



Photo Credit: Lake Erie Wine Country

CHAUTAUQUA GAZETTE



FREE WEEKLY

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Aren't We Grape!?

Volume 3 • Issue 36 | September 14, 2026



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Photo Credit: Johnsons Estate Vineyards

BETWEEN THE LAKE AND THE HILLS: THE STORY OF THE CONCORD GRAPE BELT

Featured Writer

Lake Erie Wine Country

Drive Route 20 through Chautauqua County and the vineyards can seem so much a part of the landscape that it is easy to forget how unusual they are.

For generations, rows of grapevines have stretched across the narrow plain between Lake Erie and the hills rising toward the Allegheny Plateau. They have shaped not only the landscape, but communities such as Westfield, Ripley and Brocton: the farms people worked, the businesses that employed them, and traditions that remain part of local life.

It begins with geography.

Along Lake Erie's southeastern shore, the land rises more than 700 feet toward the Allegheny Plateau. Between the lake and that higher ground lies a relatively narrow band of land unusually well suited to growing fruit. Lake Erie is the essential ingredient. The enormous body of water heats and cools more slowly than the surrounding land, moderating temperature extremes and extending its influence roughly 10 to 15 miles inland. The higher ground helps contain that moderating effect along the lake plain.

The soils help, too. Ancient lake beaches and glacial activity left a varied landscape

that includes gravelly and sandy loams as well as silt, clay and shale-based soils. Grapevines generally thrive where their roots have good drainage, and many sites along the Lake Erie plain provide just that.

Together, lake, land and climate created something remarkable: a grape-growing region in a part of the country where winters would otherwise make commercial viticulture far more difficult.

The grape that found a home

Grapes were grown along Lake Erie be-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

LAKE ERIE WINE COUNTRY: SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

Editor-in-Chief

Katrina Fuller

For visitors traveling the Lake Erie shoreline, a trip through wine country may begin with a glass poured among the vineyards, but it certainly does not have to end there.

Stretching 50 miles from New York State to Pennsylvania, Lake Erie Wine Country draws visitors to a landscape shaped by vineyards, generations of grape-growing and wineries that offer experiences you can only get here. But the wineries are only one part of the experience.

There is something special about tra-

veling through grape country. The region's grape-growing heritage is a story generations in the making. The Concord Grape Belt stretches along the Lake Erie shoreline through Pennsylvania and New York, where the lake and surrounding landscape have helped create conditions that have supported grape growing for more than a century.

The communities nestled in wine country are part of the charm, too. Small towns and villages offer places to wander, shop, eat or simply slow down for a while. The Lake Erie shoreline adds another dimension to the landscape, with opportunities to en-

joy the water, take in the scenery or follow a road simply to see where it goes.

That may be one of the greatest strengths of Lake Erie Wine Country: there is no single way to experience it. A morning might begin beside Lake Erie before giving way to an afternoon among the vineyards. Visitors can linger over a glass of wine, wander through a small town or take the long way between stops just to enjoy the view. An afternoon can easily become a day, and a day can become a weekend. The wine may bring visitors to the region, but grape country itself has a way of inviting them to stay.

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This Week Around Town

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

Dunkirk Farmers Market | 9 AM-2 PM
45 Cliffstar Court | Dunkirk
For Info: 716-338-2460 or dunkirkfarmersmarket@gmail.com
Jamestown Mobile Market | 1 AM-1 PM & 1:30-2:30 PM
Prendergast Library (11) & Silvertree Seniors - Anderson Manor (1:30) | Jamestown | For Info: jfmny.org
Movies at The Reg: In Tony | 7 PM
116 E. 3rd St. | Jamestown
For Info: reglenna.com

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17-
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

59th Annual Festival of Grapes | Begins 5 PM Thurs.
Town Square | Silver Creek
For Info: festivalofgrapes.org

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

Cardio Drumming | 9 AM-9:45 AM
Dunkirk Senior Center | Dunkirk
For Info: (716) 366-7530
Jamestown Mobile Market
11 AM-12 PM & 12:30 PM-1:15 PM & 2:30 PM-3:30 PM
The Chautauqua Center (11) &
Silvertree Seniors - Methodist Gardens (12:30) &
Chautauqua Opportunities (2:30) | Jamestown
For Info: jfmny.org
Forestville Farmers Market | 1 PM-5 PM
Main Street | Forestville
For Info: 716-934-8534

3rd on Third | 5 PM-8 PM
Third Street | Jamestown
For Info: chautauquanycoc.weblinkconnect.com/atlas/events
Lucy Look-Alike Contest | 5:30 PM
Town Square | Silver Creek
For Info: festivalofgrapes.org
Crafted in Clay | 6 PM
220 E. 2nd Street | Jamestown
For Info: fluvannahistory.com or (716) 804-7163

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18-
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

Bemus Point Fall Fest | 10 AM-5 PM
Various Locations | Bemus Point
For Info: visitbemuspoint.com

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

Jamestown Mobile Market
11 AM-12 PM & 12:30-1:30 PM
TRC Community Health Center (11) &
Silvertree Seniors - Carlson (12:30) | Jamestown
For Info: jfmny.org
5th Annual Hispanic Festival | 3 PM-7 PM
Jackson Taylor Park | Jamestown
For Info: mychq.org/event/hispanic-heritage-festival-2026/
Westfield Grape & Wine Festival | 3 PM-8 PM
Moore Park & Grape Discovery Center | Westfield
For Info: westfieldny.com/living-here/westfield-grape-and-wine-festival

Movies at The Reg: Super Troopers 3 | 7 PM
116 E. 3rd St. | Jamestown
For Info: reglenna.com
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19
NCCF Flapjack Breakfast and Basket Raffle Fundraiser
8 AM-10 AM
Applebee's on Vineyard Drive | Dunkirk
For Info: nccfoundation.org or (716) 366-4892
Jamestown Farmers Market | 9 AM-1 PM
Third Street & Pine Street | JamestownFor Info: jfmny.org
Fredonia Farmers Market | 9 AM-1 PM
Baker Commons | Fredonia
For Info: fredoniafarmersmarket.org
Westfield Farmers & Artisans Market | 9 AM-2 PM
Moore Park | Westfield
For Info: 716-753-0367 or westfieldmkt@gmail.com

Westfield Grape & Wine Festival | 9 AM-5 PM
Moore Park & Grape Discovery Center | Westfield
For Info: westfieldny.com/living-here/westfield-grape-and-wine-festival

Pokémon Go Gathering | 1:30 PM-4 PM
Audubon Community Nature Center | Jamestown
For Info: auduboncnc.com/pokemongo or (716) 569-2345
Observe the Moon Night | 7:30 PM
Martz-Kohl Observatory | Frewsburg
For Info: martzobservatory.org

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

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

WESTFIELD
GRAPES
& WINE FESTIVAL
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BEMUS POINT
FALL FEST
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SILVER CREEK
FESTIVAL OF
GRAPES
PAGE 22



CHAUTAUQUA GAZETTE

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Graphic Designer.....Jonah Grace
Contributing Writer.....Pat Locke
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Featured WriterThe Rev. Luke F. Fodor
Featured WriterEric LeBlanc
Distribution Director Matt Emmerling

MAILING ADDRESS
PO Box 32
Bemus Point, NY 14712
PHONE
716-720-1845
EMAIL:
cornell@CHQgazette.com

WEBSITE:
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SOCIAL MEDIA
Facebook — [f/chautauquagazette](https://www.facebook.com/chautauquagazette)
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Thursdays at 5:00 pm

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The Chautauqua Gazette is a locally owned free weekly, community newspaper that highlights the notable events and remarkable people who make our region a unique and vibrant place to live. The Chautauqua Gazette is published every Monday and distributed to dealer locations in Chautauqua and Cattaraugus Counties in New York and in Warren County, Pennsylvania.

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Editorial with Lori Cornell

Stop and Smell the Grapes



Publisher
Lori Cornell

Our extensive network of vineyards, passed down through generations of dedicated growers, play a lead role on the national stage of juicers and jams - not to mention help to support a complementary stronghold of charming communities like Ripley, Westfield, Brocton, Fredonia and Silver Creek and thriving small businesses.

It's this strength and heritage that reminds us we will endure despite the current trying times for our local grape farmers. A grateful community encourages and stands behind them. We are especially proud to celebrate grape growers' hard work and harvest this fall.

While I may not be here to enjoy the grapes this season, I hope you all take a moment and, to coin a familiar phrase with a twist, stop and smell the grapes... and thank a farmer!



It's a long story for perhaps another editorial, but I have occasion to be out of town for a more extended amount of time than planned these days....a place that's beautiful in its own right, but one that's notably absent of something special. It's the thing that makes our Septembers always smell the best. It is also the thing that makes Chautauqua County truly feel like home each fall: Grapes!

We are, of course, the second largest grape-growing region in the country and the oldest Concord grape growers in the world! The Lake Erie Wine Country spans more than 50 beautiful lakeside miles and features more than 20 wineries.

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**Lake Erie Wine
Country is 53 miles
from end to end.**



The map illustrates the Lake Erie Wine Country region, spanning from the western shore near Findley Lake to the eastern shore near Silver Creek. It highlights numerous wineries and vineyards, including Presque Isle Wine Cellars, Kingview Meadhouse & Winery, 6 Mile Cellars, Penn Shore Winery, South Shore Wine Company, Yori Wine Cellars, Driftwood Wine Cellars, Arundel Cellars & Brewing Co., North East Marina, Mazza Vineyards, Heritage Wine Cellars, Sparkling Ponds Winery, Mazza Chautauqua Cellars/Five & 20 Spirits & Brewing, Johnson Estate Winery, Noble Winery, 21 Brix Winery, Liberty Vineyards & Winery, Willow Creek Winery, Dunkirk City Pier, Silver Creek, Sherman, Mayville, Brocton, Portland, Westfield, Ripley, North East, Lakeview Wine Cellars, Arrowhead Wine Cellars, and Courtyard Winery. Major roads like I-19, I-190, and I-19 are shown, along with exits and directions to various locations such as Erie, PA, Cleveland, OH, Pittsburgh, PA, Jamestown, and Buffalo & Niagara Falls. A compass rose is located in the bottom right corner.

