



CHAUTAUQUA GAZETTE



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Community Showcase Series: Cassadaga

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NOT A PASS-THROUGH: CASSADAGA’S BUSINESSES, NATURAL ASSETS AND COMMUNITY SPIRIT ARE BUILDING A FOUR-SEASON DESTINATION

Editor-in-Chief
Katrina Fuller

Cassadaga has long been easy to admire through a windshield. New York State Route 60 runs through the heart of the village, bringing travelers past quiet water, wooded shorelines and a village center with the cozy feel of another era. While Cassadaga is certainly a scenic view for people on their way somewhere else, the community is working to become a destination rather than simply a “drive-by.” The goal is not to remake Cassadaga, but

to help more people recognize and support what is already there.

Cassadaga begins with an enviable collection of natural assets. Its three interconnected glacial lakes support fishing, paddling, swimming and wildlife watching. The Cassadaga Lakes Nature Park protects shoreline, wetlands and forest, while the village beach, parks and floating stage create gathering places for residents and visitors. Fall colors, winter recreation and proximity to Lily Dale extend the community’s appeal well beyond the traditional summer sea-

son. Turning that natural beauty into a four-season destination requires coordination among village leaders, community organizations and local businesses. Together, they are working to preserve what makes Cassadaga distinctive while creating more reasons for people to visit, stay and return.

The Cassadaga Main Street Master Plan and Village Revitalization Plan provides a framework for that work. Developed with the Chautauqua County Depart-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

DISCOVER CASSADAGA: A FOUR-SEASON ECONOMIC VISION

Featured Writer
Dave Rowley

The Village of Cassadaga is working to become more than a pass-through community by giving Route 60 travelers a reason to stop, invest and stay. The Board of Trustees recently announced a new economic development agenda with a campaign name and theme: “Four Seasons connecting nature, tourism and prosperity in a hallmark community.” The theme gives the village a unified identity for grant funding, branding, tourism and community investment.

The initiative builds on the Village of Cassadaga Main Street Master Plan and Village Revitalization Framework, developed through a collaborative process involving the village, Chautauqua County Plan-

ning Department, Chautauqua County Partnership for Economic Growth, residents, business owners and other community stakeholders. The master plan and framework notes various focus areas to invest in and make improvements on

throughout the village, including improving pedestrian safety, strengthening the village center, building on community identity through landscaping and village

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26



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This Week Around Town

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

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

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

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

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

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

Movies at The Reg: Teenage Sex and Death at Camp Miasma | 7 PM
116 E. 3rd St. | Jamestown
For Info: reglenna.com

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26-

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Busti Apple Festival | 10 AM-5 PM
3443 Lawson Rd. | Jamestown
For Info: bustihistoricalsociety.com

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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

Made in Falconer | 10 AM-2 PM
Main Street | Falconer
For Info: mychq.org/event/made-in-falconer-2026/

Ride, Aim & Pop Cowboy Mounted Shooting Event
4 PM-7 PM
The Elysian Center | Bemus Point
For Info: elysiancenterny.com

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

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

BUSTI APPLE FESTIVAL
PAGE 12

MADE IN FALCONER
PAGE 25



Editorial with Lori Cornell

Cassadaga In Between



Publisher
Lori Cornell

My absolute favorite part about owning this newspaper - besides being my own boss and the "do or die" flexibility that comes with that (haha!) - is the unique chance for community engagement. Connecting with local leaders, organizational gurus, dedicated small business owners and interesting people in every corner of our lovely county is my personal passion.

And there is no better opportunity for the Chautauqua Gazette to truly experience a community firsthand than to publish a comprehensive and fabulous (if I do say so myself!) Community Showcase edition. It is then our great privilege to put our passion in print and to share it with you!

Over the last two years, we have proudly published more than a dozen special editions in our "Community Showcase Series" - delving into local history, current development, community projects and events. We have had the honor of personally meetings hundreds of small business owners - entrusting their confidence in our marketing partnership and joining together

in shared commitment to our community. We approach, dive in and work hard to tell each community's story for the rest of our county residents to enjoy and appreciate.

