



# CHAUTAUQUA GAZETTE




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LABOR DAY

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**"The Labor  
Movement was the  
principal force that  
transformed misery  
and despair into  
hope and progress."**

~ Martin Luther King, Jr.

## TIME-HONORED TRADITION:

### Erica Ericson Receives George Ritzer Memorial Labor Award

*Contributing Editor*  
**Katrina Fuller**

When Erica Ericson learned she would receive the George Ritzer Memorial Labor Award at this year's Labor Day Festival in Bergman Park, her first thought was one many award winners have: "Do I really deserve this?"


"I get imposter syndrome, to be honest," she said. "Like, do I really deserve this? I just don't feel like I did what they think. But this award is making me understand and realize I've done more than I think I have."

The George Ritzer award honors individuals who volunteer and contribute to the labor movement, as well as give their time to community organizations. For Ericson, a lifelong Jamestown resident and third-generation union member, the recognition is both humbling and affirming. The award was presented under the leadership of Ryan Sweeney, president of the Jamestown Area Labor Council, who has guided the council in continuing its mission to support and uplift working people throughout



**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

## SALUTE TO LABOR



*Contributing Writer*  
**Jordan Nicholson**

The American worker has always been the redoubtable engine of this Republic, stomping steel into bridges, hammering rails into the veins of a continent, and wrestling oil out of the bowels of the earth. Without organized labor, this so-called land of the free would be nothing but a company town nightmare—chainsmoking bosses

counting their gold while the rest of us choke on the dust.

It was the unions—bloodied, beaten, and blacklisted—that stood up to the plantation logic of industrial capitalism. The coal miners in West Virginia, the meatpackers in Chicago, the longshoremen in San Francisco. And yes, even in quiet corners of Western New York, in Chautauqua County, where furniture makers, textile workers, and steel laborers in Jamestown and Dunkirk formed strongholds of the labor movement. Those were men and women who organized in church basements and union halls, demanding that their skill and sweat not be swallowed whole by companies that saw them as replaceable cogs.

Make no mistake, this wasn't some gentle, academic debate. This was violence, and the violence came from the top: think Pinkertons with rifles sent in to break the backs of workers who only wanted a fair shake. Labor Day isn't some picnic in the park—it's a holiday wrung from the blood of workers shot in the streets for daring to demand an eight-hour day. And right here in Jamestown, strikes in the early 20th century for better pay in the furniture factories remind us that even the so-called small towns of America have their battle scars in the long march for dignity.

But look around today, and you'll see the same forces circling like vultures. Corporate profits through

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 9**



This Week Around Town

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

“Wetlands” Public Meeting  
#12 | 9:30 AM - 11 AM  
Bemus Point Golf Club & Tap House  
Bemus  
For Info: chqlpoa.org

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

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

CHQ Professionals Group  
Coffee Meetup | 8 AM - 9:30 PM  
Ryder Cup Coffee Shop | Lakewood  
For Info: choosechq.com/  
chqprofessionals

Music at The Point Sunset  
Series: Silver Xtreme &  
Midnight Recovery | 6 PM  
Point Gratiot Park | Dunkirk  
For Info: 716-366-9886

Cardio Drumming | 9 AM  
Dunkirk Senior Center | Dunkirk  
For Info: 716-467-5306

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4  
- SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

JAMESTOWN DANCE  
FESTIVAL  
Reg Lenna Center For The Arts  
and JCC’s Scharmann Theater |  
Jamestown  
For Info: sukanyaburman.com/  
jamestown-dance-festival

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

First Friday: Becoming a  
Practicing Herbalist  
11 AM - 12 PM  
Audubon Community Nature  
Center | Jamestown  
For Info: auduboncnc.org

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER  
5 (6 PM) & SATURDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 6 (12 PM -  
11 PM)

Red, White & Blues Festival  
Barker Commons Park | Fredonia  
For Info: festivalsfredoniany.org/  
red-white-blues

First Friday | 5 PM - 8 PM  
Main St. | Westfield  
For Info: chqchamber.org

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

Daniel Feather Memorial 5k  
10 AM  
Bergman Park | Jamestown  
For Info: lexi@chqstriders.org

Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser  
4 PM - 6 PM  
Fluvanna Free Library | Jamestown  
For Info: info@fluvannalibrary.org

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6 &  
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER, 7TH

45th Annual Wild Wind Folk  
Art & Craft Festival  
10 AM - 5 PM  
Warren County Fairgrounds, Route  
6 | Pittsfield, PA  
For Info: wildwindfestival.com

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

First Sunday Story Time  
12:30 PM - 1 PM  
Audubon Community Nature  
Center | Jamestown  
For Info: auduboncnc.org

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7 -  
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Paint CHQ County-wide  
Festival  
Falconer, Dunkirk, Sherman,  
Westfield  
For Info: choosechq.com/paintchq

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

WIN in Business Program |  
11:30 AM - 1 PM  
241 James Ave. | Jamestown  
For Info: sbdcjcc.org/events

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER  
19 (3 PM - 8 PM) &  
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER  
20 (7 AM - 5 PM)

Westfield NY Grape and Wine  
Festival  
Moore Park & Grape Discovery  
Center | Westfield  
For Info: westfieldny.com

Time Honored Tradition: Jamestown’s Erica Ericson  
Receives George Ritzer Memorial Labor Award

Continued from Front Cover

the county.

Ericson has worked at New Flyer in Jamestown since 2016 as a Senior Assembly Technician. New Flyer is a Canadian bus manufacturer, specializing in transit buses. She helped organize the plant alongside an IUE organizer and her coworkers, ultimately leading to the chartering of IUE-CWA Local 81500. She said she is proud to be the union’s first and only president.

“Honestly, I really do enjoy the work,” she said. “I enjoy training people and working with people to figure out what the problem is. I just really like the challenge it gives me.”

However, she said the union didn’t come to be from the work of just one person. “It took a whole team of people to organize New Flyer,” Ericson said. “I am so thankful for everyone’s efforts.”

Despite the accomplishment of establishing the union at the Jamestown facility, Ericson’s efforts are far from over. She has recently been working on getting national agreement standardizing working conditions such as healthcare, PTO, attendance policy, and more, across American New Flyer manufacturing facilities. Those issues are currently being bargained.

For her, the labor movement is about carrying forward a long tradition. “It means a couple of things: I’m following a tradition that has spanned over I don’t know how many years,” she said. “Also, coming from a union family, just being involved in working and trying to make sure that people are treated fairly is really important to me.”

The labor movement is more than a personal cause for Ericson, as a third-generation union member, but rather a cause for everyone to support.

“Without unions, we would still have child labor. People would be working every single day of the week,” she said, pointing out a lot of the things the workforce take for granted is because of unions, like safety in the workplace and the forty-hour work week. “Don’t ever think you don’t need a union.”

Despite her leadership roles, she



Erica Ericson, 2025 awardee  
George Ritzer Labor Award!

describes herself simply: a single mom who loves reading, traveling, going to concerts and spending time with her daughter.

Her 15-year-old is already learning about the movement. “She actually just went on a union trip with me for the first time down to our biannual convention for the CWA,” Ericson said. “She’s starting to understand more, like, why unions are important. Right now, she’s just like, ‘I’m the daughter of a president,’ so she’s bragging a little bit.”

Born and raised in Jamestown, Ericson says she is grateful to be giving back to both her community and the labor tradition that shaped her.

“I’m just very honored. I know that there’s a long history to it,” she said of the award. “And I just have to keep reminding myself that even though I may feel like I don’t do a lot, I actually have done quite a bit.”

Erica Ericson is a lifelong Jamestown resident and a third-generation union member. Since 2016, she has worked as a Senior Assembly Technician at New Flyer, where she was instrumental in organizing the Jamestown plant and helped secure union certification. She became the first, and so far only, president of IUE-CWA Local 81500 and also serves as treasurer for the Jamestown Central Labor Council. Erica has been involved in national efforts to standardize healthcare, paid time off and attendance policies across New Flyer’s American facilities. Outside of work, she enjoys traveling, going to concerts, and spending time with her friends, family, especially her daughter. Today, she is honored as the recipient of the 2025 George Ritzer Memorial Labor Award.



IUE-CWA  
Local 81500  
Proudly Honoring  
our hardworking  
team this Labor Day!



Editorial with Lori Cornell

# Happy Labor Day!



Owner & Publisher  
**Lori Cornell**

We proudly dedicate this edition to the hardworking men and women of our community, and we endeavor to create a visible reminder as to why we celebrate Labor Day. The first Monday in September is more than the end-of-summer (boo!) demarcation on our calendar and a chance to fire up the grill for one last family picnic. It is also an opportunity to honor our nation's roots in organized labor and thank all those that continue to make it run today.

Consider fully digesting the arguments

by our talented cover story writer, Jordan Nicholson, this week as you race around festivities and the Back to School bustle. It's worth the pause. He gives a brilliant historical account of the American labor movement and a poignant reminder of the blood, sweat and tears that built progress, with an inspiring call to action for today.

We hold onto our hope for tomorrow, proudly recognizing Chautauqua County's strong labor community. Congratulations especially to Erica Ericson, union leader at New Flyer in Jamestown and recipient of this Labor Day's George Ritzer leadership award. Many thanks to our editor, Katrina Fuller, for her cover story so well-capturing Ms. Ericson's exemplary model. No doubt Ritzer recipients epitomize the best of the best. Our community remains committed toward ensuring that our workforce strength and support is not just a thing of the past, but a promise for our bright future.



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**The Working Families Party is leading the fight for social, racial, & economic justice in New York state.**

In the Western Southern Tier (Chautauqua, Allegany, Cattaraugus Counties), contact Bob Dando at [robedi127@gmail.com](mailto:robedi127@gmail.com)

***The Working Families Party of the Western Southern Tier (Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Allegany Counties) wish to honor our members, friends and supporters in the Labor Movement this Labor Day.***

Remember to vote Row D in this year's Chautauqua County Local Elections for candidates who will continue to fight for Workers' Rights.

## CHAUTAUQUA GAZETTE

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Thursdays at 5:00 pm

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# In Loving Memory

August 20

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Falconer Funeral Home

August 23

Cheryle Suzanne Priestman, 84

Sioux City, Iowa  
Lind Funeral Home

August 22

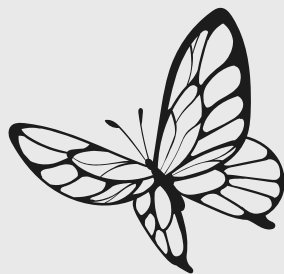
Sally Black, 93

Jamestown  
Lind Funeral Home

August 27

Carol Cooper, 79

Jamestown  
Lind Funeral Home



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# Faith Matters

## NEW



*Featured Writer*

**Rev. Sherry Mahar**

Christ First United Methodist Church

New. It's a word that often holds power within us. Sometimes it makes our hearts race with excitement for something wonderful. Sometimes it makes our hearts race with fear, with anxious thoughts about change. Most of us have experienced both—sometimes at the same time!

