

WNY Forward Fund

The WNY Forward Fund, a group of local funders who joined together to support the WNY community and the local nonprofit sector in the face of major shifts in federal funding and priorities since early 2025, has announced its second round of grant opportunities for the exploration of strategic realignment and nonprofit resiliency in the WNY area.

Exploration of Strategic Realignment and Nonprofit Resiliency is one of three priority areas designated by the collaboration. A grant application process will open immediately for nonprofit organizations interested in exploring and/or pursuing strategic realignment in varying levels including partnerships, shared services, mergers, and other collaborative models to help organizations adapt to the evolving environment and remain resilient and responsive to community needs. More information and the application can be found at www.WNYForwardFund.org. The deadline to apply is Friday, July 24, 2026, at 4 p.m.

Grant awards, intended to spur reimagining of service delivery and innovation within the nonprofit sector, will be between \$2,500 and \$25,000 and will be awarded in early fall. Nonprofits in the eight counties of Western New York (Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans, Wyoming)

are eligible to apply. In early 2026, the WNY Forward Fund allocated a total of \$368,690 to 18 organizations ranging from \$2,250 up to \$25,000 for their strategic realignment initiatives in the Fund's first round of grantmaking. To date, 14 local funders have contributed approximately \$2.3 million to the Fund, created to spark innovation, strengthen capacity, and support nonprofits as they adapt to shifting conditions and explore how to deliver services in partnership.

The Fund is a multi-year commitment to help ensure that the WNY community and the nonprofit sector remain strong, resilient, and equipped to adapt in the face of recent changes that have created financial strain, rapid change, and deep uncertainty at a time when community need is increasing. The philanthropic community's goal in working together is to help protect and strengthen the community, while encouraging innovation and reimagining how to best use community resources for long-term resilience.

Interested nonprofits can learn more about the WNY Forward Fund and the grant application process for Strategic Realignment and Nonprofit Resiliency at WNYForwardFund.org. The deadline for applications is Friday, July 24 at 4 p.m..



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Upcoming Movies at The Reg include Boots Riley directing Keke Palmer and Demi Moore in the comedy crime film **I Love Boosters** (July 10 at 7 p.m.), Leo Woodall and Dustin Hoffman in the caper thriller **Tuner** (July 15 at 7 p.m.) and Chiwetel Ejiofor and Renate Reinsve in the hit psychological horror film **Backrooms** (July 17 at 7 p.m.)

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



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14 ELM 6:30pm 4:00pm	15	16 @NEW	17 OLN 6:30pm	18 NF 6:30pm	19 NIA 6:30pm	20
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The Westfield Fund Announces Grants and Annual Campaign

Contributed by

Northern Chautauqua Community Foundation

The Westfield Fund is pleased to announce the kickoff of the 3rd Annual 100-100-100 campaign and acknowledge this year's grant recipients. The Westfield Fund is a Community Donor Advised Fund at the Northern Chautauqua Community Foundation (NCCF), raising funds and awarding grants for projects and activities that enhance the quality of life in the Westfield community. All funds raised and awarded are administered by NCCF on behalf of The Westfield Fund for the sole purpose and benefit of the Westfield community. A committee of volunteers from the Westfield community considers grant applications and promotes the fund.

The 100-100-100 campaign, now in its third year, strives to encourage 100 donors to contribute \$100 each in 100 days, for a total of \$10,000 raised for The Westfield Fund. With the support and generosity of the community, this goal has been reached and exceeded each year of the campaign.

This year's grant recipients, each receiving \$600, are Centaur Stride, First Baptist Church Kids Closet, and Westfield Stray Cat Rescue. Since the inception of The Westfield Fund, almost \$12,000 has been awarded in support of various projects and initiatives. Past recipients include Union Relief, Centaur Stride, Lake Shore Center for the Arts, YWCA Westfield, Northern Lake Recreation Center, Westfield Development



Corporation, Westfield Stray Cat Rescue, and Every Child, Inc.