Faith Matters

HOW SWEET IT IS



Featured Writer

The Rev. Luke F. Fodor

Rector, St. Lukes Church, Jamestown

Twenty-five years ago, at the church I attended in Brooklyn, we had a part-time sexton named Herbie. Herbie was from Jamaica, and he had this extraordinary way of welcoming whatever life sent him with relish and gusto. His response to almost everything was an emphatic: “How sweet it is!”

I can still hear him saying it. There was something almost sacramental about Herbie’s delight in life. The Psalmist seems to know something about that sweetness, too, praising God for bringing forth from the earth:

*“wine to gladden the human heart,
oil to make the face shine,
and bread to strengthen the human heart.”*

Wine. Oil. Bread. Not simply what keeps us alive, but what makes life abundant.

And there is something wonderfully appropriate about hearing that here in Chautauqua County, where grapes have shaped our landscape and our history for two centuries. Concord grapes flourished along the Lake Erie shore, and in the nineteenth century Dr. Thomas Bramwell Welch developed a way of preserving grape juice without fermentation. What began as an alternative to wine for Holy Communion became part of the growing

temperance movement and found a natural home in the religious culture surrounding Chautauqua.

The grape, in other words, became part of how this community wrestled with what it meant to live well together. And a grape is a small thing. But gather grapes together, tend them, press them, give them time—and sweetness emerges. Maybe that is an image for community, too.

This is Welcoming Week, and the New Neighbors Coalition is inviting us to consider a simple question: What does it mean to belong?

There is a difference between being allowed into a room and knowing that your presence matters. Welcome opens the door. Belonging makes room at the table.

And perhaps that is why the Psalmist gives us wine, oil, and bread. These are gifts meant to be shared. Grapes are gathered. Grain is harvested. Bread is broken. And in sharing them, strangers become neighbors. But something else happens, too. We discover that the person we thought we were welcoming has brought something to the feast—something our common life needed.

Herbie certainly did. He came from Jamaica to Brooklyn, and twenty-five years later, I still carry something he gave me: “How sweet it is.”

That is the sweetness of belonging: discovering that God has given us to one another. Wine to gladden our hearts. Oil to make our faces shine. Bread to strengthen us. A place at the table. A neighbor whose presence matters.

How sweet it is.

Faithfully,
Luke

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Concord is the most
widely grown grape
in the region.

CRAFTED IN CLAY



Vince Martonis at the Fenton History Center presenting a program about Chautauqua County pottery.

Contributed by
Fluvanna Community
Historical Society

An event entitled Crafted in Clay will be hosted by the Fluvanna Community Historical Society and the Pearl City Clay House at 220 E. 2nd Street in Jamestown on Thursday, September 17, at 6 p.m.

During the first part of the event, Vince Martonis, Hanover Historian and resident of Gerry, will present a PowerPoint program about the three 19th century potteries in Chautauqua County.

Following this, attendees can try their hand at making pottery vessels by participating in an optional hands-on pottery workshop. They will create an historic pottery piece of their own by using clay from Fluvanna. The workshop will include a modest fee to cover the cost of materials, kiln firing, instruction, and the local clay used.

The pre-1825 settlers of Western New York were very much in need of pottery vessels to help them handle daily life. These included cups, saucers, mugs, plates, jugs, crocks, pots, milk pans, and candle holders. Such items were made from the local clay which was found in abundance in the area.

Local clay resulted in redware, also called earthenware, not stoneware. Stoneware clay at that time was mainly found in the Long Island area or New Jersey. It fires at a much higher temperature and is much stronger than redware. It had to be transported into the area, which didn't occur for the most part until the Erie Canal was finished to Buffalo in 1825, and it was costly.

In Chautauqua County, there were

only three redware potteries which had significant production in the 1800s. The earliest was the Fenton and Whittemore pottery in Mayville, Jamestown, and Fluvanna, which produced ware from 1812 to about 1860. The Haven and Kenyon pottery was along Route 20 in the Town of Sheridan from 1818 to 1828. The Caleb Mathews pottery was in the Town of Gerry from 1821 to about 1860.

Martonis, a pottery historian and a resident of Chautauqua County for 73 years, published books on the Haven and Kenyon pottery and the Caleb Mathews pottery in March and April of 2024. His book on the Fenton Pottery was published in April. He has studied all three potteries since the early 1980's and collected thousands of sherds from the potteries. The sherds enable him to understand production glazes and forms the potters used, and thus he is able to identify unmarked pieces of pottery.

His Haven and Kenyon book contains 15 color photos, as well as other graphics, and traces their history back to c. 1800 in Oneida County. Four identified pottery pieces are shown and discussed, including one owned by a botanic physician from Forestville and Sheridan. Sherds showing an array of glaze colors are also shown in photos. Martonis includes a basic explanation of redware, as well as the critical elements of provenance, form, and glazes.

The Caleb Mathews book contains 30 color photos and other graphics. Mathews' work at the Paul Cushman stoneware pottery in Albany during the seven years prior to coming to Gerry in 1821 is also detailed. Martonis explains how Mathews experimented with using

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



JAMESTOWN SPORTSMANS SHOW

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Look Again: Being a Tourist in Your Own Backyard

Featured Writer
Eric LeBlanc

When my wife and I moved to Chautauqua County three years ago, we came from the South.

For retirement.

Yes, that's right. We voluntarily moved to the snow belt.

As we began meeting people, we discovered that one question came up with remarkable regularity:

“Why did you move **HERE?**”

There was usually a little emphasis on the here, as though perhaps we had taken a wrong turn somewhere around Charlotte and were too embarrassed to admit it.

Our answer was—and remains—pretty simple.

We like it here.

Maybe being newcomers gives us an advantage. We haven't had enough time for the remarkable things around us to become ordinary.

That's one of the strange things about familiarity. The more often we see something, the less likely we are to really see it. The lake becomes the lake. The vineyards become something we drive past. The hills are simply what lies beyond the windshield on the way to the grocery store.

Meanwhile, someone has driven three hours to see them.

SEEING WHAT VISITORS SEE

Think for a moment about what surrounds us.

We live beside one of the Great Lakes. There are evenings when the sun drops toward Lake Erie and the entire western sky seems determined to show off.

A short drive away, **Panama Rocks** rises through an ancient forest, with enormous formations, passageways and crevices created by geological processes that began hundreds of millions of years ago. People have been coming to see the rocks as a tourist attraction since 1886.

Drive west and there is **Presque Isle**, a peninsula reaching into Lake Erie

with beaches, trails, wildlife, boating and some of the most beautiful shoreline anywhere on the Great Lakes. It is Pennsylvania's only “seashore,” but those of us who live nearby can decide on an ordinary Tuesday that we'd like to spend the afternoon there.

And the experience changes with the seasons.

Summer gives us boating, swimming, fishing, kayaking and long evenings near the water. Autumn turns the hills into color and brings harvest to the vineyards. Winter—which admittedly makes a rather forceful case for itself here—also gives us skiing, snowshoeing and landscapes transformed by snow. Spring eventually arrives with the particular joy that only people who have survived a lake-effect winter can fully appreciate.

There are horses to ride, trails to walk and lakes to explore.

But the richness of this place isn't only outdoors.

EXTRAORDINARY THINGS IN ORDINARY REACH

In Jamestown, we have the **National Comedy Center**, the nation's official cultural institution devoted to comedy, with more than 50 immersive exhibits. A few blocks away, the **Lucille Ball Desi Arnaz Museum** celebrates two people whose work changed American television—and Lucy happens to have been born right here.

People travel considerable distances to experience both.

We can go after lunch.

We also live in the home territory of **Roger Tory Peterson**, one of the most influential naturalists of the 20th century. The Roger Tory Peterson Institute in Jamestown preserves that legacy while using art to encourage people to look more closely at the natural world around them. Nearby, the Audubon Community Nature Center offers trails and outdoor exhibits that are open year-round.

And perhaps Peterson's example contains part of the lesson. You don't necessarily need to travel farther to discover more. Sometimes you need

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



Photo Credit: Lake Erie Wine Country

Chautauqua Lake South Basin Algal Bloom Continues



Sentinel 2 satellite true color image on August 28, 2026



South Basin August 30, 2026

Nutrients in the water feed algal blooms. Killing growing, aquatic plants with herbicides releases their nutrients to the water, instead of allowing those nutrients to be held by the plant.

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www.cccwaters.org



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Crafted in Clay

Continued from Page 5

a mix of both local and stoneware clays. He also created more functional handles for lifting the pots and crocks, pictured in photos in the book.

The Fenton/Fenton & Whittemore book contains 17 color photos. The pottery benefited from Jacob Fenton's early years of potting in various locations in New England and then later in Burlington, NY, also from Samuel Whittemore's New England experience. So both had more than basic experience when they potted here. After a short time in Mayville, Jacob and his son William came to Jamestown

at the request of James Prendergast who helped them build both a pottery and a tavern. Whittemore partnered with William later.

For the time being, the books are available at the Fenton History Center in Jamestown and the Barker Museum in Fredonia.

People can sign up for the Pearl City Clay House pottery making at (<https://www.FluvannaHistory.com>) or they can call for more information or ensure they have a reserved spot by calling +1 (716) 804-7163.



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Look Again: Being a Tourist in Your Own Backyard

Continued from Page 7

to look more carefully at what is already around you.

History is everywhere here, too.

At the Robert H. Jackson Center, we can explore the life of a local man who became a United States Supreme Court justice and chief American prosecutor at the Nuremberg trials.