I find myself in a season of “new” right now. My name is Rev. Sherry Mahar (Pastor Sherry), and I've just begun serving as the new pastor at Christ First United Methodist Church. I am also new to Jamestown, and I've spent these first weeks trying to find my way around, praying for this community, and getting to know more about the people here. In reflecting upon my own season of newness, I'm reminded that all of us, in different ways, know what it is like to step into something new.

There are so many new things we face in life—new families, new schools, new health challenges, new jobs, new homes, new seasons, and so much more. Some of those new things we choose, and some arrive uninvited. No matter how it arrives, newness invites us to trust God and often increases our faith—reshaping us, and leading us to lean on God in fresh ways. It can be unsettling, but it is also filled with Godly possibilities, opportunities, and hope.

Experiencing “new” is both wonderful and stretching. It requires letting go of what is familiar and stepping into what is unknown. But isn't that what faith is often like? Trusting God when we can't see the whole picture, believing there is something good ahead even when we're uncertain about the path.

Scripture reminds us of God's beautiful promise: “See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?” (Isaiah 43:19). Through Jesus Christ, we are made new. As Jesus told Nicodemus in John 3, we are invited to be born again—born anew into God's kingdom of love and grace. God is good and loving

and delights in creating what is new. A new beginning. A new direction. A new hope. The experience of faith is living a life of newness that is powerful and exciting, but can also be unsettling as we step away from our old life and ways and into God's will. Through the community of faith, the church, we journey this path together, which makes the new experience even more joyful while also being a source of support and encouragement for when we feel unsettled.

I know some people hear the word “church” and don't associate it with “new.” Maybe you've been away for a while, maybe you've felt hurt, or maybe you've assumed church is outdated or irrelevant. But when we open our hearts to God, church can be a place of fresh starts and new life. Not because we get everything perfect, but because God meets us where we are and makes us new.

That's one reason I'm so excited about something new beginning at Christ First United Methodist Church this fall. On **Wednesday, September 10**, we're launching a **new Youth Ministry** for 4th–7th graders (and ages 10-13). Middle school can be an awkward, confusing, and wonderful time all at once. It's a season of questions: Who am I? Where do I belong? What do I believe? We want to give students a safe and fun space to ask those questions, to find friends who support them, and to discover that God calls them beloved.

And here's the truth: students aren't the only ones who need that reminder. All of us, no matter our age, need to know that we matter, that we are loved, that we are not alone.

So whether you're looking for a church home, wondering if it's time to give faith another chance, or simply craving a fresh start, I want you to know that the doors of Christ First United Methodist are open to you. Our Sunday worship is filled with music and grace, and you don't have to have it all figured out to walk in.

As I begin this new season in my own life, I find myself praying for all of us—that in whatever “new” we're facing, God would meet us with peace, courage, and hope. That together we might discover that “new” isn't something to fear, but something to embrace, because God is already there ahead of us.

May this be a season of new beginnings for us all.

Grace and Peace,  
Rev. Sherry Mahar



# Labor Day

## George Ritzer Memorial Labor Award



**The Southwestern New York Building and Construction Trades Council proudly applauds our long history of strong, local labor leaders.**



1984	Robert Franco	IBFO 27
1985	George S. Spitale	AFSCME 418
1986	James V. Kurtz	CSEA 807
1987	Michael Piazza	UAW 338
1988	Benjamin Spitale	UAW 338
1989	Vaughn S. Rudy	UAW 338
1990	Bruce Rhinehart	IAFF 1772
1991	E. Douglas Card	IBEW 1124
1992	G. William Samuelson	IATSE 266
1993	John W. Champion	NYSUT/AFT
1994	Donald A. Liden	IBFO 27
1995	Jack C. Rudy	CSEA 807
1996	G. Steven Simpson	IAFF 1772
1997	Helen E. Sischo	IAMAW 2495
1998	Hobart "Hobie" Rhinehart	NYSUT/AFT
1999	Michael S. Dye	Carpenters #66
2000	Vincent Capizzi	IAFF 1772
2001	Stephen M. Skidmore	IAMAW 2111
2002	Edward J. Mifsud	IATSE 266
2003	Anthony J. Foti	Carpenters #66
2004	Clayton L. Barber	UAW 338
2005	Jeffrey A. Peterson	Op. Eng.
2006	Gary Sorenson	IBEW 459
2007	Jim Smith	CSEA 807
2008	Rick Weilacher	UAW 338
2009	David Painter	IBEW 106
2010	William Servis	Sprinkler Fitters LU 669 Musicians LU 134
2011	Norman M. Smith	IAM District Lodge 65
2012	Donald V. Lucas Jr.	USW 9637
2013	David Wilkinson	IBEW 106
2014	Valerie Hagglund	NYSUT 04-217
2015	Gary Swain	Op. Eng. #17
2016	Joseph Sweeny	NYSUT/AFT 2611
2017	Bonnie Peters	CSEA Local 807
2018	George S. Spitale	AFSCME 418
2019	Jeffrey G. Keppel	NYSUT/AFT/NEA
2020	"Essential Workers"	All
2021	Michael Haines	IBEW 106
2022	Karen Frucella-Olson	UAW 338
2023	Robert Whitney Jr	IBEW 106
2024	Steven Thorpe	SMART 112
2025	Erica Ericson	IUE-CWA Local 81500







# HAPPY LABOR DAY!

**Edward Giardini, Jr., Business Manager**  
**Laborers Local 621**  
**1521 North Union Street, Olean, NY • (716) 372-2639**



# IN 2025, LABOR IS RESILIENT AND UNITED

Contributed by  
**Mary E. Sullivan**  
President, CSEA

This Labor Day, as we gather with family, friends, and neighbors, it is worth pausing to reflect on the state of working people in New York and across the nation. This year has brought challenges and progress, tested our resolve and proved once again that our greatest strength is unity.

Throughout 2025, public employees have faced renewed attacks from corporate-backed groups such as the Freedom Foundation. These groups have poured resources into spreading misinformation to divide and weaken the voices of workers. Yet, what they do not understand is that working people know what is at stake: fair pay, safe workplaces, affordable health care and secure retirements. These are not luxuries. They are rights that generations of workers have fought for, and we will not give them up.

CSEA continues to celebrate the diversity and strength of America’s labor movement as we face challenge. This year, our union honored Black labor leaders during Black History Month, celebrated Pride Month, Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month and Juneteenth and lifted the women whose contributions built the foundation of our



unions. These are reminders that the labor movement is strong because it reflects the full diversity of working people, and it is strongest when every voice is valued.

That unity is needed now more than ever. The federal reconciliation bill includes massive cuts to funding that would devastate schools, hospitals, and community programs across New York. Those cuts will blow holes in state, local, and school district budgets in our state and across the nation. This is not a Washington, D.C, problem. It is one that will directly harm working people and the communities we live in. For CSEA members, this is a major concern. We work in every corner of New York, doing different jobs and living in different communities, but we come together in one powerful voice. That unity is what keeps New York moving ahead, and it will carry us through whatever comes next.

The state of labor in 2025 is one of resilience. Working people are being tested, but we are not shaken. We stand ready to protect one another, defend vital public services and fight for the future. CSEA also mourns the loss of former CSEA President Danny Donohue, a dear friend and fearless labor leader. Danny never backed down from a fight, and his example reminds us that the challenges ahead are great, but so is our collective strength.

As history shows, when workers stand together, we win.

## Happy Labor Day from the Chautauqua County CSEA Members

Today we celebrate the hard work and dedication of workers everywhere and would like to extend our gratitude for making our community a better place to live and work



From all of us at Ironworkers Local No. 6 We would like to wish everyone a safe and wonderful Labor Day.



- Guy Bugman ..... President
- Edward Ewing ..... Vice President
- James Willis III ..... Business Manager
- Brian Hart ..... FST & Business Agent
- Shaun Halligan ..... Recording Secretary
- Timothy Conlon ..... Executive Board
- Owen Bugman ..... Executive Board
- Jordan Halligan ..... Executive Board
- Andre McGhee ..... Executive Board
- Derwin Sacco ..... Executive Board
- Michael Garvey ..... Trustee
- Shamir Perkins ..... Trustee
- Richard Bizub ..... Trustee
- Lindy Sokolowski ..... Guide
- Kyle Arnone ..... Sergeant at Arms

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## A 2025 Salute to American Labor

*Continued from Front Cover*

the roof, executive salaries stacked higher than the Himalayas, and yet workers are told to shut up, to “be grateful,” to pull themselves up by some mythical bootstraps that were manufactured overseas by people making pennies on the dollar because they aren’t afforded labor protections. The gig economy is nothing but the company store with an app. The factory floor never disappeared—it just got jammed into a delivery van with no healthcare and no retirement.

This is the point where most politicians bow their heads, offer a prayer, and shuffle back into the pockets of the billionaires. But not us—not today. Organized labor is not dead, it is not obsolete, it is not some dusty relic in a history book. It is alive, and it is dangerous, and it damn well better be. Because every inch of progress—every safety regulation, every weekend, every wage increase—was clawed from the fists of men who swore they would never kneel to a boss again. The fight is not over. The battlefield has shifted, sure—warehouse workers in cavernous, windowless spaces, nurses and teachers driven to the brink, tech workers shackled by nondisclosure agreements and surveillance software. But the weapon remains the same: solidarity. There is no algorithm

strong enough to crack the power of human beings standing shoulder to shoulder and saying, “Not today. Not like this.”

If you believe Labor Day is just a barbecue, you’ve already surrendered. This day is a reminder, a siren, a blood oath sworn to the generations that came before us—that we will not forget. That the sacrifices of Ludlow, of Haymarket, of Memphis sanitation workers, of Jamestown’s strikers and Dunkirk’s union men, of corrections officers and public servants, were not made in vain.

The American Dream, such as it is, was built on the backs of labor—and the only way it survives is if we fight like hell to keep it from being sold off piece by piece to the highest bidder. Organize your workplace. Join your union. Demand better. Raise hell until the walls shake and the bosses start to sweat.

Because Labor Day is not a holiday—it’s a warning. If you’re a worker and you aren’t pissed as hell, you aren’t paying attention.

Drink a beer made by union brewers and toast the struggle, but drink a second beer because the struggle is far from over.