The Westfield Fund's Advisory Committee is Alan Holbrook (Committee Chair), Martha Bills, Bob Dymont, John Hemmer, Marilyn Hemmer, Cristie Herbst, Deanne Manzella (Executive Committee), Rick Mascaro, Sue Poster (Secretary), Vinny Sanzo, Joel Seachrist, Ami VandeVelde, Mike VandeVelde (Vice-chair), Rachel Willow, and Rob Wilson. Pete Holt, Jean McCausland, Nancy Walker, and Rob Wilson make up the Grants Committee.

Please allow yourself to be inspired by the community's generosity and the good work these organizations are doing in support of their missions.

For more information about The Westfield Fund or to make a contribution to the fund, please visit nccfoundation.org/our-funds/the-westfield-fund, call 716-366-4892, or email nccf@nccfoundation.org.

Since its incorporation in 1986, the NCCF has invested nearly \$25 million in northern Chautauqua County through strategic grantmaking, targeted scholarships, and leadership and community collaborations. The NCCF is a tax-exempt charitable organization inherently committed to enhancing the northern Chautauqua community and encouraging local philanthropy. As a nationally accredited community foundation, the NCCF has proven compliance with the National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations, demonstrating integrity, equity, accountability, transparency, and effectiveness in meeting the needs of its community. For more information on the NCCF, visit www.nccfoundation.org or call 716-366-4892.



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2026 Unitarian Social Justice Award Presented to Justin Hubbard

On June 21, Board President David Winner presented the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Jamestown's 2026 T. Richard Parker Award for Social Justice to Justin Hubbard, founder and leader of the Jamestown Justice Coalition (JJC). The service included a reading of Robert F. Kennedy's "Let No Man be Discouraged." Board Treasurer Ben Haskin gave a brief history of the Parker Award and shared "Social Justice as a UU Religious Value." Members Jeffrey Victor and Leonard Faulk were recognized as the originators of the award. In his remarks, Hubbard described how the Black Lives Matter rally in Jamestown's Dow Park in 2020 following the murder of George Floyd motivated him to start the JJC, whose mission is "Pursuing recognition, dignity, and equity for people in our community and promoting justice and democracy for all." A list of all Parker Award recipients can be found at UUJamestown.org/ParkerAward.



Congressman Langworthy Launches "America 250 Community Heroes Award" to Honor Local Residents Who Strengthen Their Communities



Contributed by
Congressman
Nick Langworthy

honoring the people who continue that tradition every single day."

Congressman Nick Langworthy today announced the launch of the NY-23 America 250 Community Heroes Award, a district-wide initiative recognizing individuals across Western New York and the Southern Tier whose service, sacrifice, leadership, and dedication reflect the enduring values that have shaped our nation for 250 years.

The initiative will highlight the stories of residents who embody the values that have defined the American spirit: service, sacrifice, patriotism, hard work, and a commitment to something greater than themselves. The award will recognize outstanding citizens throughout the 23rd Congressional District, including veterans, first responders, volunteers, educators, healthcare workers, community leaders, coaches, and everyday neighbors who have gone above and beyond to make their communities stronger.

As America prepares to celebrate its 250th anniversary, Congressman Langworthy is calling on residents throughout New York's 23rd Congressional District to nominate local heroes who have made a meaningful impact in their communities.

Residents are encouraged to participate in the open nomination process and share the stories of individuals whose actions represent the best of America and the best of Western New York and the Southern Tier. Winners of the award will be recognized at a series of events across the district. Nomination information and additional details on the NY-23 America 250 Community Heroes Award are available on Congressman Langworthy's website: <https://langworthy.house.gov/america-250-community-heroes-award>

"Our nation's story is written by ordinary Americans doing extraordinary things," said Congressman Langworthy. "For 250 years, generations of Americans have stepped forward to serve their neighbors, their communities, and their country. The America 250 Community Heroes Award is a way to recognize what makes America great by

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Democratic County Dinner to Honor Rolly Kidder



Rolly Kidder pictured with his grandsons, Jack and Ben.