Along Lake Erie, the history becomes maritime. At Barcelona Harbor stands a lighthouse completed in 1829—the first lighthouse in the world illuminated by natural gas. It still overlooks the water nearly two centuries later.

Continue toward Erie and the story reaches the War of 1812. Presque Isle sheltered Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry's fleet, six of whose eleven vessels were built in Erie before the Battle of Lake Erie. Today the peninsula's lighthouses and harbor still connect visitors with the Great Lakes' maritime past.

And then there are the places and experiences so familiar that we may barely think of them as attractions at all: our village centers, farm stands, wineries, local restaurants, festivals, music, Chautauqua Institution, and mile after mile of vineyards hugging the Lake Erie plain.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO AWAY TO GET AWAY

Perhaps that's the part I've come to appreciate most.

We tend to treat enjoyment as something that requires planning.

Someday we'll take that trip. Someday

we'll have more time. Someday we'll finally visit that place we've driven past for fifteen years.

But a good life isn't made entirely out of big vacations and carefully planned occasions.

Sometimes it's an afternoon.

It's deciding to drive along the lake instead of taking the fastest route home. It's stopping at a place you've passed a hundred times. It's walking through the woods without needing to accomplish anything. It's sitting beside the water long enough to watch the light change.

It's going to a museum in your own hometown.

It's spending a Saturday at a festival in the next village over.

This September, for example, Westfield will hold its annual Grape & Wine Festival Festival ofGrapes. For a visitor, it can be an introduction to grape country. For those of us who live here, it can be something slightly different: a reason to stop and celebrate a landscape, an agricultural tradition and a community that are easy to take for granted precisely because they are ours.

Being a tourist in your own backyard doesn't require pretending you've never been here before.

It requires curiosity.

THE PRIVILEGE OF FAMILIARITY

I understand why people ask us why we moved here.



Photo Credit: Lake Erie Wine Country

When you have spent your life in a place, you know things about it that a visitor doesn't. You know the February mornings when the driveway has disappeared again. You know the economic challenges. You know the businesses that have closed, the buildings that need attention and the ways you wish your community were stronger.

Loving a place doesn't require being blind to any of that.

In fact, perhaps the opposite is true.

A place doesn't have to be perfect to be precious.

And familiarity has another side. It means we don't have to cram everything into a three-day weekend. We can see Lake Erie in every season. We can watch the vineyards move from bare canes to green leaves to harvest. We can return to the same trail and discover that it isn't really the same trail at all.

Visitors get the excitement of discovery.

We get the privilege of returning.

After three years, I'm sure there are still dozens of places around Chautauqua

County and the Lake Erie region that I haven't discovered. I hope that remains true for a long time.

But I've learned something from being the newcomer who moved north for retirement.

When people ask, "Why did you move here?" perhaps my answer should be another question:

Have you looked around lately?

Not glanced.

Not driven through.

Really looked.

Take an afternoon. Turn down a road you normally pass. Visit the museum you've been meaning to see. Walk beside the lake. Climb the lighthouse. Listen to the birds. Go to the festival. Watch a sunset without doing something else at the same time.

You don't have to travel very far to be a tourist.

Sometimes you just have to look at home with the eyes of someone seeing it for the first time.



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Between the Lake and the Hills: The Story of the Concord Grape Belt

Continued from Front page

fore the Concord arrived. But the introduction of the Concord grape transformed the region.

The variety itself originated in Concord, Massachusetts, where Ephraim Wales Bull developed it in the mid-19th century from native American grape stock. By the late 1850s it was spreading rapidly. Concord was introduced around Westfield in 1859, and within a decade grape acreage in Chautauqua County was expanding quickly.

The grape had found an extraordinarily good home.

Hardy enough for the region's climate and suitable for juice, jelly, fresh consumption and other uses, Concord became the foundation of a commercial agricultural industry. Vineyards multiplied along the Lake Erie plain.

Today, Cornell describes the Lake Erie American Viticultural Area as the largest grape-production region east of the Rocky Mountains, with more than 31,500 vineyard acres in New York and Pennsylvania. About 80 percent of the region's grapes are grown for juice and jelly rather than wine.

But acreage alone doesn't explain what grapes meant here. An industry grew around them.

Westfield and the rise of Welch's

Perhaps no development changed the Concord grape's fortunes—or Westfield's—more than grape juice.

In 1869, New Jersey dentist and prohibitionist Thomas Bramwell Welch developed a method of pasteurizing grape juice so that fermentation could be prevented. His son, Charles Welch, recognized its commercial possibilities and began promoting it more aggressively.

Welch's Grape Juice received national attention at Chicago's World's Columbian Exposition in 1893. Four years later, Charles Welch brought the business to Westfield, close to both a large supply of Concord grapes and rail transportation. The company erected a factory near the Nickel Plate Railroad in 1897. It expanded that building in 1899 and again in 1903—an indication of how quickly the business was growing.

As Welch's became a national brand, Westfield became known as the "Grape Juice Capital of the World."

The consequences extended far beyond one company. Grapes created demand for labor, transportation, processing, equipment and services. They provided livelihoods for farm families and helped shape the physical and economic character of communities throughout the grape belt.

Growers also organized to strengthen their position in the marketplace. The Growers Co-operative Grape Juice Company was established in Westfield in 1929, providing another market for locally grown fruit. The cooperative tradition would become an important part of the industry's history.

For much of the 20th century, grape growing and processing weren't simply industries located in Westfield. They were part of what Westfield was.

From grape juice to wine country

Over time, another grape industry developed alongside the region's traditional juice business.

Wine production has deep roots along Lake Erie, but the modern wine industry has expanded considerably as growers and winemakers experimented with French-American hybrids, cold-hardy wine grapes and traditional European varieties alongside native grapes such as Concord and Niagara.

Today, wineries dot the Lake Erie shoreline from Chautauqua County into Pennsylvania, creating the region now promoted as Lake Erie Wine Country. Cornell estimates that roughly 20 percent of grape production in the New York and Pennsylvania portion of the Lake Erie region is fermented, compared with the much larger share destined for juice and jelly.

Wine has therefore added another dimension to grape country—tourism. Visitors who once might simply have driven past the vineyards now stop at wineries, restaurants, shops and attractions, creating another way for the grape-growing landscape to support the communities around it.



Photo Credit: Lake Erie Wine Country

A heritage under pressure

The history of the Concord Grape Belt has never been one of uninterrupted prosperity.

Welch's itself eventually changed. The company's headquarters left Westfield in the 1980s, part of a downsizing that cost the community hundreds of jobs. The old headquarters building remains, a physical reminder of how closely the fortunes of a national company and a small village were once intertwined.

Today, the challenge is more fundamental: finding sufficient markets for the grapes themselves.

Americans drink less grape juice than they once did, a long-term change Cornell researchers were already identifying years ago as a major strain on Concord growers.

That pressure became painfully immediate in 2026 when Refresco, a major processor in the Lake Erie region, canceled contracts with 126 growers covering approximately 2,600 acres in New York and Pennsylvania. Growers who had already invested in producing this year's crop suddenly faced the prospect of having grapes without a buyer.

The response has demonstrated that the grape industry still matters well beyond individual farms. Pennsylvania committed \$500,000 to purchase and process grapes affected by the cancellations, and in August the U.S. Department of Agriculture agreed to purchase \$20 million in surplus Concord grape juice for food-assistance programs. Those measures provide relief, but they do not resolve the industry's longer-term challenge of developing markets that can sustain growers for another generation.

A landscape worth preserving

Perhaps that is why the history matters now.

The Concord Grape Belt is not a museum piece. People still prune vines in winter, watch buds emerge in spring, manage the crop through summer and wait for sugars to rise as harvest approaches. Trucks still carry grapes down roads that have run through vineyards for generations.

And the region is finding new ways to tell that story.

The **Grape Discovery Center in Westfield**, the official visitor center for the Lake Erie Concord Grape Belt Heritage Area, preserves and interprets more than 150 years of grape-growing history. Its exhibits connect the crop in the vineyard with the growers, processors and communities that grew around it.

Each September, the **Westfield Grape & Wine Festival** provides another kind of connection. This year's festival, September 18 and 19, brings grape stomping, grape pies, local wine and craft beverages, food, music and educational activities into a community whose relationship with the grape stretches back more than a century and a half.

The future of the Concord grape industry will almost certainly look different from its past. Markets change. Companies move. Consumer tastes evolve. New products and new uses will have to be found.

But there is one thing that cannot be relocated or easily reproduced: **the narrow strip of land between Lake Erie and the hills, where geography, climate and generations of human effort created one of America's distinctive agricultural landscapes.**

The vineyards are part of the history of this place.

The hope is that they will remain part of its future.



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Chautauqua Striders Hosts Annual Daniel Feather Memorial 5K



Contributed by
Chautauqua Striders

The 33rd Annual Daniel Feather Memorial 5K, hosted by Chautauqua Striders, was held Saturday, September 5 at Bergman Park. The race, in honor of Daniel Feather, Striders co-founder, Jamestown Police Officer and avid runner, brought together 60 runners and walkers, as well as 16 participants for the inaugural Ron Graham Memorial 1K Kids Fun Run. Ron Graham, Striders co-founder, dedicated his life to empowering local youth, holding the position of Chautauqua Striders Executive Director and Coach from 1979 to 1990.

Congratulations to the overall finishers.

Top 3 Overall Male Finishers

- 1. Cody Kent, 16:57
- 2. Matt Jimerson, 20:54
- 3. Rafael Barrera, 21:24

Top 3 Overall Female Finishers

- 1. Megan Churchill, 24:07
- 2. Gabby Hart, 24:41
- 3. Judy Porpiglia, 24:53

Police Officer Division, 1st Place:
Jennifer Cornell, 27:09

5K Walk 1st Place Overall:
Rodney Daum

Striders sends a heartfelt thank you to all runners, volunteers, and supporters. Sponsors of the event include Advanced Manufacturing Technology; Jamestown Kendall Club; Southern Chautauqua Federal Credit Union; Southern Auto Exchange; Live CHQ; Howard Hanna Holt Real Estate; R. Thomas Rankin, Attorney at Law; Jamestown Mattress; Jamestown Spine; ERA Team VP Real Estate; Slone Melhuish Insurance; and the Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame. Immense gratitude to the family of Dan Feather, including brother Mel Feather, sister Nancy Feather, and wife Verna Feather, for their support year after year.