[www.wnyalf.org](http://www.wnyalf.org)

## CHQ Professionals Group to Host Coffee Meetup at Ryder Cup Coffee Shop



CHQ Professionals – Coffee Meet up at Sacred Grounds Cafe

*Contributed by*  
**CHQ Professionals Group**

The CHQ Professionals Group will host a Coffee Meetup at Ryder Cup Coffee Shop (28 Chautauqua Ave., Lakewood) on Thursday, Sept. 4 from 8 to 9:30 a.m. There is no registration required and any and all professionals working in the Chautauqua Region are invited to attend.

The September coffee meetup is part of a series of monthly networking events that provide an opportunity for local professionals to connect and share details about their work. This year, CHQ Professionals has hosted four successful coffee meetups at businesses throughout the County, including Cassadaga, Lily Dale, Brocton, and Westfield. CHQ Professionals is an initiative of the Chautauqua County Partnership for Economic Growth (CCPEG).

“Coffee meetups are a great way to start the day with good conversation and new connections,” said Monica Simpson, CCPEG Partner Engagement Coordinator and co-chair of the CHQ Professionals Group. “We want professionals of all backgrounds to feel welcome

and inspired to be part of what’s happening here in Chautauqua County.”

Besides the September meetup in Lakewood, one final Coffee Meetup is scheduled for 2025. It will take place on Oct. 2 at Tulip’s Brunch House (186 S. Erie St.) in Mayville from 8 to 9:30 a.m.

In addition to hosting educational, volunteer, and networking events, the CHQ Professionals Group distributes a monthly newsletter, shares local job postings, and is actively seeking partnerships related to workforce development.

For more information, email [CHQprofessionals@gmail.com](mailto:CHQprofessionals@gmail.com) or call 716-363-3770. More details about the group can also be found at [ChooseCHQ.com/CHQProfessionals](http://ChooseCHQ.com/CHQProfessionals).

**About the CHQ Professionals Group** - The CHQ Professionals Group, housed under CCPEG, aims to provide social, civic, educational, and networking opportunities for professionals at every stage of their careers. For more information, visit [ChooseCHQ.com/CHQProfessionals](http://ChooseCHQ.com/CHQProfessionals).

## Fluvanna Free Library to Host Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

**Saturday, September 6 • 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.**

**Fluvanna Fire Hall  
3536 Fluvanna Avenue.**

Dinner includes salad, spaghetti and meatballs, bread and butter, dessert, and a beverage. Meals are available for dine in or take out.

Ticket prices are:

**\$12.00 for adults • \$7.00 for children age 10 and under.**

Tickets can be purchased at the door, in advance from any Fluvanna Free Library board member or volunteer, or at the library during business hours.

All proceeds will benefit the Fluvanna Free Library.

For more information about the dinner or other library events, please contact the library at (716) 487-1773 or email [info@fluvannalibrary.org](mailto:info@fluvannalibrary.org).

Library hours are Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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Congressman Nick Langworthy Honors  
Seven Purple Heart Veterans at  
"Veterans for Christ" Brunch in Brocton



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Vietnam War Veterans:

Dennis Erickson - U.S. Army, Combat Medic

Gregory Harle - U.S. Army, Infantry

Mark Isaacs - U.S. Marine Corps, Machine Gunner

James Lemanski - U.S. Army, Forward Observer

Wes Tessey - U.S. Army, Machine Gunner

Harold Wayne Tooley - U.S. Army, Combat Medic

"It was a humbling privilege to address these veterans who selflessly put themselves in harm's way so that we may continue to live free. The Purple Heart is the most solemn and sacred recognition a member of our Armed Forces can receive - a symbol of the deep sacrifice made in service to our nation. We have a duty as Americans to honor their legacy, and their wellbeing will always remain a top priority for me as I serve this community."

~ Congressman Langworthy

Trivia

1. Who is often credited as the founder of Labor Day in the U.S.?
2. In which year was the very first Labor Day parade held?
3. The first U.S. Labor Day parade took place in which city?
4. Which U.S. state was the first to make Labor Day a legal holiday?
5. Before Labor Day, many workers celebrated a holiday called what?
6. How many states had adopted Labor Day before it became federal?
7. Which U.S. government department was created the same year as Labor Day became federal?
8. Which month was originally proposed for Labor Day before September was chosen?
9. Which President declared Labor Day a legal public holiday for D.C. in 1894?
10. In what year did Canada also establish Labor Day?

1. Peter McGuire 2. 1882 3. New York 4. Oregon 5. May Day 6. 30 7. Labor 8. May 9. Grover Cleveland 10. 1894



Congratulations Erica Ericson  
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# JAMESTOWN DANCE FESTIVAL

SEPT 4-7 • REG LENNA & SCHARMANN THEATER

## Jamestown Dance Festival Returns September 4-7

Featuring LES BALLET AFRIK and Omari Wiles' New York Is Burning

*Contributed by*  
**Sukanya Burman Dance**

The Jamestown Dance Festival (JDF), presented by Sukanya Burman Dance, returns this fall for its second year with an expanded lineup of performances, workshops, and special events that celebrate the power of movement, culture, and community. Running September 4-7, 2025, the festival brings world-class artists and regional voices together across Chautauqua County and, for the first time, into Buffalo.

**Headline Performance: New York Is Burning by Les Ballet Afrik**

At the heart of this year's festival is

the headline performance of New York Is Burning by Les Ballet Afrik, led by internationally celebrated choreographer and Works & Process Fellow Omari Wiles. Presented Friday, September 5 at 7:30 PM at the Reg Lenna Center for the Arts, this electrifying work is both a homage to the landmark documentary Paris Is Burning and a bold reimagining of ballroom culture for a new generation. Commissioned by **Works & Process**, New York Is Burning originated during pandemic-era residencies and evolved into a powerful, full-length performance that has captivated audiences at the Guggenheim in 2022, Jacob's Pillow, SummerStage, and beyond. The work embodies Wiles' signature "AfrikFusion" style, blending West African dance traditions with house, vogue, and



contemporary movement to celebrate queerness, resilience, and joy. It is both a deeply personal and culturally expansive creation, illuminating the role of ballroom as a space of survival, expression, and community.

For JDF, the performance represents not only a Western New York debut but also an anchor event that links Jamestown's growing festival to national and international currents in the dance ecosystem.

**Omari Wiles: Legendary Voice in Contemporary Dance & Ballroom Culture**

Born in Senegal and raised in the Bronx, Omari Wiles (a.k.a. Legendary Omari NiNa Oricci) is the founding father of the House of NiNa Oricci and the visionary behind Les Ballet Afrik. Trained in West African dance from childhood, Wiles has cultivated a multidisciplinary career spanning hip-hop, house, jazz, modern, and voguing.

His artistry bridges ballroom, pop culture, and concert dance. He has choreographed for and performed



with some of the world's most iconic entertainers, including Beyoncé, Janet Jackson, Madonna, John Legend, Jennifer Hudson, and Rihanna, and has collaborated on projects with Naomi Campbell and Jidenna. His groundbreaking ballroom-inspired choreography for Cats: The Jellicle Ball drew viral acclaim, blending Broadway with the vibrancy of the ballroom scene.

Wiles' leadership in bridging ballroom culture with the concert stage has

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14





# CREDC Announces New CCPEG Program Manager

Josiah Lamp to Oversee Programs that Support Economic Development in Chautauqua County

Contributed by  
Chautauqua Region  
Economic Development  
Corporation

The Chautauqua Region Economic Development Corporation (CREDC), an affiliate agency of the County of Chautauqua Industrial Development Agency (CCIDA), is pleased to announce the addition of Josiah Lamp to the newly created position of Program Manager with the Chautauqua County Partnership for Economic Growth (CCPEG).

CCPEG is an initiative launched in 2019, with a mission of bringing together public and private leaders to focus on countywide and regional economic development. The Partnership serves as the catalyst and broker of resources for advancing economic prosperity efforts and is a central coordinating entity for improving the quality of life in our communities, thereby attracting people and businesses to Chautauqua County.

Lamp has 15 years of experience in managing economic development and housing programs, most recently as the Director of Housing and Community Development at Chautauqua Opportunities, Inc. (COI), a position he's held since 2016. Previously, he served as Deputy Director of Housing and Community Development at COI and, prior to that, as Economic Development Consultant for the Community Development Training Institute, based in Worcester, Mass. Throughout his professional career, Lamp has developed strong strategic leadership and program management skills, specifically focused on strategic planning, building public-private partnerships, grant writing, and public relations. Since 2020, he's also served on the Partnership's Housing Development Work Group, bringing a level of familiarity and knowledge about CCPEG to his new role.

"We're excited to have Josiah join



Following an extensive search, Josiah Lamp has been named new Program Manager for the Chautauqua County Partnership for Economic Growth.

the CCPEG team and focus on efforts that will help to grow and strengthen our local economy and communities," said Mark Geise, Deputy County Executive for Economic Development, CCIDA CEO, and co-chair of the CCPEG Advisory Board. "He brings a wealth of experience to this newly created position and because of his prior involvement with the Partnership, he'll be able to hit the ground running!"

As CCPEG Program Manager, Lamp will oversee and coordinate CCPEG activities, including the initiation, development, implementation, and monitoring of CCPEG projects and programs that encourage economic development in Chautauqua County. Lamp will also oversee grant development activities to help sustain CCPEG programming and will also coordinate a variety of economic development activities relating to business development, workforce development, placemaking, housing, and infrastructure.

Prior to Lamp's hiring, much of CCPEG's activities and programming were managed by Nathan Aldrich, Economic Development Coordinator with the Chautauqua County Department of Planning & Development. With the initiative taking hold and several millions of dollars of funding obtained to support over a dozen impactful economic and community development projects



# Mosquito-Borne Illnesses: What You Should Know



Contributed by  
Chautauqua County Health  
Department

The Chautauqua County Health Department (CCHD) wants to remind residents to take precautions to avoid mosquito bites and protect themselves from potential exposure to mosquito-borne illnesses like West Nile Virus (WNV) and Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE). These recommendations follow the recent notification received from the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) announcing an unvaccinated horse located in Chautauqua County near the Cattaraugus County border tested positive for WNV.

*"West Nile Virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis are serious diseases spread to animals and people by a bite from an infected mosquito," said Dr. Michael Faulk, Chief Medical Officer for Chautauqua County. "Even as cooler temperatures arrive, the risk remains for mosquito-borne illnesses. While there are no vaccines for humans, simple precautions can greatly reduce your exposure."*

**West Nile Virus (WNV):** WNV is a mosquito-borne virus that can cause flu-like symptoms such as fever, headache, body aches, vomiting, diarrhea, and rash. While many infected people show no symptoms, about 20% may develop mild illness. In rare cases—particularly in individuals over 50 or with certain medical conditions—it can lead to severe neurological complications like encephalitis or meningitis. Most people recover fully, but serious cases can be fatal.

**Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE):** EEE is a rare but often deadly illness. Symptoms usually begin 4 to 10 days after a bite from an infected mosquito and can include sudden high fever, headache, chills, vomiting, and confusion. Severe cases may progress to seizures, coma, or permanent brain damage. Children under 15 and adults over 50 are at the highest risk. There is no specific treatment for EEE.

While there are vaccines available

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28

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**Jamestown Dance Festival Returns**  
*Continued from Page 12*



earned him recognition in Dance Magazine’s “25 to Watch”, features in The New York Times, and widespread acclaim as one of the foremost innovators of his generation.

In addition to the headline performance, festival audiences will have the rare opportunity to learn directly from Wiles in a Vogue workshop at Jamestown Community College on September 4 at 5 PM.

**Additional highlights include:** Indian Classical Night (Sept. 4), a Regional Artist Showcase (Sept. 6), community workshops in Indian Classical and Dunham technique, and a Sept. 7 screening of Paris Is

Burning with dialogue on ballroom roots and queer resilience.

**Support**

The Jamestown Dance Festival is made possible through generous support from the New York State DanceForce, New York State Council on the Arts, Chautauqua Region Community Foundation, Coalition for Asian American Children and Families, Jamestown Community College, Evergreen Health, Live CHQ, Wegmans, and additional partners.

Full schedule, artist bios, and tickets: [www.sukanyaburman.com/jamestown-dance-festival](http://www.sukanyaburman.com/jamestown-dance-festival)



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**CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY PETS OF THE WEEK**  
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# Love INC's Mission to Serve Local Churches and Neighbors in Need

*Contributed by*  
**Love In the Name of Christ  
(Love INC) of Southern  
Chautauqua County**

Love In the Name of Christ (Love INC) of Southern Chautauqua County works hard under its mission of mobilizing local churches to transform lives and communities in the name of Christ.

Since 2008, Love INC has served as a bridge between local churches and those in need throughout Southern Chautauqua County. The organization works with volunteers and church partners to provide household furnishings, toiletries, cleaning products, minor home and auto repairs, and referrals to local agencies. Love INC takes a holistic, non-emergency approach to help churches offer a hand up rather than a handout.

The organization was grateful to recently upgrade its office equipment through the generous



donations of Give Big CHQ and a grant from the Karl Peterson Field of Interest Fund, administered by the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation. This fund supports the emerging needs of local religious organizations.

"Helping churches help people in need is at the heart of what we do," said Susan L. Justham, Executive Director of Love INC. "Failing office technology impacts our work." The new equipment allows Love Inc. to efficiently manage client paperwork and produce newsletters, essential elements of serving partner churches and neighbors in need. "We are so grateful to the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation and the Give Big CHQ donors for making this possible," continued Justham.

The ministry relies on financial and resource donations, as well as the gifts and talents of local congregations and businesses. For more information or to learn how you can get involved, contact Susan Justham at 716-338-9828 or [susan@loveincsc.org](mailto:susan@loveincsc.org), or visit [loveincsc.org](http://loveincsc.org).

# Volunteers Needed: New Sudden Loss Care Team Launching In Chautauqua County

*Contributed by*  
**Suicide Prevention Alliance  
of Chautauqua County**

The Suicide Prevention Alliance of Chautauqua County is proud to announce the upcoming launch of the Sudden Loss Care Team (SLCT), a volunteer-based postvention program designed to provide immediate emotional support to families and individuals grieving the loss of a loved one to suicide.

The SLCT will officially begin operations in January 2026, made possible through grant funding from the Suicide Prevention Center of New York (SPCNY) and fully supported by the Chautauqua County Department of Mental Hygiene, Coroner and Sheriff's Office.

A stabilizing presence in times of crisis, the SLCT offers in-person or phone-based support in the early stages of loss. Volunteers are trained in trauma-informed care and suicide-specific grief and will only respond with the full consent of the family. This is not a crisis intervention or therapy service; it is peer-to-peer emotional support from individuals who understand the pain of sudden loss.

"The moments and days following a suicide can be overwhelming, traumatic, and deeply isolating," said Carri Raynor, Director of the Suicide Prevention Alliance of Chautauqua County. "The Sudden Loss Care Team will ensure that survivors have access to compassionate, peer-informed support when they need it most."

These individuals are carefully vetted and trained to walk alongside survivors during these difficult moments, helping to reduce trauma and connect them with critical mental health and grief support resources.

Answer the call! We're recruiting compassionate volunteers now. The team is comprised entirely of trained volunteers with lived or professional experience related to suicide loss. This includes:

- Peer suicide loss survivors
- Licensed clinicians
- First responders (active or retired)

Upcoming training sessions will be held in August, September, November, and December 2025. For more information about the Sudden Loss Care Team, upcoming volunteer training opportunities, or suicide loss support services, please contact Carri Raynor at [raynorc@chqgov.com](mailto:raynorc@chqgov.com). To learn more about the Suicide Prevention Alliance of Chautauqua County, visit [preventsuicidechq.com](http://preventsuicidechq.com).



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*Contributed by*  
**Festivals Fredonia**

Festivals Fredonia, Inc., a not-for-profit organization run by volunteers, will be hosting their annual Red, White and Blues Festivals in Fredonia, NY the weekend after Labor Day; September 5-6, 2025. This two-day music event sponsored by Fredonia Beaver Club, Southern Chautauqua FCU and DFT Communications, takes place throughout the village of Fredonia at various bars, restaurants and in Barker Common. This event showcases the area’s local wine industry, hence the "Red" and "White", along with various local "Blues" artists.

We will be featuring some great local and national talent this year for our opener and headliner. Our opening act on Saturday in Barker Common is the Patti Parks Band, followed by our

headliner act: GROSH! Both bands are from the Buffalo area and should bring along a great crowd for all to enjoy.

We are also expecting to showcase the talents of 12+ different blues performers this year, starting Friday, September 5th, "Uptown" performances will occur at the Fredonia Memorial Post 59 American Legion and Fredonia Beaver Club. On Saturday, September 6th, "Downtown" events takeover Barker Commons, which will feature the Fredonia Farmers’ Market in the East side of the park, in addition to food trucks/vendors, craft and wine vendors and basket/gift certificate raffle throughout the day in the West side of the park and the downtown area. Live music will begin in the gazebo at noon with multiple award-winning Buffalo New York Hall of Fame Inductee Patti Parks Band, followed by GROSH, featuring guitarist Grace Lougen, voted “Buffalo’s Best Blues Guitarist”

by the Buffalo Night-Life Magazine at 3PM. Throughout the day on Saturday live music will be featured at various downtown Fredonia bars and restaurants starting at 2PM. There will be live music every hour or half-hour at a different downtown venue.

Pick up a commemorative T-shirt at the Fredonia Beaver Club on Friday night or in Barker Common on Saturday at the Festivals Fredonia tent. We will also be selling commemorative plastic drink cups, commemorative koozies, guitar key chains and several other merchandise items from festivals past. Pick up a rack card indicating where the bands will be playing and/or scan the QR code for venue detail and the official map.

We will also be hosting a 9/11 memorial motorcycle run and fundraiser to benefit the Disabled American Veterans (DAV). Registration starts

at 9:15AM and kickstands up by 10:00AM. Riders will visit various Chautauqua Co. locations and meet back the Fredonia Post 59 American Legion for lunch and in time to see GROSH perform. Registration is \$15 per rider, \$5 for additional riders, and includes lunch and a beverage after the event. See you on September 5th and 6th for “the BEST street party around!”

About Festivals Fredonia  
Festivals Fredonia’s mission is to contribute to a high quality of life in Fredonia and surrounding communities by presenting lively, varied recreation and cultural opportunities to Village and area residents. Festivals Fredonia is always looking for energetic volunteers to assist in executing each year’s festivals. Contact us at [festivalsfredoniany@gmail.com](mailto:festivalsfredoniany@gmail.com)

★ ★ ★ Fredonia, New York ★ ★ ★

RED WHITE AND BLUES

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SEPTEMBER 5TH & 6TH

Music lineup for Friday, September 5:

6:00 PM - Fredonia Memorial American Legion Post 59 – **The Untouchables**

8:00 PM - Fredonia Beaver Club **Jeremy Keyes Band**

Music lineup for Saturday, September 6

NOON – Barker Common gazebo **Patti Parks Band**

2:00 PM - Coughlan's Pub **Jammin’ Gypsies**

3:00 PM - **MAIN EVENT** – Barker Common gazebo – **GROSH**

5:00 PM – The White Inn – **Tommy Z**

6:00 PM - Old Main Inn – **Two Towns**

6:30 PM- Raven and Thorn **Beer Crate Blues Band**

7:00 PM - Downtown Brew **Mark Winsick Band**

7:30 PM - Domus Fare **Growlers Blues Band**

8:00 PM – Mrs. Fred's – **The Freeze**

9:00 PM – Monster Beach Brewery & Tiki Bar **Jony James Band**

10:00 PM - Valentine's **Uncle Ben’s Remedy**



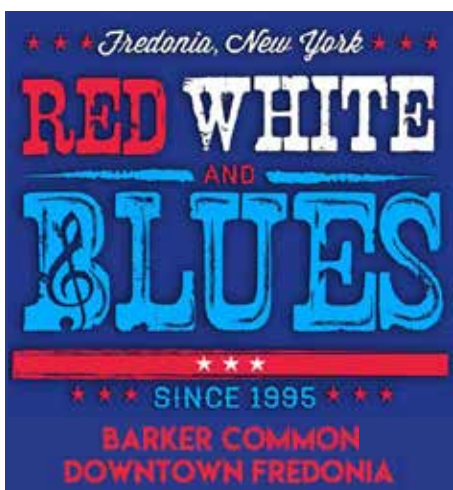
# RED WHITE AND BLUES Festival

Onsite in Barker Common starting at 11:00AM on Saturday, September 6 there will be several food trucks/restaurants and wineries. We are adding vendors daily, but here are the current vendors:

- Angry Bird BBQ
- Franklin's Honey & Apples
- Blasdell Pizza Dunkirk
- The Best of Buffalo by Byron
- Mystic Smoke BBQ
- Cups & Cones
- Arly & Izzy's Spanish Food
- Venus Mediterranean
- Three Chord Bourbon
- Clarksburg Cider
- Tree Hugger Hard Cider
- Brad's Blends of Rum and Cola
- Woodbury Winery
- Sunset Sky Farm
- Mazza Vineyards/Five & 20 Brewing

We also have several craft and direct sell vendors filling Barker Commons!