Contributed by
Chautauqua County Democratic Committee

Former New York State Assemblyman Rolland “Rolly” Kidder will be honored at the Annual Chautauqua County Democratic dinner on Thursday, July 16, at the Doubletree Hotel at 6 p.m. for his lifetime of public service.

In 1970, as a Navy Lt. in charge of a Mekong River patrol boat, Rolly started a successful primary campaign to be the Democratic candidate for State Assembly. After narrowly losing the November 1970 general election for Assembly, he became part of the Democratic majority in the first election of the county legislature (replacing the old Board of Supervisors) in 1971.

In 1974, Rolly ran successfully for the New York State Assembly, defeating his prominent Republican opponent by 8,000 votes. He became the first Democratic Assemblyman from Chautauqua County in 100 years.

In 1982, Rolly stepped away from the Assembly, passing the torch to Bill Parment, who was elected as a Democrat to the State Assembly for 28 years,

from 1982-2010. Rolly became a Trustee of the Power Authority of the State of New York and served from 1982 to 1993. Both Presidents Clinton and Obama appointed Rolly to the American Battle Monuments Commission and he was a member of the original National World War II Memorial Design Committee.

Among his many accomplishments, Rolly is also an accomplished author. His “A Hometown Went to War,” is an oral history of 37 veterans describing their experiences during World War II. Rolly returned to Vietnam in 2010 and wrote a second book, “Backtracking in Brown Water,” reflecting on his impressions of the country.

Reservations for the Annual Dinner are required. The \$100 donation per person may be mailed to: Chautauqua County Democratic Committee, PO Box 1218, Dunkirk, NY 14048. Please indicate your menu selection of: Herb Roasted Chicken, Grilled Sirloin or Eggplant Parmesan (Vegetarian).

Reservations are due by July 5. For more information, contact Marcia Westling Johnson at 716-673-5938 or chqdem.chair@gmail.com



CHAMBER CORNER

Nominations Open for the 2026 CHQ Chamber Business Awards

Article Contributed by

Daniel J. Heitzenrater

Chautauqua County Chamber of Commerce
 President and CEO

The CHQ Chamber will once again honor a variety of local businesses and organizations that are doing outstanding work and nominations are open now. Anyone may nominate a business or organization to be recognized during the CHQ Chamber Business Awards Banquet, which is scheduled for October 8 at the Williams Center at SUNY Fredonia.

Award categories are designed to include businesses and organizations in a number of fields. One award will be given for Emerging Business of the Year – a newer or growing business that has demonstrated vision and/or filled a need in Chautauqua County. There are four business sector awards that will recognize outstanding service, production, growth, or community involvement for Hospitality Business of the Year (restaurants, attractions, lodging); Service Business of the Year (retail or service such as financial, insurance, legal,

etc.); Producer of the Year (manufacturing, agriculture, or construction); and Not-For-Profit of the Year (and outstanding nonprofit organization).

The Business Champion Award will be presented to an organization that has contributed most to the economic development, quality of life, and stability of Chautauqua County. The Business of the Year Award will be presented to a business that has demonstrated outstanding leadership in employee growth, product development or exemplary service.

Nominations are open through July 31. All nominations must be submitted through our online form at www.chqchamber.org/2026-award-nominations. Preference will be given to nominees that are members of the CHQ Chamber, and all information must be complete in the application. Nominations will be reviewed by a committee of volunteers from across the County, including prior years award winners, and will be approved by the CHQ Chamber Board of Directors.



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Opera House Announces Two Exciting Summer Events



Submitted Photos

Contributed by

1891 Fredonia Opera House Performing Arts Center

The 1891 Fredonia Opera House Performing Arts Center is excited to announce two blockbuster summer events. **Dunkirk, NY → Point Place, WI: A Conversation with That '70s Show Co-Creator, Producer, Writer (and Dunkirk Native) Mark Brazill** will be held on Sat., Aug. 1; and **An Evening with The Voice's Lucas West** will be held on Fri., Aug. 28. Both events are at 7:30pm.