The Runner of the Year Series, sponsored by UPMC Chautauqua, continues with the Stomp Out the Stigma 5K, September 26; Yeti Dash, October 17; and the Amy King Run & Turkey Trot, November 26. The ROTY Series provides local runners with the chance to earn points and win awards by competing in various races throughout the county with the Chautauqua Striders Athletic Club. Interested individuals are encouraged to learn more: <https://runsignup.com/stridersathleticclub>

It is not too late for eligible graduating seniors to apply for the Daniel Feather Memorial Scholarship, supporting a student involved in cross country/track & field or Striders programming. Visit Chautauqua Strider’s website for more info: <https://chqstriders.org/races/>

SUDOKU

		6				2	1	
					6			7
3	1	7	2		5		9	6
		2	9		3			
	3			4	8		2	9
	9	4		7			5	1
6	7			5		1	8	
				2				
	2	3	8		9	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
						38	39	40		41	42			
							43			44				
			45	46										
47	48						49				50	51	52	53
55							56					57		58
59							60					61		
62							63						64	

CLUES ACROSS

1. Egyptian bull god

5. A young canine

8. North Carolina university

11. “Oddbod” actor Tom

13. Midway between northeast and east

14. A place to shop

15. Mysterious “Severance” family

16. Single Lens Reflex

17. Malaria

18. Informal loan organizations

20. Twitching

21. Holm oak

22. Willing to consent

25. In an early way

30. Stuck it out

31. Language in Ghana

32. Obtain

33. Ancient Greek currency

38. One point east (clockwise) of due north
41. Popular baseball movie

43. Group of islands

45. Church building

47. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea

49. Late AC/DC frontman Scott

50. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation

55. Thick piece of something

56. Breakfast food

57. One mole of solute per kilogram of solvent

59. Ancient Greek City

60. Bitterly regret

61. Don’t forget it

62. Dishonorable man

63. Affirmative

64. “__ and flows”

CLUES DOWN

1. Bridge-building degree

2. Expression of sorrow or pity

3. Lizard species

4. Turkish leader title

5. A way to bother

6. Blank

7. A fine, closely woven cotton fabric

8. Sports broadcaster Ian

9. Popular whodunit board game

10. Alkali flats mineral

12. Large African antelope

14. It’s delivered most days

19. Satisfy

23. Water soaked soil

24. Of a past era

25. Chest muscle (slang)

26. Ribonucleic acid

27. Doctor of Education

28. Coffee receptacle
29. Where rockstars work

34. International airport in Connectic

35. Russian river

36. It’s used to make cabins

37. OJ trial judge Lance

39. A means to persuade

40. Short poem

41. A way to begin hostilities with

42. Multi-function radar (abbr.)

44. Joints

45. Blatted

46. Swedish rock group

47. Millisecond

48. __ podrida: Spanish stew

51. Doctors’ group

52. Trunk of a tree

53. Tattle

54. Metrical foot

58. __ Angeles

Historian Todd Langworthy will speak at the monthly meeting of the Chautauqua County Geneological Society. This special event will take place on Wednesday September 16 at 7pm at the Cassadaga American Legion.

He will be sharing a program about George Washington, comparing his real life and what is dramatized in the movie "Young Washington" which was a hit over the summer. Langworthy will shed light on the life of Wasgington, who is often referred to as the father of our country. Attendees will learn about Washington as a man, as well as his important place in our history.Langworthy is a retired public school Social Studies teacher, as well as a retired adjunct professor in the History Department at SUNY Fredonia. Langworthy was also the Town of Pomfret Historian for 20 years prior to his retirement.





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Back-to-School Update: Vaping and Nicotine Pouches Can Harm Mental Health

Contributed by
Tobacco Free Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Allegany

As students return to school, health experts from Tobacco-Free Chautauqua, Cattaraugus and Allegany (TF-CCA) are encouraging families to have conversations not only about the physical dangers of vaping and nicotine use, but also their impact on mental health.

The majority of young people report turning to vaping to manage feelings of stress, anxiety, depression, or other emotional challenges. However, research has shown that nicotine can worsen mental health symptoms over time. While some teens may believe vaping provides relief, nicotine dependence can increase anxiety, affect mood regulation, and make it more difficult to cope with stress.

"Many adolescents start vaping because they believe it helps them manage difficult emotions," says Jonathan Chaffee, Youth Outreach Coordinator at TF-CCA. "The reality is that nicotine can contribute to a cycle of dependence that may worsen anxiety and other mental health concerns."

The adolescent brain is particularly vulnerable to nicotine's effects. During the teenage years, the brain is still developing, especially areas responsible for decision-making, impulse control, and emotional regulation. Nicotine exposure during this critical period can alter brain development and increase the risk of addiction.

Health experts at TF-CCA are also raising concerns about the growing popularity of nicotine pouches among young people. These small packets, placed between the lip and gum, are often marketed in appealing flavors and are easier to conceal than traditional vaping products. While they do not produce visible vapor, nicotine pouches can still deliver high levels of nicotine and expose users to

substances that may pose health risks.

Because nicotine pouches are discreet, parents, teachers, and caregivers may be less likely to recognize when a young person is using them.

As the school year begins, experts encourage parents and caregivers to:

- Talk openly with children and teens about vaping, nicotine pouches, and mental health. Help having conversations can be found at TalkItOver.org and Stanford Medicine's "Becoming a Trusted Adult: Foundations for Effective Drug Education."
- Watch for signs of nicotine dependence, including irritability, restlessness, difficulty concentrating and cravings.
- Encourage healthy coping strategies for stress, anxiety, and depression, such as physical activity, social support and counseling.
- Seek professional help if a young person is struggling with mental health concerns or nicotine addiction.

The New York State Quitline is also available to help with quitting vaping. Their latest texting service, DropTheVape, supports young people and young adults in their efforts to overcome nicotine addiction. Registration and more information is available at DropTheVape.org.

The start of a new school year offers an opportunity for families, educators, and communities to work together to support both the physical and mental well-being of young people.

New York State's pledge to reducing smoking-related death and disease

The New York State Department of Health, Bureau of Tobacco Control funds TF-CCA to increase support for New York State's tobacco-free norm through youth action and community engagement. Efforts are evidence-based, policy-driven, and cost-effective approaches that decrease youth tobacco use, motivate adult smokers to quit, and eliminate exposure to secondhand smoke. TF-CCA is a program of Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center.



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Jamestown Farmers Market Fall CSA Open for Signup



Contributed by
Jamestown Farmers Market

Jamestown Farmers Market’s eight-week fall community-supported agriculture (CSA) program is open for signups now through October 2. Participants will receive a weekly share of produce from local farms and farmers with two convenient pickup times on Wednesdays at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church at 410 N. Main.

CSA participation is a great way to get fresh, local produce in your fridge or pantry on a weekly basis in one convenient pickup. It’s a perfect option for busy individuals or families who may not have time to shop at the farmers market but still want to support our region’s farmers, eat seasonally, and get fresh produce. JFM aggregates produce from participating farms and far-

mers at the Saturday market to build weekly shares.

The fall season runs for eight weeks from October 7 through November 25. Several share options are available, including full or half shares with an organic option. Participants can also purchase add-ons, including bread, chicken, eggs, meat, or mushrooms.

Payment options include a one-time purchase for eight weeks of produce, or weekly payment plans. SNAP is accepted as a payment option (select “pay offline” with the weekly option at checkout). SNAP customers will receive 50% off the cost of all produce shares, including the mushroom add-on, thanks to JFM’s participation in the Field & Fork Double Up Food Bucks Program.

Sign up now for the fall CSA at bit.ly/JFM-fall-CSA-26.



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Tony and Super Troopers 3 to show at Reg Lenna Center for The Arts



Contributed by
Reg Lenna Center for the Arts

In Tony (Wed., September 16 at 7 p.m.) A 19-year-old Anthony Bourdain travels to Provincetown and stumbles into the chaotic world of a restaurant kitchen, setting off a summer that will shape the course of his life. Tony is rated R and is 106 minutes long.

Super Troopers 3 (Fri., September 18 at 7 p.m.) is the latest film from comedy troupe Broken Lizard. When Farva's wildly over-the-top Indian engagement to Thorny's sister spirals into chaos, the Super Troopers must navigate Thorny's schemes to break up the relationship, while trying to crack a pernicious new drug ring — all to save the day and maybe the wedding itself. Super Troopers 3 is rated R and is 104 minutes long.

Upcoming movies at The Reg include: a free showing of Reelabilities: 25

Prospect Street presented by The Resource Center (Sept. 23 at 7 p.m.) Hannah Einbinder and Gillian Anderson in Jane Schoenbrun's (I Saw the TV Glow) satirical surrealist slasher film, Teenage Sex and Death at Camp Miasma (Sept. 25 at 7 p.m.), The Rocky Horror Picture Show (Oct. 30 at 10 p.m.), Cat Video Fest 2026 (Nov. 14 at 2 p.m.), and a screening of A Christmas Story (Nov., 21 at 6 p.m.) hosted by one of the actors from the film - Scott Schwartz - who played "Flick."