- Warrior Relief Fund
- Fredonia Memorial Post 59 American Legion
- Leaf Guard
- LeafFilter Gutter Protection
- CRAFTY Jean
- Inception 3D Printing
- Nalepa's Novelties
- Amanda's Apothecary & Message



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MEMORIAL 9-11

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## SPEED BUMPS



Featured Writer  
**Linda Kent**

I was recently on a mission trip to a small school in Mexico. We went over the border in New Mexico into a desert landscape I'd never seen before. Sand, thorny shrubs and cacti were spread out across the flat land up to the base of the mountains. The wind blew sand in gusts across the expanse making for some pretty spectacular sunsets.

Traffic is quite different down there, very few traffic lights or stop signs. The same with speed limits. The speed is controlled by poorly paved roads and massive speed bumps. They were placed at regular intervals on the main roads. Flashing lights and signs warned the drivers of the impending bump, and everyone understood how they worked.

Drive like crazy, slow down for the bumps. Repeat until you reach your destination. It worked pretty well; traffic slowed enough so that people can pull on and off the road easily.

What really got me was the horse being pulled in the open trailer. I watched the horse brace its legs as it went over a speed bump, and I wondered how it knew to do that. We travelled next to it for a few miles and each time the truck slowed, the horse understood what was happening and braced itself for the jolt. Did it know it was coming because the vehicle slowed down? Because it saw the flashing light?

It got me to thinking. Wouldn't it be nice if we had a warning sign of some sort when a speed bump comes into our life? A flashing light, a slowdown, something warning us that our life is about to take a hit and we need to brace ourselves?

It would be nice, but life doesn't work that way. We live life full speed ahead, hitting that bump, and knocking ourselves into full awareness of our situation. We calm our hearts, tell ourselves everything will be okay, because it will be. Life goes on. But darn it. A big flashing light would be nice once in a while.

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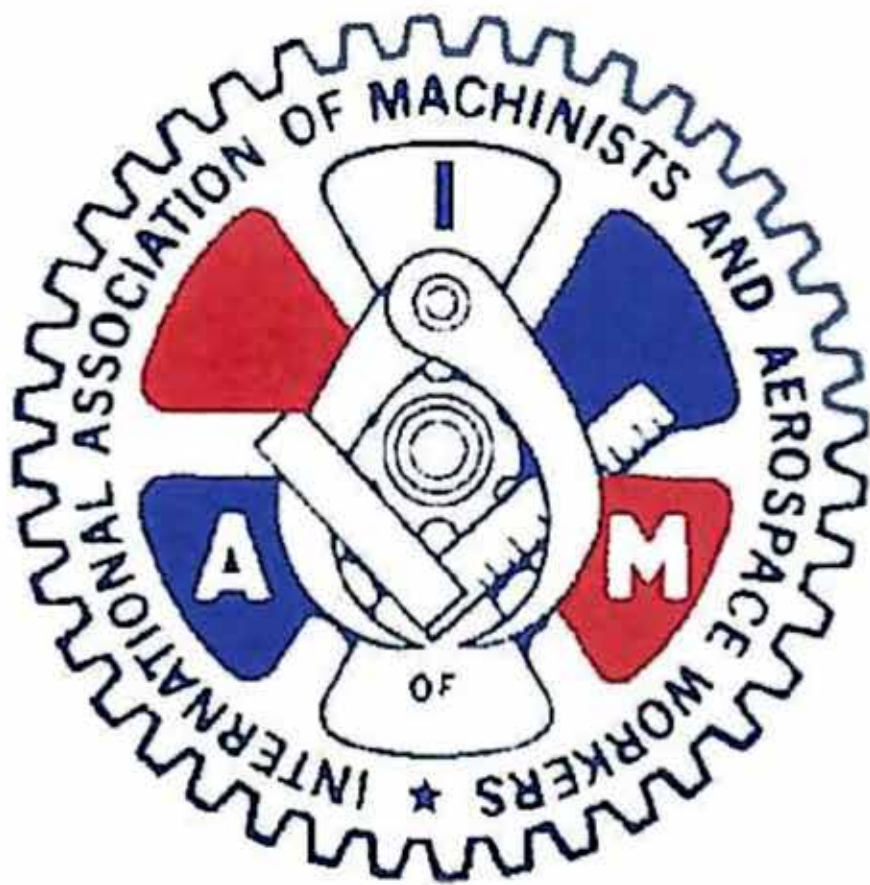
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## CHAUTAUQUA REGION QUILTS OF VALOR AWARDS QUILTS



Quilts of Valor recipients



Quilts of Valor members

### Contributed by **Chautauqua Region Quilts of Valor**

On August 18th, the Chautauqua Region Quilts of Valor group presented quilts to the following 20 veterans: Donna Sample, Don Armstrong, Brenda French, James Gumina, Kenneth Furlow, Eric Lent, Cynthia Mullen, Michael Johnson, Charles Gustafson, Tim Karges, Maury Spillane, Bob Koski, Marietta Kellogg, Wesley Pearson,

Karen Cummings, Paul Wendel Sr, Perry Wenzel, Edwin Johnson, and Ron Waid. The presentation opened with the Pledge of Alligence and Burke Lindquist singing the National Anthem with several of the attendees joining in. The presentation was held at Christ First United Methodist Church in Jamestown with Paul "PJ" Wendell, county executive giving opening remarks and recognizing his father, Paul Wendell, Sr. as a recipient of one of the quilts being awarded. All quilts were made by members and friends of the group to recognize veterans and their

service to our country. The quilts were awarded by Cindy Conner, coordinator and Carol Cheney, member and presented by members of Chautauqua Region Quilts of Valor, Diane Crandall, Jan Shoup, Cheryl Beebe, Tamsin Pope, Linda Larsen, Carol Cheney, Julie Lauer, Suzi Dunlop, and Faith Swanson.

For more information about Quilts of Valor you can go to the Foundation's website: [www.qovf.org](http://www.qovf.org) where you can also nominate a veteran to receive a quilt. For more information about our local group you may contact Cindy Conner, coordinator at address below, see Jan Shoup at Quilters' Haven in Lakewood or come to our next

meeting on Friday, September 12 at 10:30 at Quilters' Haven. If you wish to make a donation to our local group (Chautauqua Region Quilts of Valor), you may send a check to Cindy Conner, 183 Camp St., Jamestown, NY 14701 or Carol Lou Eisenhardt, treasurer, 208 Park View Ave., Jamestown, NY 14701

The Foundation's mission statement: The Quilt of Valor® Foundation appreciates the service and sacrifice of those who are serving or have served in the Armed Forces and protect our freedoms. In 2003, Catherine Roberts, the QOVF Founder, created the concepts that underpin the QOVF mission statement: To cover service members and veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor.



# FIRST FRIDAY



MAIN ST • WESTFIELD • 5-8PM • SEPTEMBER 5

## First Friday to Close the Season September 5

*Contributed by*  
**Chautauqua County  
Chamber of Commerce**

After a terrific summer season, it's hard to believe the final First Friday of the year is upon us. The last event for 2025 will be held from 5-8pm, Friday, September 5.

This outstanding event offers something for everyone. Enjoy open businesses along Main Street in Westfield, along with street vendors, food trucks, live entertainment, and kids' activities. Over 40 vendors will take part in the final First Friday this season.

The CHQ Chamber has once again secured a permit from the New York State Department of Transportation to close Route 20 in the village during this event. Route 20 (East Main Street) will be temporarily closed to all traffic from Portage (Route 394) to Union Street, with limited traffic from Union to Pearl Street. The road

closure begins at 4pm to allow for vendor setup, and it is reopened shortly after 8 once the foot traffic is cleared. This street closure allows for a safer event for all as pedestrians can easily access all businesses and activities along the route. Staunzie Grady, CHQ Chamber Director of Events noted, "First Fridays is a community-wide event that celebrates the vibrancy and diversity of our local business community. It brings together business owners, residents, and visitors in celebration of local entrepreneurship and creativity. We invite everyone to enjoy the experience and support our local establishments."

Series sponsors for the 2025 First Friday season are Brooks-TLC Hospital System/Kaleida Health, AHN Westfield Memorial Hospital, Full Strength Coffee Company, Larson Design Group, and the Village of Westfield.



# First Friday

Main Street, Westfield - 5-8pm  
July 11(Alumni Weekend) - August 1 - September 5



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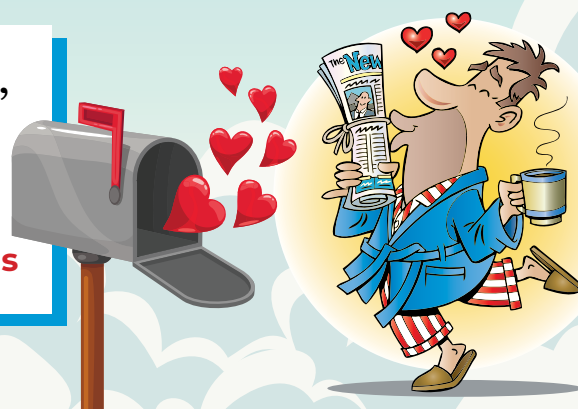
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## Southwest Region SBDC Hosts WIN In Business Program on Thursday, September 11

*Contributed by*  
**Southwest Region Small Business Development Center**

For over fifteen years, the Southwest Region Small Business Development Center (SBDC) has hosted the WIN In Business program every month. This program is for business owners and individuals working in the business sector. The program is also sponsored by Community Bank.

The Southwest Region SBDC WIN In Business program was developed for individuals to exchange ideas, experiences, and address challenging issues. The SBDC has helped to build productive business relationships that benefit everyone throughout the region with this program. Cost to attend the lunch in person is \$18 with check or credit card. This event will take place at Jamestown Community College, Carnahan Building, Room 120. To make a reservation or for more information on this monthly program, contact the SBDC at 716-338-1024 or go to our website at [www.sbdcc.org](http://www.sbdcc.org).

The next WIN In Business program will take place on Thursday, September 11 at 11:30am at JCC and will focus on The Basics of Retirement Planning and feature guest speaker and financial advisor Rick Andersen from Andersen Cuddihy, Inc. Learn the types of accounts to save, including Roth IRAs, and the effects on inflation on your retirement. Also rules for taking money out of retirement accounts will be discussed. Another focus will be options for your retirement account when you leave work, and more topics will be discussed.

Originally from Lakewood, NY, Rick Andersen has been a financial advisor since 2006. He is a founder of Andersen Cuddihy, Inc. in Fredonia, one of Chautauqua County's largest independent financial services firms. Since 2012, Andersen Cuddihy has specialized in retirement planning, investment planning, and estate planning for families and small businesses across Western New York. In 2019, Rick earned the 'Chartered Retirement Planning Counselor' (CRPC) designation from The College for Financial Planning.

In his spare time, Rick is an avid backpacker and has backpacked thousands of miles across the US, including the Adirondacks, where he is a '46er,' sections of the Appalachian Trail, and Nevada/California's Tahoe Rim Trail.