This week, we are particularly thrilled to showcase Cassadaga...and I know I say this every time, but truly, I was impressed with all that is moving and shaking in this Route 60 village located in between Dunkirk and Jamestown. We have all passed through a million times. For most destinations in Chautauqua County, you can't get from end to end without Cassadaga in between.

The "in between".

It's a reference to a comparably insignificant geographical point between one's preferred placement and another. However, this term is in no way appropriate for our beloved Cassadaga - as our firsthand showcase this week will attest!

This edition, we challenge you to stop the next time you're "in between", or even better, make Cassadaga your final destination. Check out our cover stories and some very special articles within to understand just why. Learn how exceptional this community really is. Visit one or all three of Cassadaga's lakes, grab an ice cream at King Cone or a delightful coffee at 3 Lakes Cafe. There is so much to love in this small community with big opportunities - you just have to stop in between and see it!

We're changing standard context. In our county, the "in between" is actually one of the best places to be.

Photo Credit: Vince Martonis Collection



CASSADAGA HOUSE HOTEL
This is the only original known photo of the Cassadaga Hotel
Note all the men posed outside but the women wanted to get in the photo too and were looking out the windows of the second floor

Picture taken circa 1890. Located in Cassadaga's southwest corner, where the community parking lot is currently situated. Built in 1850 with the original name, Phillips Temperance House. It burned in 1895.

CHAUTAUQUA GAZETTE

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DID YOU KNOW?

The name Cassadaga is derived
from a Seneca Indian word meaning
“water beneath the rocks”.

Faith Matters

COME AND DRINK

Featured Writer
Pastor Brandon Meacham
Park Methodist Church, Cassadaga



The Meacham Family

Greetings from the Village of Cassadaga! Did you know that the name Cassadaga is derived from a Seneca Indian word meaning “water beneath the rocks”? Cassadaga is known for its numerous natural water springs, which made the area an ideal location for early settlers. Even today, water is an important part of the identity of the village, which is fitting for a community situated around three lakes.

As I reflected on the heritage of our community and its connection to water, I found myself thinking about scripture. In Chapter 4 of John’s Gospel account, we encounter the well-known story of Jesus and the Samaritan woman. By this point, Jesus’ ministry is in full swing, and John, Chapter 4 opens up with Jesus traveling from Judea to Galilee. The shortest route between these two points passes through the region of Samaria. While this route would have made the most sense for someone making the journey, it was often avoided by Jewish people of the time due to a deep distrust between them and the Samaritans. There was history here, and these people did everything that they could do to stay away from one another. However, Jesus did not operate by the same rules as everyone else.

As Jesus intentionally makes his way through Samaria, He is tired and thirsty from the journey. As such, He sits by a well, hoping to get some water to drink. As He sat there, a Samaritan woman came to draw water for herself. Jesus asks her, “Will you give me a drink?” Recognizing that Jesus is Jewish, the Samaritan woman questions why Jesus would even associate with her. John 4:10 (NIV) - Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.” Intrigued, the Samaritan woman wants to know more about this “living water”. John 4:13-15 (NIV) - Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water so that I won’t get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.”

There are things in life that satisfy us for a moment but never completely satisfy us. We eat a meal, but eventually we become hungry again. We drink a glass of water, but a few hours later we are thirsty again. We accomplish great things and fulfill our most sought after desires, only to shortly begin looking for the next best thing.

While Jesus spoke of water to the Samaritan woman, He recognized that her thirst was much deeper than physical. There was a longing deep within her soul. No matter what she did, she could never find the fulfillment that she was truly searching for. Every day she would return to the well to fill her cup, only to return the next day wanting more.

We all have places in our lives where we try to find fulfillment. Sometimes we look for it in relationships; sometimes in success, possessions, recognition, entertainment or comfort. While none of these things are necessarily bad, none of them were designed to satisfy the deepest longing of our hearts.