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



A Pokémon GO Gathering is happening this Sunday, September 20, 1:30-4 p.m, and it's free. Catch 'em all at Audubon Community Nature Center! Explore scenic trails on a staff-created custom Route, perfect for hatching eggs and finding rare spawns. Lures will be active—don't forget your extra battery packs. The Gathering is sponsored by Pokémon card seller Gaughn's Drug Store in Warren. Tradewinds TCG will be selling cards during the event that happens rain or shine. Reservations are appreciated at AudubonCNC.org/pokémon-go or by calling (716) 569-2345. Walk-ins are welcome. Audubon Community Nature Center is located at 1600 Riverside Road, one-quarter mile east of Route 62 between Jamestown and Warren.

A New Home, A New Stage and a Tough Test for the Bills

Featured Writer
David Rice

It's already Week 2, but the wait is finally over.

After months of anticipation the Buffalo Bills are ready to open the doors of the new Highmark Stadium for their regular season home opener and fittingly they will do it under the lights against one of the NFL's most respected teams as the Detroit Lions come to town on Thursday night.

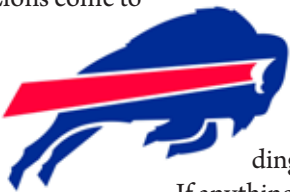
For the Bills Mafia, this is much more the second game of the season. It is the beginning of a new chapter and another chance to finally fulfill those Super Bowl aspirations.

Detroit presents a serious early season test for a Bills team whose motto might as well be "Super Bowl or Bust."

The Lions, coached by Dan Campbell, are known for their physical style and a willingness to play aggressively behind QB Jared Goff and RB Jahmyr Gibbs. This is not the type of opponent the Bills can overlook, especially with the spotlight shining so brightly on Thursday night.

For Buffalo, the new stadium isn't the only thing making a debut.

Head coach Joe Brady in his first season following Sean McDermott's controversial firing. Quarterback Josh Allen, widely regarded as one of the best players in the NFL, enters his ninth season as the centerpiece of the franchise. The Bills added WR D. J. Moore, and after his trade from Chicago was complete, GM Brandon Beane cemented his trust in him with a 4-year, \$110 million contract. Moore



gives Allen a legitimate number one threat, and with returning RB James Cook the expectations surrounding the Bills have not changed. If anything, they have grown.

Buffalo has reached the point where a winning season is not enough. The Bills fans want the same thing every year: to play in the Super Bowl.

Highmark stadium is new.

The stage is enormous.

The opponent is tough.

The slogan has always been where would you rather be than right here, right now?

Go Bills

NCCF Hosts Fundraiser to Support Local Schools and Communities

Contributed by
Northern Chautauqua
Community Foundation

The Northern Chautauqua Community Foundation (NCCF) invites the community to its annual Flapjack Breakfast and Basket Raffle Fundraiser on **Saturday, September 19, 2026, from 8 to 10 a.m. at Applebee's on Vineyard Drive in Dunkirk.**

This community event supports NCCF's Service Learning Grants Program, which provides grants to local teachers for classroom projects that connect learning with hands-on community service. Since its inception, the program has empowered students to learn by doing—building civic responsibility and strengthening community ties.



Breakfast tickets are \$10 and available online at nccfoundation.org or at the door. The basket raffle, the highlight of the morning, features a wide variety of prizes donated by local businesses and supporters. Basket raffle tickets will be sold at the event for \$10 per sheet of 25, along with two Premium Prize tickets for \$5. Guests are welcome to participate in the raffle even if they don't attend breakfast.

The fundraiser brings together neighbors, educators, and supporters for a morning of fun, good food, friendship, and community spirit—all while raising funds that help students make a difference in their communities. Every ticket purchased helps provide opportunities for students to learn through service and strengthen local connections.

For more information, contact the Northern Chautauqua Community Foundation at 716-366-4892 or visit www.nccfoundation.org.



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Friday, 3-8pm • Saturday, 9am - 5pm

SEPTEMBER 18 & 19

at Moore Park & Grape Discovery Center

Corner of Routes 20 & 394 (Main & Portage St.) and 8305 US-20 (W. Main Rd.)

★ MOORE PARK

Friday & Saturday

- Food Trucks & Vendors
- Bounce House/ Kids Activities
- Wine Tasting & Craft Beverage Sales
- Grape Stomping Contests
- Wine Competition
- Live Music
- Library Activities
- Downtown Scavenger Hunt
- Purple Cow Booth
- Grape Juice Tastings

Friday

- DTO – Live Music
- Wine Pairing Workshop

Saturday

- Westfield Farmers' and Artisans' Market
- Trolley
- Pie Eating Contests
- Cooking with Grapes/Wine Class
- Grape Pie Baking Class
- Wine Class
- Grape Pie Baking Contest
- Alternative Grape Dessert Contest
- Children's Grape Tent
- 5K Run/Walk

★ GRAPE DISCOVERY CENTER

Friday

- Wine Tastings
- Museum & Gift Shop

Saturday

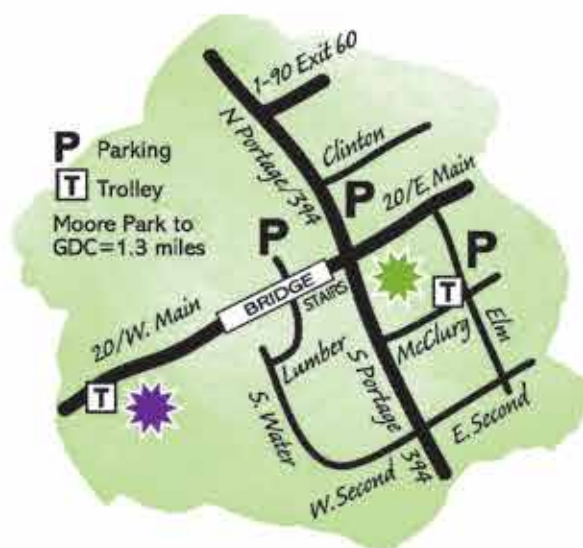
- Blessing of the Grapes
- Hayride Vineyard Tours
- Museum & Gift Shop
- Wine Tasting
- Music on the Patio
- Outdoor Equipment Displays
- Kids Activities
- Bounce House

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westfieldny.com/living-here/westfield-grape-and-wine-festival



Friday, 3-8pm • Saturday, 9am - 5pm
SEPTEMBER 18 & 19
at Moore Park & Grape Discovery Center
Corner of Routes 20 & 394 (Main & Portage St.) and 8305 US-20 (W. Main Rd.)

Westfield Grape & Wine Festival Celebrates the Harvest September 18-19

Two-day festival brings together grape-growing heritage, family activities, food, music, local wines and the best of Westfield

Celebrate the Harvest. Discover Westfield.

*Contributed by
Westfield Grape & Wine Festival*

Harvest season takes center stage September 18 and 19 as the 4th Annual Westfield Grape & Wine Festival brings two days of family fun, food, music, grape traditions and local wine to the heart of one of America's great grape-growing communities.

More than simply a festival, the weekend is a celebration of the farmers, families, traditions, and agricultural heritage that have shaped Westfield and the Lake Erie grape region for generations.

Admission is free. Friday festivities run from 3-8 p.m. in downtown Westfield's Moore Park and at the Grape Discovery Center (GDC). Saturday begins with the GrapeFest 5K Walk/Run at 8 a.m. at Welch Field, followed by Festival activities in Moore Park and the GDC from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Friday offers a lively start to the weekend with food and vendors, children's activities, grape juice and wine tastings, craft beverage sales, live music, and local dignitaries, teachers, and student grape-stomping contests. Patterson Library will add to the family fun with a children's art show and a kids' movie.

Saturday brings a full day of activities throughout downtown Westfield. Visitors can enjoy the Farmers Market, food vendors, live music, children's activities, wine tasting and craft beverage sales, the Blessing of the Grapes, grape-stomping activities and contests for children and adults, pie-eating contests, a grape pie and grape dessert baking contest, plus hands-on grape-themed classes and workshops.

Food and grape lovers will find plenty to experience, including Cooking with Grapes, a children's baking class, a grape

pie baking workshop, an alternative grape dessert contest, a food-and-wine pairing workshop, and a wine tasting class.

Activities extend beyond Moore Park. Patterson Library will offer children's programming and a petting zoo; the Presbyterian Church will host children's activities; the Lakeshore Art Center will feature a grape photo booth, grape exhibit, and movie; and a scavenger hunt will take place at local businesses.

At the Grape Discovery Center, visitors can explore the museum and shop, sample regional wines, take a vineyard tour, enjoy a kids' train ride and bounce house, and relax to live music on the patio. A trolley will operate Saturday between Festival locations.

Westfield sits at the heart of the Lake Erie grape-growing region, where the lake's moderating climate, well-drained soils and generations of farming knowledge have created ideal conditions for Concord, Niagara and wine grapes. The Festival celebrates that agricultural heritage while giving visitors an opportunity to experience the community and traditions behind the region's vineyards.

Visitors are encouraged to make a day - or a weekend - of their trip. Explore historic downtown Westfield, stop into local shops and restaurants, visit area wineries and vineyards, and take in the Lake Erie shoreline while enjoying the Festival.

Whether you're stomping grapes, cheering on a pie-eating contestant, learning something new about the region's grape industry, sampling local flavors, or simply enjoying music in the park with family and friends, the Westfield Grape & Wine Festival offers something for every generation.

The 4th Annual Westfield Grape & Wine Festival takes place Friday, September 18 and Saturday, September 19, 2026. Admission is FREE.