Rick lives in East Aurora with his wife Tricia with their two American Bulldogs - Rosie and Moose - and are excited to have joined the 'Empty Nester's Club!'

There is no assurance that the techniques and strategies discussed are suitable for all investors or will yield positive outcomes. The purchase of certain securities may be required to effect some of the strategies. Investing involves risks including possible loss of principal.

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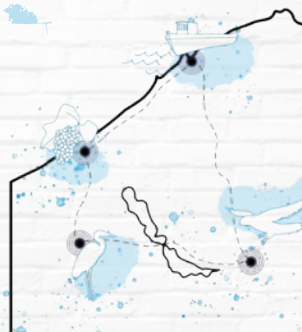
Administered by the US Small Business Administration, the Southwest Region Small Business Development Center (SBDC) vision is to create economic sustainability for all New Yorkers – one business at a time. The SBDC delivers high quality business counseling and training to clients looking to start a business or improve the performance of an existing business. Services are free and confidential and include a range of management and technical assistance from business plan development, accounting guidance, productivity enhancement and export assistance to loan information, marketing, and financial planning among other services.



COUNTY-WIDE MURAL FESTIVAL

**SEPTEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup> - 13<sup>TH</sup>**

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# 46TH ANNUAL WILD WIND FOLK ART & CRAFT FESTIVAL

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## 45th Annual Wild Wind Folk Art & Craft Festival

*Contributed by*  
**Wild Wind Folk  
Art & Craft Festival**

45th Annual Wild Wind Folk Art & Craft Festival - Celebrating Artistic Excellence and Family Fun! This year's event takes place on Saturday, September 6th & Sunday, September, 7th at the Warren County Fairgrounds, 371 Barton Run Road, Pittsfield, PA. Held rain or shine, hours are 10 am to 5 pm, each day.

Every year the weekend after Labor Day, the Wild Wind Folk Art & Craft Festival opens its gates to a crowd of art enthusiasts, crafters, family, and friends. There is always excitement in the air - the sounds of kettle corn popping and artists greeting customers, the sights of vibrant-colored mums and crisp fall apples, and the smells of homemade pie and apple strudel. Children tug on their parents' hands, steering them to the petting zoo, families marvel at the magician's tricks, and friends enjoy good conversation and a tasty meal while their feet tap to live music. In amongst all this festivity, true artistic talent and creativity abound. The celebration of handcrafted artistry is the foundation of this event, and keeping tradition with its esteemed reputation, the festival brings together an array of artistic talents to present a show that is unsurpassed.

In addition to its dedication to the artists who share their brilliance and skill, Wild Wind is also honored to foster connections among family and friends by offering a diverse range of activities for all ages and interests. For the young and young at heart, we have the returning favorite traveling petting zoo, the whimsical creations of our balloon artist, fun with hula hoops and hoop instructor, Mandy Moon, and much more to discover. New this year, Ashlee Sprandle will be onsite for face painting. Her work is amazing! We are also pleased to welcome back the Tamarack Wildlife Center, featuring their impressive live birds of prey exhibit and insightful lectures. Adding to the excitement, Double C Ranch Carriage Services and their team of horses are set to offer rides around the picturesque

fairgrounds, weather-dependent. Begin your time at the festival by gaining a view of the sights during this 20-minute meander or save it until the end as an amazingly special way to wrap up a perfect day!

Another notable highlight is the return of Alexander the Magician, who is sure to enchant audiences with his unique combination of humor and magic, featuring novel surprises. New this year, for those eager to learn some magic themselves, lessons will be offered throughout the weekend. All ages are welcome to join!

We are also thrilled to host the remarkable talents of chainsaw carvers Lisa Barr from Barrnone Carvings & Creations and Brian Fox of Fox Sawmill and Custom Design. Their skills in crafting birds, bears, turtles, and more will be on full display, and all are encouraged to watch the action! Additionally, the festival features various demonstrations with artists showcasing skills from the delicate art of felting to the mesmerizing craft of glass blowing.

For those looking to take a moment away from the festival's sights, a shaded picnic area is a wonderful retreat, while a creative assortment of delectable foods await hearty appetites. Live music is on deck to add to the ambiance, starring Old Dawg Bluegrass on Saturday with its fusion of traditional bluegrass and gospel music and Warren County's own Temple Grey adding to the toe-tapping on Sunday with a blend of soft rock.

The Wild Wind Folk Art & Craft Festival welcomes you to make a treasured memory by joining them for the day - or the whole weekend! The admission fees are \$10 for adults, \$7 for seniors, and free for children 12 and under. As a bonus, those who attend on Saturday can return on Sunday free of charge. This is a special event, one not to be missed!

For more detailed information, please visit [www.wildwindfestival.com](http://www.wildwindfestival.com), email [info@wildwindfestival.com](mailto:info@wildwindfestival.com), or call 802-689-0609/814-688-1516.





# Jamestown BPU Launches Open-Access Fiber Internet

Contributed by  
Jamestown  
Board of Public Utilities

The Jamestown Board of Public Utilities (BPU) is proud to announce the official launch of its community-owned, open-access fiber network. Service will be available across the BPU electric territory, rolled out over the next fifteen months, giving residents and businesses affordable, reliable and future-ready internet access with the freedom to choose their internet and digital service providers.

All BPU electric customers are eligible to receive a no-cost fiber service drop to their home or business. Once the drop is installed and when the system is online, customers sign up for the free in-home installation, then choose an Internet Service Provider (ISP) plan (which can be changed at any time).

The rates are:

Residential Service Rates

- 300/300 Mbps: \$40/month
- 500/500 Mbps: \$42.50/month
- 1/1 Gbps: \$45/month
- 2/2 Gbps: \$55/month

Commercial Service Rates

- 300/300 Mbps: \$50/month
- 1/1 Gbps: \$65/month

Customers who sign up for their free service drop before October 2026 will receive 90 days of free internet service. Every connection includes a free service drop, no charges or rental fees for the BPU-provided on-premises electronics and free Wi-Fi 6 router, no in-home installation/set-up costs and no long-term contracts. The ISPs may also provide additional offerings.

Visit [JamestownBPU.com/fiber](http://JamestownBPU.com/fiber) to sign for your service drop now!

The Jamestown BPU fiber network is built as an open-access system, meaning the BPU owns and maintains the infrastructure, while multiple ISPs deliver services on the network. This model minimizes infrastructure costs, creates real competition, and gives customers better, more stable prices and choices than the traditional model.

“Open-access models in other

communities have shown that competition improves service and lowers costs,” said BPU General Manager David L. Leathers. “As with our other utilities, the BPU fiber network is operated transparently and responsibly, with stable, affordable rates that will not see steep increases after initial promotional periods.”

Jamestown City Mayor and BPU President Kimberly Ecklund stated, “Reliable and affordable fiber service through the BPU strengthens Jamestown for the future. It supports students, local businesses and technological growth, while helping ensure our community remains an attractive and affordable place to live and do business.”

“This project shows the benefit of investing in infrastructure that stays accountable to the community,” stated BPU Chair Gregory Anderson. “Open access brings competition, keeps costs fair and gives residents and businesses more choices than ever before.”

Empire State Development President, CEO and Commissioner Hope Knight said, “High-speed fiber infrastructure is critical for economic competitiveness, and Jamestown’s open-access model is exactly what New York communities need. This network will help local businesses compete, provide students with reliable connectivity, and ensure families have access to telehealth and remote work opportunities. Together, we are building a stronger, more connected Jamestown.”

BPU Deputy General Manager – Electric, Kristofor G. Sellstrom, highlighted the significance of the project.

“This fiber network is an exciting investment for Jamestown and the surrounding communities,” noted Sellstrom.

“It delivers affordable, high-speed internet for residents and businesses, strengthens our electric system, and creates a foundation for future opportunities in areas like energy management and education. By building it as open

CONTINUED ON PAGE 29



# JPS Appoints New Washington Middle School Assistant Principal

Contributed by  
Jamestown Public Schools

Jamestown Public Schools will welcome a new assistant principal to Washington Middle School. The Board of Education approved the appointment of Jenny Tilaro during its Aug. 26 meeting. Tilaro fills the position vacated by Tim Anderson, who became Washington’s building principal on July 1.

“We are excited to welcome Mrs. Tilaro to Jamestown Public Schools,” said Tina Sandstrom, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction and School Improvement. “Her dedication to student success and professional development has been evident throughout her career, and we are eager to see the positive contributions she will bring to Washington Middle School.”

Tilaro has served as the assistant principal at Erie High School in Erie, Pa. since 2023. Prior to joining EHS, she served as a high school science teacher at Allegany-Limestone Middle High School and spent two years as staff development specialist at Erie 2-Chautauqua-Cattaraugus BOCES. She has also held administrative roles at Northern Chautauqua Catholic School and Randolph Central School. She began her career teaching science at Southwestern Central School before serving at Bemus Point Central School District. Tilaro also served as a New York State Master Teacher through SUNY Buffalo State from 2014 to 2016 and again in 2023, where she facilitated STEM professional development.

“Working at Washington Middle



Jenny Tilaro, new assistant principal Washington Middle School

School would mean the opportunity to serve in a school where building meaningful relationships with a diverse student body will be central to my daily practice,” Tilaro said. “It would allow me to contribute to a school community while supporting students academically, socially, and emotionally, ensuring they feel valued and capable of success every day. For me, it will be an honor to be part of a team committed to equity, inclusivity, and preparing students for their future.”

Tilaro received her bachelor’s degree from SUNY Fredonia, her master’s degree from the University at Buffalo, and her educational leadership masters from Stony Brook University, where she obtained her school building and school district leader certifications. She resides in Lakewood with her husband Robert, owner of Tilaro’s Bakery, and her sons Sebastian and Gabriel.