One of the most popular television sitcoms of the late '90s and early 2000s was *That '70s Show*. It ran for eight seasons from 1998 to 2006, and was nominated for 16 Primetime Emmy Awards. The series focuses on the lives of a group of six teenage friends living in the 1970s in the fictional town of Point Place, WI.

But what many may not know is that Point Place was a setting that served as a stand-in for Dunkirk, NY! Written and created by Dunkirk native Mark Brazill, the show was based on and inspired by actual people, places and events in Brazill's life growing up in Dunkirk.

This special evening exploring Dunkirk's influence on the show will feature show clips, trivia, guest appearances, and the story of how Brazill developed his concept for a show that ultimately became one of America's most watched series. Comedian Ritch Shydnier will host and interview Brazill. Audience members will have an opportunity to ask questions at the end of the evening, as well.

Brazill started his career doing stand-up comedy, and headlined clubs across America. He was a regular at The Improv and The Comedy Store. After opening for Dennis Miller, he was recruited to write for *The Dennis Miller Show*. That began a comedy writing career that eventually led to the creation of *That '70s Show*. Brazill also has been credited with writing for and producing *3rd Rock from the Sun*, and

writing for *In Living Color*. Additionally, he co-created and wrote many episodes of *Mr. Rhodes*.

Rochester-based vocalist, instrumentalist, and songwriter Lucas West is thought by many to be a strong force of the next generation of popular music. The 21-year-old makes it his mission to pull from a variety of genres including rock, pop, jazz, soul, and R&B, and bring it back to the mainstream.

West placed third on Season 29 of *The Voice: Battle of Champions*, and was John Legend's finalist. He has performed in front of the likes of Adam Levine, Kelly Clarkson, Katy Perry, Lionel Richie, and Luke Bryan.

West also is known throughout Rochester, Buffalo, and New York State for his powerful rendition of the national anthem, which he has performed at two Buffalo Bills home games.

He is a 2026 graduate of SUNY Fredonia's School of Music with a BA in music and concentration in Jazz Studies. His journey on *The Voice* began in Fredonia's Mason Hall, where he recorded and submitted an audition video that ultimately led to his selection for the show. During the competition, he worked closely with celebrity coaches Legend, Levine, and Clarkson, gaining insight into the professional music industry.

General Admission tickets to both shows are on sale now. They can be purchased in person at the Opera House Box Office or by phone at 716-679-1891, Tuesday-Friday, 12-4:30 p.m. They can be purchased online anytime at www.fredopera.org.

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

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10,000 Maniacs 45th Anniversary Concert and Arts Festival

Jamestown's own celebrate 45 years with a three-day Arts Festival

Contributed by

Reg Lenna Center for the Arts

Jamestown, NY -Labor Day Weekend 2026 will mark a historic homecoming in Jamestown as 10,000 Maniacs celebrate their 45th Anniversary. The band, who first performed on Labor Day weekend 1981, will host an arts festival culminating in a benefit concert on Saturday, September 5, 2026, at the Reg Lenna Center for the Arts. Proceeds from the show will benefit three distinct funds at the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation. Tickets will go on sale to the public on Monday, June 22nd at 12pm Eastern at

RegLenna.com

The headline concert will be the crown jewel in a multi-day arts festival featuring live performances, archival exhibitions, and community events. The festival will highlight the artistic spirit and cultural legacy of the band, bringing together musicians, artists, activists, fans, local businesses and community organizations for a weekend of programming honoring the intersection of art, labor, history and education.

The 10,000 Maniacs 45th Anniversary Arts Festival is continuing to add more events to the roster, so stay connected at Maniacs.com and book your trip to Jamestown for Labor

Day weekend 2026 to join us in celebration, solidarity, and support!