SCHEDULE

Friday, September 18th (3:00-8:00):

Moore Park

- Vendors and Food Vendors (3:00-8:00)
- Bounce House/Kids Activities – Kids’ Tent (3:00-8:00)
- Wine Tasting & Craft Beverage Sales (3:00-8:00)
- Grape Juice Tasting & Activities – Kids’ Tent (3:00-8:00)
- Teacher Grape Stomping Contest (4:30-5:00)
- Student Grape Stomping Contest (5:00-5:30) (Pre-K-5th Grade)
- Dignitary Grape Stomping Contest (5:30-6:00)
- Open Grape Stomping (6:00-6:30)
- Music (DTO) (5:00-8:00)

Patterson Library

- Kids Movie – Super Mario (4:00 – 5:45)
- Grape Discovery Center –
- Museum and Shop (11:00-8:00)
- Wine Tasting (11:00-5:00)

Saturday (8:00-5:00):

Welch Field

- Grape Fest 5k Walk/Run (8:00-10:00) – Pick Up Packets (7:00-7:45)

Moore Park

- Farmer’s Market (9:00 – 5:00)
- Business Scavenger Hunt – See Welcome Tent for Details (9:00-5:00)
- Bounce House / Kid Activities / Kids’ Tent (9:00- 5:00)
- Wine Tasting & Craft Beverage Sales (9:00 – 5:00)
- Grape Juice Tasting – Kids’ Tent (9:00-5:00)
- Food Trucks & Vendors (9:00 – 5:00)
- Grape Stomping Fun (9:00 – 5:00)
- McClurg Mansion (11:00-2:00)
- Trolley (10:00- 4:30)
- Blessing of the Grapes (9:00 –9:30)
- **Jamie Luli** – Guitar Music (10:00-12:00)
- Kids’ Grape Stomping Contests (10:00-10:30)
- Kids Pie Eating Contest (Ages 6-8) (10:30-10:45)
- Kids Pie Eating Contest (Ages 9-12) (10:45-11:00)
- Youth Pie Eating Contest (Ages 13-17) (11:00-11:30)
- Adult Pie Eating Contest (11:30-12:00)
- Kids Baking Class (11:45 – 12:45)
- **Ron Fitch** – Music (12:00-2:00)
- Adult Grape Stomping Contest (12:00-1:00)
- Grape Pie Baking Contest (1:00-1:45)
- Cooking w/Grapes Class – Erin Holt (1:00-2:00)
- **Daniel Siracuse Jamie** - Music (2:00-4:00)
- Grape Pie Baking Workshop (2:15-3:00)
- Alternative Grape Dessert Contest (2:00-2:45)
- Food and Wine Pairing Workshop – Erin Holt (2:30 – 3:15)
- Wine Tasting Class (3:30-4:15)

Patterson Library

- Library Games & Coloring (10:00-2:00)
- Petting Zoo (11:00-1:00)

Presbyterian Church (In Front of Church) -

- Presbyterian Church Children’s Activities (12:00-5:00)

Lakeshore Art Center (South Portage Street Entrance / Presbyterian Church

- Grape Picture Booth (9:00-5:00)
- Photography Exhibit – Giraffes, Grapes and Great Apes (11:00-2:00)

MakerSpace Kids’ Bike Decorating and Bike Parade (93 East Main Street Next to CJ’s Pizza)

- Grape Picture Booth (All-Day)

Grape Discovery Center

- Museum and Shop (10:00 – 5:00)
- Food & Drink (10:00 – 5:00)
- Wine Tasting (10:00-5:00)
- Vineyard Tours (10:00-5:00)
- Kids Train Ride (10:00-5:00)
- Bounce House (10:00-5:00)
- Obstacle Course (10:00-5:00)
- Live Music on Patio – **Michael Nowak** (2:00-5:00)

ABOUT THE WESTFIELD GRAPE & WINE FESTIVAL

The Westfield Grape & Wine Festival is a family-friendly harvest celebration centered on Westfield's grape-growing heritage, agriculture, food, music, local history, downtown community, and Lake Erie wine country. The Festival invites residents and visitors to celebrate the harvest and discover Westfield through experiences for all ages.



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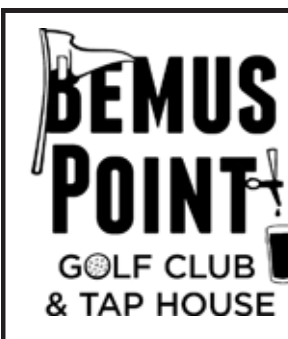


WHY LIMIT HAPPY TO AN HOUR?

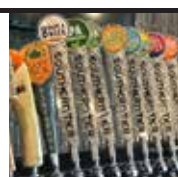
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BEMUS POINT FALL FEST: SEPTEMBER 18 - 20



Contributed by
**Bemus Point
Business Association**

Celebrate the changing seasons at Bemus Point's Annual Fall Fest, happening September 18-20. The weekend is full of activities that show off the best of autumn in our lakeside village.

Street Market

Stroll down Main Street and explore the Fall Fest Street Market, open Friday through Sunday from 10 AM to 5 PM. Vendors will stretch along Main Street from Lakeside Drive to the Bemus Point Golf Club & Tap House, with the food area located in the Bus Garage lot.

Throughout the weekend, visitors can shop a wide variety of handmade goods, artwork, jewelry, pottery, apparel, home décor, baked goods, specialty foods and more. Many vendors will also be set up on Friday, so there is plenty to see all three days of the festival.

Shopping & Draw-a-Leaf Discounts

Local shops will be open throughout Fall Fest weekend, with many offering seasonal sales and the popular "Draw-a-Leaf" discount, where customers pull a leaf at checkout for savings from 5% to 50%.*

Spend some time browsing around Bemus Point and enjoy shopping at Alpacaville, Bemus Point Pottery, Petals & Twigs Gifts and Children's Shoppe, Skillmans, The Ugly Peacock, Lakeside Arts & Furniture, G.I. Threads and Illustrious Order of Makesmiths. From gifts and apparel to pottery, artwork, home décor and one-of-a-kind finds, there is plenty to explore throughout the weekend.

*Draw-a-Leaf discounts are available at participating stores only.

Food & Drink Specials

Fall Fest is also a great excuse to eat your way through Bemus Point. Bemus Point Inn Restaurant will feature a pumpkin waffle with whipped cream cheese, sliced banana and pecan praline sauce, along with Apple Cider Mimosas for the season. Bemus Point Market will feature Perry's Cider Mill and Pumpkin Pie Premium ice creams, along with Birdshack Chicken & Deli favorites inside the market, including jumbo French toast filled donut bites, popcorn chicken and corn dogs.

Coppola's Pizzeria will set up a pop-up tent outside with a special fall menu, including discounted Buffalo Bills logo pizzas. Ellicottville Brewing on Chautauqua will launch a brand-new fall menu for the weekend. Guppy's Restaurant & Tavern will feature Jägerschnitzel with hand-breaded pan-seared pork, homemade spaetzle, warm mushroom gravy, crispy onions, warm homemade applesauce and garlic bread, plus pumpkin bread pudding, fall cocktails, fall beer and fresh maple fluff cotton candy. 14 Main will serve hot dogs and hamburgers on the See-Zurh House porch.

Visitors can also enjoy a beautiful waterfront dining experience at Trattoria Partenope on the Lake and Splash, stop by The Happy Cow, or grab a fun fall drink special from Lake Life Café. Sweet Ale-da's Delightful Treats & Dirty Sodas will also be part of the Street Market, giving visitors another sweet stop during the weekend.

Fall Fest Beer Garden

The Beer Garden at the Bemus Point Golf Club & Tap House will be open throughout Fall Fest weekend, with seasonal craft beers, fall cocktail specials and live entertainment. It's a great area for the whole family to enjoy music outside and settle in for a while between shopping, food and everything else hap-

pening around the village.

Live Music & Entertainment

Friday kicks off with Cowboy Hat Happy Hour at the Bemus Point Golf Club & Tap House from 4-9 PM, followed by GoldiRocks from 6-9 PM. Ellicottville Brewing on Chautauqua will also have Erica & Jesse performing from 6-9 PM. Saturday is packed from morning through evening. The Bemus Point Golf Club & Tap House starts the day with Sunshine & Strength HIIT with Jess at 9 AM and Yoga & Brew at 10 AM. Mikey's Famous Chicken BBQ begins at 1 PM, while supplies last, DJ Carmello plays from 1-4 PM and Black Widow Band takes over from 6-9 PM.

At The Village Casino, the annual Help Us Drink the Beer Party will feature half-off select beers, with Randy Graham and Jamie performing from 6-9 PM. Ellicottville Brewing on Chautauqua will keep the night going with DJ Zac Mac from 8 PM to close. On Sunday, head back to the Tap House for Bloody Marys & Burgers beginning at noon.

Classic Car & Motorcycle Cruise-In

On Saturday, September 19, the Bemus Point Golf Club & Tap House will host its Classic Car & Motorcycle Cruise-In from 1-5 PM. It is a great afternoon stop for anyone who wants to check out the cars and motorcycles while enjoying the rest of the Fall Fest atmosphere.

Open Houses

The Bemus Point Historical Society will be open Saturday from 10 AM to 3 PM. The Lawson Center will be open Saturday and Sunday from 11 AM to 3 PM with free admission. Visitors can explore exhibits on local boating history, and Ship Store merchandise will be 20% off, excluding books.

Take a Ride on the Bemus Point-Stow Ferry

Fall Fest weekend is also the last chance

of the season to take a ride on the Historic Bemus Point-Stow Ferry. The Ferry will run Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 12-8 PM, with Sunday, September 20 marking the final day of the 2026 season.

Family Fun at The Musky Mall

The Musky Mall will be a family-friendly stop on Saturday and Sunday, with both face painting and the petting zoo available from 10 AM to 4 PM. The Village Casino will also offer free pumpkin painting for kids on Saturday and Sunday, and Guppy's Restaurant & Tavern will have wooden pumpkin painting for kids as well.

Parking & Getting Around

Parking along Main Street will be blocked off during Street Market hours to help keep the area safer and easier to navigate for visitors. Guests are encouraged to park along Sunnyside Avenue near the school and tennis courts or near the Bemus Point Golf Club & Tap House. Miss Joanie's Shuttle will operate throughout Fall Fest weekend, making it easy for visitors who park farther away to get into town. To arrange a ride, call (716) 338-5095.