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**Lakewood Farmers Market**  
**Thursdays, 12 PM–4 PM**  
June–September  
**Chautauqua Avenue, Lakewood**  
*Set in the heart of the historic village center, enjoy a mix of produce, baked goods, and local specialties.*  
Accepts: FMNP, Fresh Connect checks (most vendors)  
lakewoodny.gov/farmers-artisans-market | 716-763-8557

**Forestville Farmers Market**  
**Thursdays, 2 PM-6 PM**  
May 13-August 26  
**Main Street, Forestville**  
*A growing market featuring vendors from Fredonia, including Degolier Maple Syrup, local produce, and handcrafted items.*  
Accepts: SNAP, Fresh Connect checks  
716-965-2921

**Jamestown Farmers Market**  
**Saturdays, 9 AM–1 PM**  
June 7–November 22  
**Third Street, Jamestown**  
(in front of Lucy Desi Museum)  
*More than a place to shop, the Jamestown Farmers Market is a community hub outfitted with longtime vendors like Abers Acres and Hidden Valley, and new favorites like Lantern's Hollow offering sustainable greens and herbs. In winter months, visit the indoor market at St. Luke's Episcopal Church.*  
Accepts: SNAP, Fresh Connect, FMNP coupons  
www.jfmny.org

**Fredonia Farmers Market**  
**Saturdays, 9 AM–1 PM**  
year-round  
**Baker Commons, Fredonia**  
*Year-round access to local meats from Roo Haven Farms and Green Heron Growers, plus prepared foods from Pots n' Curries and specialty baked goods (including gluten-free and keto).*  
Accepts: SNAP, Fresh Connect, FMNP checks  
fredoniafarmersmarket.org

**Westfield Farmers & Artisans Market**  
**Saturdays, 9 AM–2 PM**  
May 24-September 27  
**Corner of Routes 20 & 394, Westfield**  
*Voted one of the top 15 farmers markets in the U.S. by American Farmland Trust! Find everything from organic produce and pasture-raised meats to Whizz n Smash nut butters and fresh Thai dishes from Gong Gardens.*  
Accepts: FMNP checks  
westfieldmkt@gmail.com

**Falconer Farmers & Artisans Market**  
**Saturdays, 10 AM–4 PM**  
May 31-October 25  
**Village of Falconer Park**  
*Visit with local vendors and shops like Persnickety Pies and browse handmade artisan goods, fresh produce, and more each Saturday throughout the summer season.*  
716-665-4400

**Bemus Point Farmers Market**  
**Saturdays, 10 AM - 2 PM**  
June 14–August 30  
**Lakeside Park**  
(by the Village Casino)  
*Located in the scenic lakeside village, this market is the perfect spot to shop for fresh goods while enjoying the beautiful surroundings of Bemus Point.*  
bemuspointny.org/farmers-market

**Cassadaga Farmers Market**  
**Sundays, 12 PM–3 PM**  
June - end of summer  
**Ames Commons, Cassadaga**  
*A small, hyper-local market featuring vendor Roberto Fred's wide variety of fresh produce.*  
Accepts: SNAP, FMNP, Fresh Connect checks  
cassadaganewyork.org  
716-595-3007

**Jamestown Mobile Market**  
**Various times and locations across Jamestown**  
June - September  
*Managed by St. Luke's and the Jamestown Farmers Market, this mobile option offers fresh produce, meats, baked goods, and more at discounted prices throughout the city.*  
Accepts: SNAP, Double Up Food Bucks, Fresh Connect, FMNP coupons  
www.jfmny.org

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**Jamestown Farmers Market**

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LOCAL GOODS







## CHAMBER CORNER

### 2025 Chamber Business Awards Announced

*Article Contributed by*

**Daniel J. Heitzenrater**

Chautauqua County Chamber of Commerce  
President and CEO

The CHQ Chamber is pleased to announce that we will honor a diverse group of award recipients during our annual Business Awards Banquet October 2nd. This event is designed to recognize local businesses and organizations for their outstanding efforts year-round, and meets our mission to build vital connections, provide professional resources, and champion our local businesses in Chautauqua County.

We will be presenting awards for Emerging Business of the Year – a newer or growing business that has demonstrated vision and/or filled a need in Chautauqua County. Business Sector Awards are being presented 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 (an outstanding nonprofit organization). The Business Champion Award is designed to recognize 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.

#### The award recipients for 2025 are:

Emerging Business of the Year  
West Main Mercantile, Falconer

Hospitality Business of the Year  
The White Inn, Fredonia

Service Business of the Year  
Porter-Blair Cleaning & Co., Jamestown

Producer of the Year  
Triple E Manufacturing, Sherman

Not-for-Profit of the Year  
Chautauqua County Rural Ministry,  
Dunkirk

Business Champion Award  
Jamestown Board of Public Utilities,  
Jamestown

Business of the Year  
Bemus Point Golf Club & Tap House,  
Bemus Point

In addition, multiple businesses will be recognized for milestone service years. The CHQ Chamber Annual Awards Banquet will be held Thursday, October

2 at 6pm at the Williams Center at SUNY Fredonia with a buffet dinner. Major sponsors for the event are AHN Westfield Memorial Hospital, Brooks-TLC Hospital System/Kaleida Health, Cattaraugus County Bank, County of Chautauqua Industrial Development Agency, Lake Shore Bank, Jamestown Community College, Media One Radio Group, Observer, and The Post-Journal. Registration is open now through the Chamber's web calendar at [www.chambersvp.org](http://www.chambersvp.org).

This recognition represents our ongoing commitment to champion local businesses countywide. From the smallest shop to the largest manufacturing plants, we are proud to honor the people and organizations that make Chautauqua County a great place to do business.

#### Saluting Our Local Labor Force

Labor Day is upon us and while that generally signals the end of the summer season it's also a moment to reflect on the importance of our labor force in Chautauqua County and the people who make our businesses run. Sometimes they are behind the scenes, and sometimes they are the first people you meet in a business. Local manufacturers, retailers, restaurants, and all types of service industries rely on skilled labor to make their businesses run.

The CHQ Chamber provides some resources to help businesses better manage their labor force including health and ancillary insurance packages for employees and workshops that offer helpful information on a variety of topics including customer engagement, marketing, and more, and we sell Live CHQ gift baskets specially designed for talent attraction to our local companies. The Chamber recognizes that good employees are vital to help our economy thrive. This Labor Day weekend we salute all the people who are doing hands-on work to keep our businesses and our communities healthy.

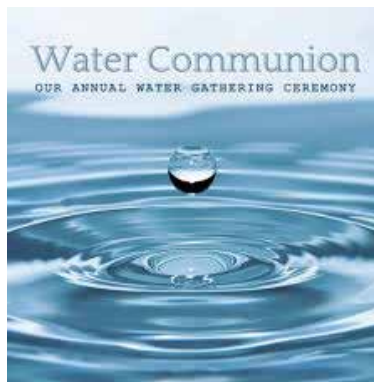
#### Business After Hours at Liberty Vineyards is September 11

The next CHQ Chamber Business After Hours will be held at Liberty Vineyards & Winery, 2861 Route 20, Sheridan, from 5-6:30 pm on September 11.

Business After Hours is a great opportunity to make new professional connections. Designed as a relaxed

CONTINUED ON PAGE 27

## WATER COMMUNION Annual Water Gathering Ceremony



Member Anne Kenefic will lead a water communion/ingathering this Sunday, September 7, 10:30 a.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Jamestown's return to services after its summer break. Participants are invited to bring a small amount of water from a place that is meaningful to them. All are welcome to the service at 1255 Prendergast Avenue and the coffee hour that follows. To participate virtually, use the link at [UUJamestown.org/calendar](http://UUJamestown.org/calendar)

## Southwest Region SBDC holds FastTrac Business Basics Course with Funding from City of Jamestown

*Contributed by*

**Southwest Region Small  
Business Development  
Center**

The Southwest Region Small Business Development Center (SBDC) will be holding a FastTrac Business Basics Program, which is a 10-week course designed to equip aspiring and early-stage entrepreneurs with the tools and knowledge to turn their ideas into actionable business plans. With support from the City of Jamestown, the program is offered free for City of Jamestown residents/businesses.

Participants will engage in twice-weekly sessions, diving into critical topics such as:

- Market research and business modeling
- Pricing and legal strategies
- Distribution, sales, and financial management
- Human resources and entrepreneurial lifestyle insights

The program will run September 9, 2025 – November 13, 2025. The sessions will be held on the Jamestown Campus of Jamestown Community College, on Tuesday and Thursday nights. All sessions are 5:30-7:30pm. For more information or to register for upcoming programs, visit [www.sbdcc.org](http://www.sbdcc.org)



Kim Ecklund, Mayor of Jamestown

[sbdcc.org](http://sbdcc.org) or call 716-338-1024.

The program is part of SBDC's mission to deliver high-quality business counseling and training to entrepreneurs in Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, and Allegany Counties. Services are free, confidential, and designed to support businesses at all stages of development.

The **Southwest Region Small Business Development Center** (SBDC) has a vision to create economic sustainability for all New Yorkers – one business at a time. SBDC delivers high quality business counseling and training to clients looking to start a business or improve the performance of an existing business. Services are free and confidential and include a range of management and technical assistance from business plan development, accounting guidance, productivity enhancement and export assistance to loan information, marketing, and financial planning among other services. For services and more information contact 716-338-1024 or go to our website at [www.sbdcc.org](http://www.sbdcc.org)



Chamber Corner

Continued from Page 26

networking event, the CHQ Chamber provides a Who’s Who in the Room list for all pre-registered guests. There are complimentary appetizers and a cash bar. Chamber member businesses can send two people at no charge. The cost is just \$10 for non-members or anyone above the two-person limit. We always encourage the exchange of business cards for networking.

This Business After Hours event is sponsored by Liberty Vineyards & Winery, Brooks-TLC Hospital System/ Kaleida Health, DFT Communications, LaBella Associates, National Grid, Southern Chautauqua Federal Credit Union, and by Jamestown Community College, Media One Radio Group, Observer, and The Post-Journal. Register online now through the web calendar at [www.chqchamber.org](http://www.chqchamber.org).

Music in the Green is September 10 The CHQ Chamber is pleased to offer one additional Music in the Green event in Mayville this year. Join us in uptown Mayville September 10 from 5-8pm with special musical guests Bill Ward and John Cross.

This is not your typical vendor fair. It’s designed as a business expo-style experience that invites local storefronts and organizations to creatively showcase what they offer in engaging ways. Local businesses are encouraged to stay open and create unique in-store experiences to attract and engage visitors. Save the date and join us for Music in the Green, September 10, being offered with the support of the Village of Mayville and the Town of Chautauqua.