The Reg Lenna Center for The Arts box office is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 12-5 p.m. and one hour before movies and events. Tickets may also be purchased by calling 716.484.7070 or at reglenna.com. Reg Lenna Center for The Arts is located at 116 E. 3rd St. in Jamestown, NY.

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



A look at the events...

THURS, SEPTEMBER 3, 2026

7:00 p.m. - (Pay What You Can)

Reg Lenna Center for the Arts Media Arts Studio

Madness Most Discreet Presents: A Bright Room Called Day Featuring Work from Sukanya Burman

The weekend begins with a multidisciplinary theatrical event produced by Madness Most Discreet in collaboration with Sukanya Burman Dance. This contemporary staging of Tony Kushner's A Bright Room Called Day explores themes of political responsibility, artistic integrity, and social upheaval through an intimate and highly stylized production in which four performers portray the play's full cast of characters. The performance reflects the same spirit of social awareness, artistic experimentation, and emotional story-

telling that has long defined the music and legacy of 10,000 Maniacs.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2026

4:00 p.m. (Free)

Jamestown Community College Weeks Gallery

Maniacs 45: An Archival Retrospective

Taking place in the Weeks Gallery at Jamestown Community College, where the founding members of 10,000 Maniacs first met, this special exhibition will showcase archival photographs, memorabilia, recordings, posters, and artifacts spanning the band's 45-year history. The retrospective traces the evolution of the group from its earliest beginnings in Jamestown to its enduring international influence. After the opening reception, the show can be viewed all weekend during normal gallery hours.

6:00 p.m. (Free)

Winter Garden Plaza, 313 Main Street, Downtown Jamestown

Dead Letter Office (R.E.M. tribute band)

Downtown Jamestown's open-air Winter Garden Plaza will host a performance of beloved regional performers, Dead Letter Office, who play in tribute to one of 10,000 Maniacs earliest collaborators, R.E.M.

8:00 p.m. (Ticketed event)

Reg Lenna Center for the Arts Media Arts Studio

10,000 Maniacs New Record Listening Party

Fans will have the opportunity to hear unreleased material from 10,000 Maniacs ahead of the band's forthcoming record release during an exclusive listening event hosted upstairs at The Reg. The evening will include refreshments and a first look at new music from the legendary hometown band. Limited tickets available for sale on Monday, July 13.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2026

6:00 p.m. (Ticketed event)

Reg Lenna Center for the Arts Media Arts Studio

10,000 Maniacs Pre-concert VIP Meet and Greet

Fans will have the opportunity to take photos with the band and celebrate their 45 year career just before they take the stage. Limited tickets available for sale on Monday, July 13.

7:30 p.m.

Reg Lenna Center for the Arts

10,000 Maniacs 45th Anniversary Concert Extravaganza

The centerpiece of the anniversary weekend will be a special benefit concert celebrating 45 years of music by 10,000 Maniacs. The evening will honor the band's legacy while raising support for causes connected to music, community, education, and the arts in Western New York. Tickets available for sale Mon. June 22nd, 12 noon at RegLenna.com

Proceeds from the concert will support three scholarship funds created to honor those loved by the band; The Aaron Perez Fund (Jamestown Community College media arts students), The B&B Fund (mothers attending college in Western New York and Western Pennsylvania), and the Robert Buck Memorial Scholarship Fund (assist college music students) at the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation. The festival is made possible by the generosity of local sponsors, Southern Chautauqua Federal Credit Union and UBS Financial Services.



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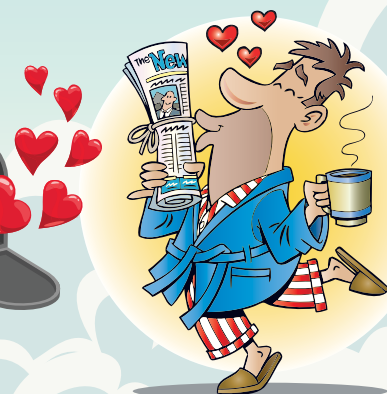
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