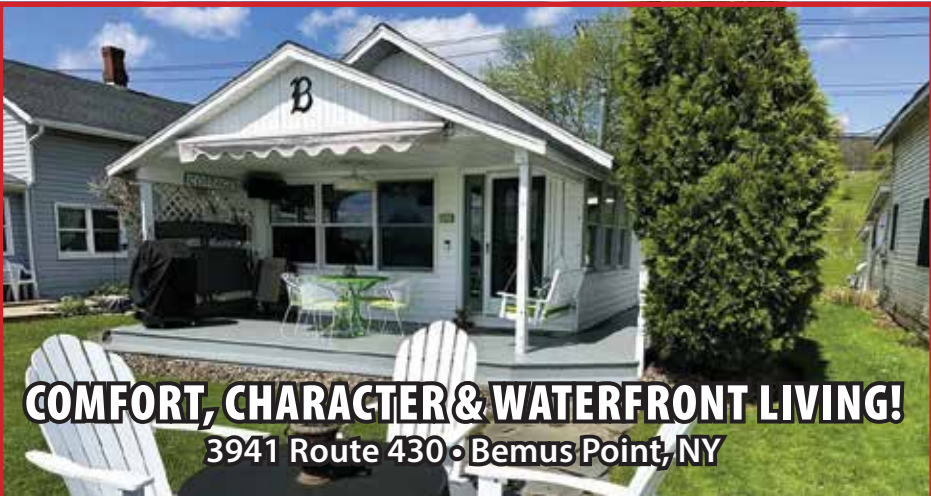
Thank You to Our Sponsors

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Meet Us in the Middle of Chautauqua Lake

Fall Fest in Bemus Point is all about celebrating the season and the community. With something for everyone and the backdrop of Chautauqua Lake, it's the perfect way to spend a September weekend. We can't wait to see you there.

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Southern Chautauqua Federal Credit Union Donates \$15,000 to The Resource Center



Pictured left to Right: John Felton, Chief Executive Officer, Southern Chautauqua Federal Credit Union, Heather Kerr, Chief Human Resources Officer, Southern Chautauqua Federal Credit Union, Maddison Condon, Lakewood Lead Teller, Southern Chautauqua Federal Credit Union, and Kelly Dimitri, Chief Operating Officer, The Resource Center.

Contributed by Southern Chautauqua Federal Credit Union

Southern Chautauqua Federal Credit Union (SCFCU) recently announced it had made a \$15,000 corporate sponsorship contribution to The Resource Center and Filling the Gap, Inc., a Jamestown-based non-profit organization that works with The Resource Center to support people with disabilities and other socioeconomic challenges in Chautauqua County. This is SCFCU's third consecutive yearly contribution of \$15,000.

As a corporate sponsor, SCFCU receives recognition as a sponsor of the annual fund-raising events organized by The Resource Center and Filling the Gap. Those events include the Ability Awareness Awards, TRC Golf Classic, Laurel Memorial Run/Walk, ReelAbilities Film Festival, and Mark Pacheco WOW Fund Lip Sync Battle.

"The Resource Center makes a tremendous difference in our community by helping people with disabilities

live fuller, more independent lives," said John Felton, Chief Executive Officer of Southern Chautauqua Federal Credit Union. "Their work strengthens both the human condition and the local economy through the opportunities they create for individuals and families. SCFCU is proud to support an organization that has such a meaningful and lasting impact on Chautauqua County."

"On behalf of all those supported by The Resource Center and Filling the Gap, Inc., I would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to Southern Chautauqua Federal Credit Union for its continued sponsorship and support," said Kelly Dimitri, Chief Operating Officer of The Resource Center. "The generosity of local organizations such as Southern Chautauqua Federal Credit Union plays an important role in helping us provide opportunities and resources that enable people with disabilities to live fulfilling and meaningful lives. We are also extremely thankful for John and his team and all they contribute to making our community a stronger place."



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CHAMBER CORNER

Building Bridges, Building Business

Article Contributed by

Daniel J. Heitzenrater

Chautauqua County Chamber of Commerce
President and CEO

The mission of the CHQ Chamber is to build vital connections, provide professional resources, and champion our local businesses in Chautauqua County. That is why we are proud to host our Second Annual "Official Introductions" tonight at the Athenaeum Hotel.

This event provides an opportunity for local business leaders to connect directly with elected officials at the local, county, state, and even federal levels. Events like these bring together the economic drivers of our community with the policymakers who make decisions that can have a profound impact on how we live and do business.

The Chamber's advocacy events hit on two main pillars of the mission: building connections and championing our local businesses. Too often, something can sound good on paper but have very real and unintended consequences when put into practice. Creating opportunities for lawmakers and business owners to sit down together allows both sides to better understand the realities of doing business in our community.

Here's why advocacy for your business matters:

- Influencing local policy and legislation. Local regulations involving zoning, labor, taxes, environmental issues, and other areas can have a direct impact on your bottom line.

- Protecting against potentially harmful legislation. Maintaining regular communication with elected officials gives businesses a voice when legislation is proposed that could increase costs, limit operations, or restrict growth.

- Accessing opportunities and incentives. Building relationships with elected officials and community leaders can help businesses learn about grants, tax incentives, public contracts, and other opportunities.

- Building a stronger community. Engaging with local leaders demonstrates that you care not only about your own business, but also about the economic health and future of the entire community. Those relationships can lead to new partnerships, collaborations, and opportunities.

Too often, politics becomes a flashpoint, creating conflict where there should be conversation. When that happens, open and honest dialogue can become the casualty.

Real change, and real progress, starts with communication, discussion, and even respectful debate. Our goal with advocacy events like "Official Introductions" is to open those lines of communication, create opportunities for meaningful conversations, and build direct connections between local businesspeople and their elected officials. Advocacy is about being willing to sit down, listen, share ideas, and work together toward a stronger community.

3rd on Third is September 17

3rd on Third is a free community event designed to help you shop, dine, and explore downtown Jamestown. The final 3rd on Third for this season features many open businesses, live music by Rachel Eisenstat, free downtown walking tours by the Fenton History Center, and the Jamestown Farmers Market with eleven vendors. This event is Thursday, September 17 from 5-8pm and is sponsored by Chautauqua Region Community Foundation, Gebbie Foundation, Sukanya Burman Dance, and SumoFiber.

Business After Hours at RTPi

Business After Hours is back for the fall at the Roger Tory Peterson Institute, 311 Curtis Street, Jamestown on Thursday, September 24 from 5-6:30pm. There will be complimentary appetizers and a cash bar. Chamber members can send two people free of charge. Additional members or non-members are \$10 each. This Business After Hours is sponsored by the Roger Tory Peterson Institute, LaBella Associates, Phillips Lytle, Southern Chautauqua Federal Credit Union, and State University of New York at Fredonia. Registration is open now through the CHQ Chamber's online calendar.

Made in Falconer Slated for September 26

Returning for a third year, the CHQ Chamber presents Made in Falconer. Take tours of local manufacturers and stop to shop or dine at local businesses.

Manufacturing Tour stops include:

- Ellison Bronze
- Hanson Sign Company
- Stuart Tool & Die

Tours will begin every half hour at each site.

In addition to the participating manufacturers, a number of local retail businesses and restaurants are participating as well. We hope you'll visit them during Made in Falconer!



PRESENTS:

3rd on Third

September 17, 5-8pm

Third Street, Downtown Jamestown



SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES!
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT - VENDORS - AND MORE

Featuring:

- Many open downtown businesses
- Live music by Rachel Eisenstat
- Fenton History Center Free Walking Tours
Lucy Downtown at 5:30
Hidden Alleyways at 6:30
- Fenton History Center historical downtown photos and more
- Jamestown Farmers Market with 11 Vendors

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Thurs Sept 17, 9-6 / Fri Sept 18, 9-5

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See link for details and pictures

<https://www.estatesales.net/NY/Bemus-Point/14712/5073654>

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— Roger Tory Peterson

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Plein Air Festival Show & Sale

Reception 5-7 pm on Sat., Sept. 19
Show & Sale - Sept. 19-20, 10 am - 4 pm
Members \$5, non-members \$10

59th Annual Festival of Grapes

SILVER CREEK, NY

Thursday, September 17th - Sunday September 20



FESTIVAL HOURS:

THURSDAY

Craft vendors • 3-7pm

Concessions & wine tent
3-9:30pm

Rides • 5-9:30pm

FRIDAY

Craft vendors • 10am-7pm

Concessions & wine tent
10am-9:30pm

Rides • 5-9:30pm

SATURDAY

Craft vendors • 10am-7pm

Concessions & wine tent
10am-9:30pm

Rides • 12-9:30pm

SUNDAY

Craft vendors • 10am-5pm

Concessions & wine tent
10am-5pm

Rides • 12-5pm

THE TRADITIONAL GRAPE STOMPING CONTEST WILL KICK OFF THE FESTIVITIES ON THURSDAY AT 5PM.



The festival is pleased to include a commemoration of our country's 250th birthday in the grape stomping event, which will include 10-12 heats of three each. Some heats will be scheduled with themed participants ahead of time. Two heats will be determined on site by a lottery drawing for folks in the audience.

Rides, games, and concessions will again be provided by Amusements of America.

Food and craft vendors and live music throughout the weekend.

Sunday parade will begin at noon.

A message from the Festival of Grapes Board of Directors:

The Annual 59th Festival of Grapes will take place in Silver Creek on September 17–20, 2026. Enjoy four days of crafts / food vendors, rides and entertainment scheduled for everyone.

The Festival of Grapes has been an enormous success over the years, made possible by a tremendous community effort completed in a limited amount of time. To preserve these fun activities and traditions, the original organizers formed a corporation dedicated exclusively to continuing an annual festival. The major agricultural grape industry supports our community and the Festival of Grapes continues to promote it in return.