While every well will eventually run dry, Jesus’ offer will never expire. You can keep searching for fulfillment in things that are temporary, or you can allow Jesus to fill you to overflowing so that you may never thirst again. Today, if you are tired, exhausted and running on empty, take Jesus for His offer. He is still speaking. He is still saying, “Come and drink.” The invitation isn’t to try harder. It isn’t to pretend that we are not thirsty. It is simply to come to Him.

Pastor Brandon Meacham is a lifelong resident of Cassadaga Valley. He currently resides in Sinclairville with his wife Brandi, and two children Lilleean and Isaac. He serves as the lead pastor at Park Methodist church with campuses in both Sinclairville and Cassadaga.

CASSADAGA LAKES

Photos Credit: Nancy Wickmark



Featured Writer

Nancy Wickmark

President, Cassadaga Lakes Association

So many times we hear “Oh! Cassadaga has a lake?!” It is shocking to us because the chain of three lakes are a core part of everyday living for those of us who call Cassadaga home. They continually feed our senses with indescribable sunsets and sunrises, billowing rising mists and dancing rain drops, sightings of herons and eagles overhead and frogs, jumping fish, beavers and turtles off your bow. The silent meandering of kayaks, canoes and fishing boats leave rippling trails and, in the winter, footprints and silhouettes of deer, foxes and coyotes crossings leave their trails in the blowing blanket of snow. And in the Fall, there is little as spectacular as the mirrored reflection of intense skies and vibrant foliage. Even after sundown the lakes give us a symphony of peepers, bull frogs and night owls as the stars and moon bounce back off the black waters. These ever-present natural wonders are a living treasure.

As if this natural beauty is not enough, the lakes are a playground for all kinds of fun, entertaining and educational activities. Each season has its own way of getting residents and visitors out on the water for the sheer joy of it! Tapping your feet and singing along to band concerts on the beach’s floating stage, taking yourself to the extreme and being cheered on by a beach full of spectators as you take a polar dip into the freezing waters, going all out

decorating your vessel in hopes of winning a coveted prize ribbon in the boat parade, cheering your designated ducky down the outlet at the ducky derby, hoping for the “big” one in the youth and bass fishing tournaments, and giving it your best try as you push through the swim leg of a triathlon are all some of the regular happenings on our lakes.

The lakes just about have it all covered and we do our best as a community to protect their health and safety for the lasting enjoyment of generations to come. The DEC launch, the Everwild Land Trust Cassadaga Lakes Nature Park on Route 60 and the public beach provide local access, and more and more, it is easier to get yourself or your boat into the water so that you can experience being one with the waters.

Good stewardship of the lakes is critical. Financially the lakes are supported through area municipality stipends, grants and membership to the Cassadaga Lakes Association. Each year, there is sustaining membership and gracious donations of time and money that ensure the lakes get the attention and priorities they deserve. Obviously, the investment is priceless.

So, if you are one of those who asks “Cassadaga has lakes?” give yourself a gift, break away for an hour or a day or a week and treat yourself to the peaceful, picturesque offerings of the Cassadaga Lakes. You will not regret it and in fact, we dare say you will keep them in mind for return trips!

Photos Credit: Nancy Wickmark



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Photo Credit: Nancy Wickmark



DID YOU KNOW?
Cassadaga Lakes is a string of
Three Glacial Lakes.

Mary E. Seymour Memorial Free Library



Featured Writer

Bobbie Caswell

Director, Mary E. Seymour
Memorial Free Library

Rural populations want to be, and are, part of a group, a community, where we are heard and feel the connection with our neighbors. The Seymour Library (Mary E. Seymour Memorial Free Library and Cassadaga Branch), with locations in Stockton and Cassadaga, recognizes this desire for connection and works diligently to create community and draw in the members of both communities. It is our desire to be the first place people think of when they need a resource, be it information or a safe place to work or meet.

In a county with a dwindling population, a concerted effort is required to grow our community, and Cassadaga library. Beyond population, there are several drivers of change shaping the future of rural communities, including internet connectivity, education, economic development, and creation of place. Libraries have been on the forefront of these areas. The Seymour Library is determined to become an even more integral part of the community and its growth by embracing all of those things listed.