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**Thursday, August 28**  
(1) Homemade Meatloaf Dinner  
w/ real mashed potatoes & corn  
Full: \$11.50 + tax | Half: \$7.50 + tax  
(2) Meatloaf Sandwich w/ choice of side

**Friday, August 29**  
1/4# Dog Burger w/ choice of side  
\$10.25 + tax

★ ★ **Monday, September 1** ★ ★  
★ CLOSED - Happy Labor Day! ★

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SUDOKU

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

Here's How It Works:

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

Level: Beginner

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13						14				15			
16					17					18			
19				20					21				
			22					23				24	
25	26	27		28				29				30	
31			32		33		34					35	
36				37		38				39			40
	41				42				43		44		
		45						46		47		48	
49	50		51				52				53		
54		55				56						57	58
60						61					62		
63						64				65			
66						67				68			

CLUES ACROSS

1. Fairly large
6. Barrels per day (abbr.)
9. Cover the entirety of
13. Leafy appetizer
14. Showy ornament
15. Norse personification of old age
16. Athletes
17. Closes tightly
18. Attack via hurling items
19. Where the reserves stand
21. Sword
22. Begat
23. Damage another’s reputation
24. Northeast
25. Turf
28. For each
29. Hours (Spanish)
31. Western state
33. One who offers help
36. Flanks
38. A woolen cap of Scottish origin

39. Free from drink or drugs
41. Tunnels
44. Mature
45. More dried-up
46. News organization
48. Steal something
49. Forms one’s public persona (abbr.)
51. Female fish eggs
52. Small petrel of southern seas
54. Edible starches
56. Historical
60. In a place to sleep
61. Horse grooms
62. Off-Broadway theater award
63. Chinese dynasty
64. Resembling a wing
65. Small projection on a bird’s wing
66. Of the Isle of Man
67. Derived unit of force (abbr.)
68. Plate for Eucharist

CLUES DOWN

1. Vipers
2. Ancient city in Syria
3. Slog
4. Emits coherent radiation
5. “Pollock” actor Harris
6. Bleated
7. Monetary units of Afghanistan
8. Tooth doctor
9. One who takes apart
10. Commoner
11. Beat poet Ginsberg
12. Cave deposit material
14. Home energy backup
17. Begets
20. Face part
21. Frocks
23. Hill or rocky peak
25. Giving the impression of dishonesty
26. About ear

27. Male parents
29. Popular grilled food
30. Vaccine developer
32. Not conforming
34. Polite address for women
35. 1970 U.S. environmental law
37. Astronomical period of 18 years
40. One who fights the government
42. Center for Excellence in Education
43. Watches discreetly
47. An electrically charged atom
49. Hymn
50. Arabic given name
52. Popular pie nut
53. City in Zambia
55. Species of cherry
56. John \_\_, British writer
57. Be next to
58. Make angry
59. Give birth to a lamb or kid



Mosquito-Borne Illnesses: What You Should Know

Continued from Page 23

for horses against WNV and EEE, no such vaccines currently exist for humans.

Protect Yourself and Your Family

The risk of mosquito-borne illnesses is highest from June through September, with peak activity in August. Residents are urged to take the following preventive measures, especially during dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active:

- **Use insect repellent** containing DEET, picaridin, or other EPA-approved ingredients. Always follow label instructions and assist children with application.
- **Wear long sleeves** and pants when outdoors, especially in wooded or marshy areas.
- **Eliminate standing water** around your home where mosquitoes breed. Mosquitoes only need a half cup of water to establish a breeding pool.

More information on WNV and EEE:

www.health.ny.gov/diseases/west\_nile\_virus/fact\_sheet.htm  
www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/eastern\_equine\_encephalitis/

**About Chautauqua County Health Department** - The Chautauqua County Health Department is the leading Public Health organization in Chautauqua County dedicated to the support of the community's health. The Health Department takes innovative approaches to provide technical assistance to partner organizations, and offers various programs and services in order to help prevent disease, protect the public's health and promote our community's overall health and wellness. For more information visit [www.HealthyCHQ.com](http://www.HealthyCHQ.com)

Tips for Reducing Standing Water:

- Remove items that collect water such as old tires, buckets, and flowerpots.
- Drill holes in the bottoms of recycling containers kept outdoors.
- Clean gutters and ensure they drain properly.
- Change birdbath water at least twice per week.
- Turn over wheelbarrows and wading pools when not in use.
- Clean and chlorinate pools, hot tubs, and drain pool covers.
- Landscape to prevent water from pooling in your yard.
- Cover rain barrels with fine mesh screens to keep mosquitoes out.
- By staying informed and taking proactive steps, residents can help reduce the spread of mosquito-borne diseases in Chautauqua County.

CREDC Announces New CCPEG Program Manager

Continued from Page 23

and initiatives, the need was quickly identified for a full-time dedicated program manager to ensure that projects get responsibly implemented in compliance with funder requirements.

"Since CCPEG's launch, Nate has helped to develop and grow the initiative well beyond any and all expectations," Geise said. "During the past six years, CCPEG has received regional and statewide recognition and Nate has also been recognized across the state for his role in guiding the Partnership, along with his other duties in County Government and the CCIDA. With Josiah's arrival, Nate can focus his energy and talents on a variety of related county planning and development efforts, while playing a leading role in various projects with the CCIDA, including site development, business attraction/retention activities, and helping to guide and sustain CCPEG well into the future."

"We had several qualified candidates apply for the Program Manager position, but at the end of the process Josiah stood out as the top choice, due to his skillset, experience, and familiarity with CCPEG," Aldrich said. "I look forward to working closely with him as we continue to make CCPEG a viable initiative for economic growth in Chautauqua County and having it serve as a model program for other counties in New York State."

Lamp received his M.A. in Community Development &

Planning from Clark University in Massachusetts in 2011 and received a B.A. in English from Wheaton College in Illinois in 2005. He currently resides in Dunkirk with his family.

"I am looking forward to helping the Partnership continue its efforts of building and strengthening our local economy by creating new and dynamic programming that assists our many unique communities and our many wonderful organizations," Lamp said. "Chautauqua County is already a great place to live, work, and do business and I'm excited to help make it even better through my work with CCPEG."

The position is funded in part by a multi-year grant from the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation.

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 the formation, retention, development, and attraction of quality jobs and advancements to the quality of life. It is an initiative of the Chautauqua Region Economic Development Corporation (CREDC). For more information visit [CHQPartnership.org](http://CHQPartnership.org).



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At **Audubon Community Nature Center's First Friday** this week, Jennifer Schlick will share her journey on becoming a practicing herbalist. Come with your favorite 2–8 year old(s) for First Sunday Story Time, then stay to explore the new Bee Board Display: it's free! Learn more and make Story Time reservations at AudubonCNC.org or (716) 569-2345. Audubon is at 1600 Riverside Road, one-quarter mile east of Route 62 between Jamestown and Warren.

Jamestown BPU Launches Open-Access Fiber Internet

Continued from Page 23

access, we're ensuring lasting value, real choice, and long-term benefits for our community."

"I am extremely proud of the dedication and long hours put in by our BPU line workers, electricians, managers, engineers, and project partners, and I am grateful to the Empire State Development ConnectALL team for making this possible," added Sellstrom. "Innovation for the next era of Jamestown starts now, and this project lights our path toward a stronger, more connected future."

BPU crews and project partner Quanta Telecom Solutions have worked intensively over the past year to prepare poles, install, and splice fiber to bring this service to life. There is still approximately one and a half years of work left to get the entire system operational by December 31, 2026.

The BPU and its partners will soon begin installing service drops to anyone interested, to maximize the deployment reach during the grant period. The free service timeline will not start until a customer's service is ready to come online, so there is no reason to wait to sign up to get the drop installed. Once the service drop is installed and a customer's area is ready for service, the BPU and its partners will reach

back out to schedule a time for the free in-home installation and help a customer select an ISP.

"Visit JamestownBPU.com/fiber to request your free service drop now," said Leathers. "Information will also be distributed through newsletters, door hangers, direct mail, billboards, social media channels and community events. Don't miss this chance to sign up for service from the BPU's Community Fiber."

This project is supported by a grant awarded through the New York State ConnectALL Municipal Infrastructure Program, funded by the Capital Project Fund administered by the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

About the Jamestown BPU

The Jamestown Board of Public Utilities has proudly served the community since 1891, providing reliable electric, water, wastewater, solid waste, and district heating services. The launch of its open-access fiber network continues the BPU's long tradition of community investment, ensuring Jamestown has access to the affordable, reliable, high-speed connectivity needed for today and the future.

Town of Poland Pursues Grant Funding

Contributed by  
Town of Poland

Town of Poland Supervisor Kelly Snow recently announced that the Town has taken first steps toward acquiring grant funding, with an eye on furthering community development. At a recent board meeting, members approved a plan to hire a freelance Grant Writer.

Councilman Robert Smith presented the plan to the board that would allow the Town to hire a professional grant writer to fund potential projects within the town. One such project would involve seeking funding for proper repair a section of Quaint

Road that for years has been a problem due to a sinkhole under the road. "For several hundred dollars we can hire a professional to allow us improved access to the potentially hundreds of thousands in state and federal grant dollars," Smith said. The plan was supported by the entire board and interviews will soon be scheduled.

Supervisor Kelly Snow applauded the idea and stated that she is thrilled to welcome any opportunity to assist the town in applying for outside funding for the many innovative local projects on the docket.



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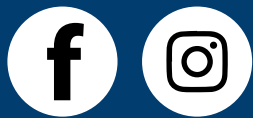
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PUZZLE  
SOLUTIONS

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

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L	I	A	O		A	L	A	R		A	L	U	L
M	A	N	X		D	Y	N		P	A	T	E	N

PUZZLES ON PAGE 27





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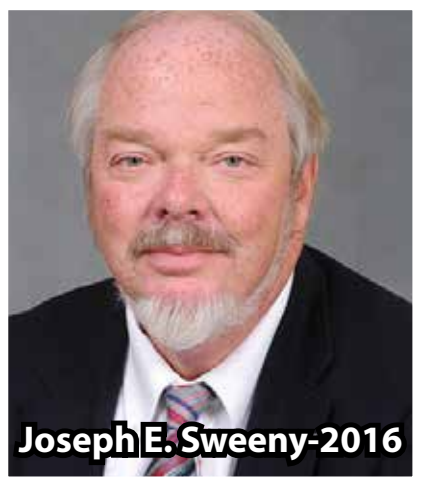
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# Labor Leaders Around Town

Proudly featuring the Annual George Ritzer Award recipients from the last decade. Named in honor of George Ritzer, who served as president of the Labor Council for over 20 years, the Ritzer award is given to an individual who volunteers and contributes toward the labor movement and volunteers time to community organizations.



Joseph E. Sweeny-2016



Bonnie Peters-2017



George S. Spitale-2018



Jeffrey G. Keppel-2019



All Essential Workers-2020



Karen Olson-2022



Michael Haines-2021



Robert Whitney Jr.-2023



Steven Thorpe-2024



Erica Ericson-2025

Photos courtesy of  
our friends at the  
Post-Journal



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## KARAOKE *Nights*



August 14<sup>th</sup>  
August 21<sup>st</sup>  
August 28<sup>th</sup>  
September 4<sup>th</sup>  
September 11<sup>th</sup>  
September 18<sup>th</sup>

7:00 PM - 10:00 PM

EST. 2018  
**PEARL CITY HOPS**  
RESTAURANT & TAVERN

### SUMMER MUSIC SERIES



August 11<sup>th</sup> - Jade Giambrone  
August 18<sup>th</sup> - Nick Slagle  
August 28<sup>th</sup> - Kaley Lynch  
September 1<sup>st</sup> - The Hallow Society  
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM



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