During these 59 years, the organization has seen people come and go in our community, along with many changes within the village of Silver Creek. We love our community. Many of us can remember our first Festival of Grapes: what games we played, and which rides made us smile; and what souvenirs we purchased to help us to bring the memory of that first visit to the forefront of our mind every time we see it.

Who doesn't like the smell of concord grapes at harvest season or the view of endless grape vineyards that surround our village countryside. As we continue this festival, we hope that festival goers will reflect on the memories of their first Festival of Grapes and we look forward to the many new festival goers who will experience this event for the first time. Come down and enjoy all the events, especially the community spirit when the grape stompers twist and turn while stomping grapes as they begin to squeeze the grapes into grape juice- while laughing as their feet turn purple!

We hope you'll join us in celebrating our proud history with our many vendors in the park and the free live entertainment provided - and stroll yourself down memory lane of the traditional Festival of Grapes in Silver Creek, New York.

For additional information about the festival events go to our festival website at www.festivalofgrapes.org or the festival Facebook page. Mark your calendar for this weekend of fun and remember to grab your chairs and line up for our traditional Sunday parade that will be starting at Noon.

We look forward to celebrating our milestone 60th year in 2027, and invite you to come back again and again!

Come have a GRAPE WEEKEND with us!

On its 59th birthday, the Silver Creek Festival of Grapes is wishing the United States a happy 250th birthday! Opening ceremonies and Grape Stomping contest beginning at 5:00pm Thursday September 17.

New this year:

Something special for the Lucy Lovers in the community! Since our beloved Lucille Ball came from our grape-growing area, and one of her most famous episodes of "I Love Lucy" included a hilarious grape stomping scene, this year's festival will invite all Lucy Lovers to enter a Lucy Lookalike contest.

This requires no pre-registration, just pre-paration! Dress up in your best Lucy costume, ready to compete for a chance to grape stomp, and come to the opening ceremonies, Thursday Sept 17. Register at the Festival by 5:00pm and receive a tag for judging.

The three best Lucies will be selected by audience response to compete against each other in a grape stomping competition and the winner of that heat will be invited to be featured in the parade on Sunday September 20 as the 2026 Honorary Lucy.

Also new: The festival is introducing a chance for attendees to purchase raffle tickets at the festival headquarters which they can take around to the vendor booths and enter for prizes at the participating booths. (Headquarters will be staffed during festival hours)

Returning to the Festival will be:

- The traditional grape stomping contest, with opportunities for audience and Lucy winners' participation. There will be 10-12 heats, which will include at the end, several heats drawn from the audience via lottery drawings.
- The exciting midway rides, games and concessions by Amusements of America
- Live music, Friday night "Crush, Crush, Crush" and "Bear the Bronz" from 6:00 to 9:30 in lower park; Saturday afternoon from 2-4pm in the gazebo, Paul Alguire; and Saturday night "Nashville North" from 6:30 to 9pm in lower park.
- Craft booths and the local food vendors that everyone knows and loves every year, local wineries will be represented
- Festival parade begins at noon on Sunday



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Senator George Borrello Celebrates Opening of New York Medical Center at Former Lakeshore Hospital

Redevelopment brings addiction treatment services, health care jobs back to northern Chautauqua County



New York Medical Center CEO Raymond Manning cuts the ribbon to celebrate the opening of the New York Medical Center surrounded by local officials and the Center's leadership team.

Contributed by

Senator George Borrello

Senator George Borrello joined New York Medical Center officials and local leaders last week for a ribbon cutting celebrating the opening of a new inpatient addiction recovery and behavioral health facility at the former Lakeshore Hospital campus in Irving.

The opening marks an important milestone for Senator Borrello, who led the fight to keep the hospital open six years ago and, following its closure, worked to see health care services ultimately returned to the site.

"Lakeshore Hospital was an important health care provider and major employer in this community, which is why we fought so hard against its closure. We knew losing the hospital would mean losing not only critical health care services, but good jobs that had supported local families for generations," Senator Borrello said.

"When it became clear that the closure was going forward, our focus shifted to making sure this facility did not remain vacant and that health care would ultimately return to this site. Over the years, there were a number of possibilities for the property that ultimately did not move forward, but we never gave up on the goal of returning health care services to this facility. I stayed engaged in those efforts and worked with the new owners and our local officials to help move this redevelopment forward," he added.

He underscored the fact that when Lakeshore Hospital closed in 2020, the region lost more than a hospital. It also lost critical inpatient behavioral health and chemical dependency treatment beds, deepening a mental health care "desert" across northern Chautauqua, southern Erie and Cattaraugus counties.

"The addiction crisis has touched families in every community, and access to inpatient treatment can be especially difficult in rural areas. Having these services available here in northern Chautauqua County will provide another option for individuals and families seeking help while restoring

health care jobs to a site that was built for that very purpose," he added.

New York Medical Center will begin its first phase of operations on Monday, September 14 with 20 inpatient substance use disorder treatment beds and five detoxification beds. Future phases over the next two years will add behavioral health services.

Senator Borrello said seeing healthcare services return to the site is particularly meaningful.

"This is a tremendous start, and we look forward to seeing New York Medical Center continue to grow and expand the services available at this campus," Senator Borrello said. "We also know there is strong community interest in restoring emergency or urgent care services at this location. That remains a priority, and we will continue working to explore every opportunity to bring those services back to northern Chautauqua County."

The redevelopment by Main Rd Med Group represents an investment of more than \$42 million in the 173,000-square-foot former hospital. When fully complete, the health care facility will have 180 beds as well as other medical office and commercial space. The completed project is projected to create approximately 300 permanent health care-related jobs within three years.

Earlier this year, the Chautauqua County Industrial Development Agency approved a package of incentives supporting the reuse of the property, including a 15-year PILOT agreement, sales tax abatement and mortgage tax exemption.

"A lot of people have worked hard to get us to this point," Senator Borrello said. "I want to thank New York Medical Center CEO Raymond Manning and his leadership team, Main Rd Med Group, Chautauqua County and our local officials for staying committed to this project. There is more to come, but today we have health care returning to Lakeshore and new life in a facility that this community fought hard to preserve."

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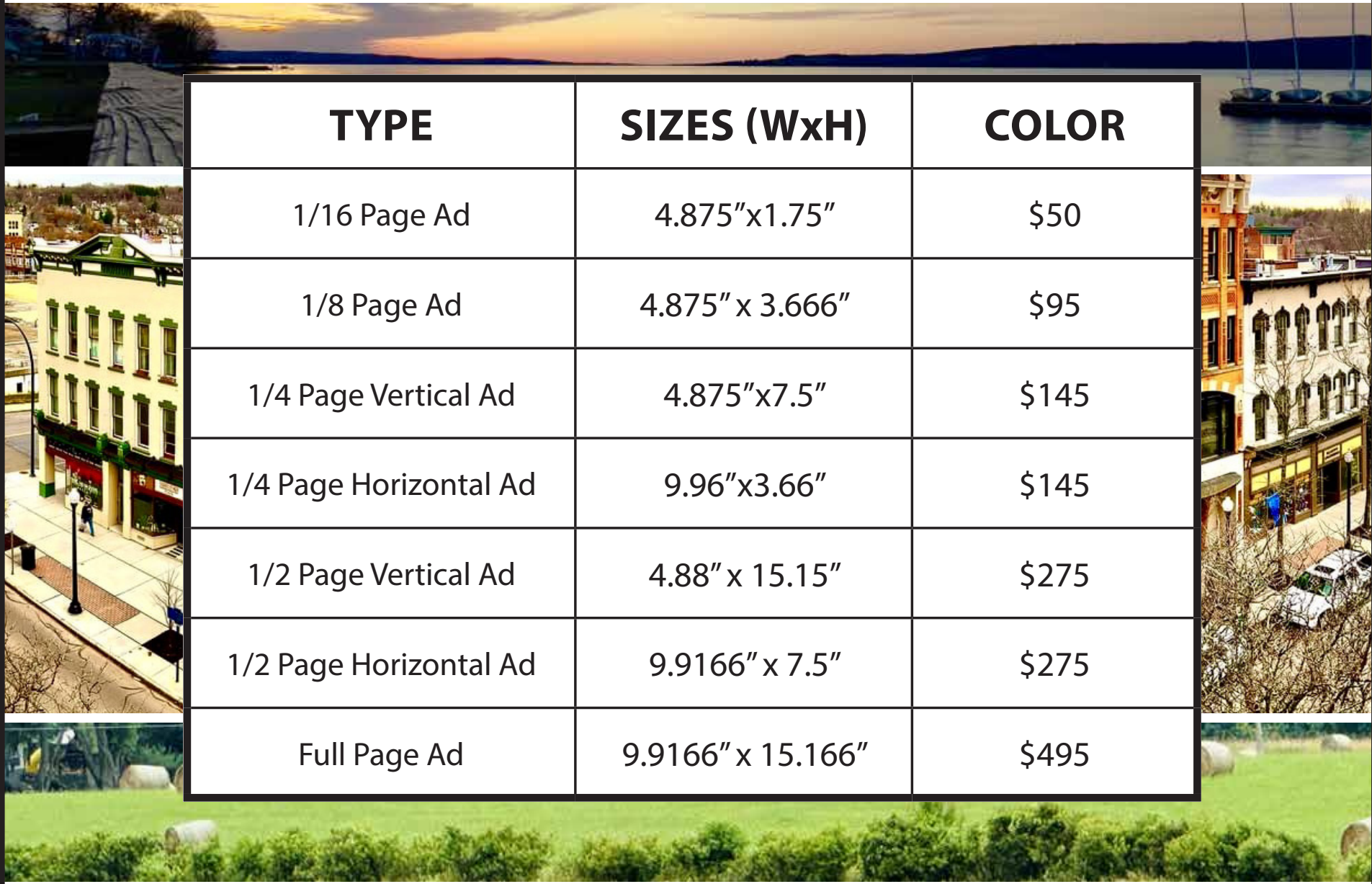
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