As active community member Nancy Wickmark says: "Our local library, in the heart of our little village, naturally brings us together and nurtures a sense of belonging and collaboration around exploration and education within our community."

Residents of Stockton and Cassadaga are proud of their communities and work to build connection. The Seymour Library recognizes this connection and works to reinforce that bond. As Seymour Library director, I take the local relationship seriously and to that end am on several community

committees; Citizens for a Better Cassadaga, Main Street Master Plan, and Cassadaga Business Alliance.

Through the business alliance, I have made active connections with Witco (King Kone, Fermentation Station, and Valero Gas, et al), 3 Lakes Café, and Cassadaga Hook and Paddle, forming partnerships with them all. From these connections, classes, story times, reading and craft events, and other upcoming events have resulted. This summer, the library board supported the library at the Floating Stage Concerts.

Local business owners share their skills in classes on power tools for women, yoga, chair yoga, sewing and more. Offers of more classes and events have been made that we expect to offer soon. There is truly great wealth of knowledge here, along with a generosity of spirit to share that knowledge.

The Seymour reaches out to other organizations in the area to expand the services and opportunities available. The local Job Corps built and installed a Little Free Library; a Medicare consultant works with patrons, and there are supervised visitations, to name a few.

In this rural scenario, seniors in particular may be held back by transportation issues and be unaware of what is available. To remediate this, the Seymour Cassadaga will hold a Community Resource Event later this year. This event will have representatives from many of the Chautauqua County organizations that serve us, but are not accessible to those without transportation. We also offer a series of classes by the library and the Alzheimer's Association, in addition to Alzheimer's activity kits, which can be checked out.

The Seymoure Library is proud to be a member of this village. Please stop by and join our community!

Cassadaga was a Prehistoric Hub of Activity

Featured Writer
Michelle Henry
Research Historian

When Cassadaga’s first settlers began arriving in around 1808, they noticed several unusual formations underneath the old growth trees that filled the land. The formations appeared to be manmade, but by whom? The indigenous populations that were here in the 1700s claimed no connection to the culture that made the mounds and breastworks and referred to them as the “ancient ones.” Speculation that they were made by earlier European settlers could not be substantiated from any historical records.

Of all the other mounds located throughout Chautauqua County, Cassadaga had the most extensive remains, found all around the lakes and on the peninsula. The larger mounds ranged in size from 115 feet in diameter to 82 feet in diameter and were twelve feet tall. Some were connected by breastworks that appeared to be raised roadways that enclosed several acres of land.

In the early 1990s, the wonderful Cassadaga Historian Willard “Record” Barris invited me to take a tour of the mound sites around his community. I had studied the Mound Builders of south central Ohio and was fascinated to learn that there were mounds in Chautauqua County as well. Record was born in 1905 and knew so much about the county’s history and prehistory. We spent an afternoon driving around Cassadaga while he pointed out locations where mounds had once stood and where the remains of mounds could be found underneath houses and plowed fields. Unfortunately, I was the chauffeur for the excursion so I couldn’t take notes and was too foolish to record Mr. Barris. What a loss!

Fortunately, the Elial T. Foote Papers, housed at the Chautauqua County Historical Society in Westfield, include information about Cassadaga’s mounds, as well as correspondence between Foote and some of the area’s original settlers. Foote’s papers were used by Andrew Young to write the History of Chautauqua County, published in 1875. It tells us that a



Willard "Record" Barris

mound at the north end of the lake was excavated in 1822 – not a scientific excavation by any means. Still, it is fascinating to think that the pioneer settlers recognized that the mounds were unique features and that they took the time to explore them while still trying to clear their land, build cabins, and plant crops. The mound opened in 1822 contained a mass burial, and caches of grave goods. I suspect many local families had keepsakes from the mounds that were opened when fields were plowed or foundations were dug.

We are so fortunate that Elial Foote had the foresight to start collecting county history while the county was still in its infancy. Foote solicited accounts of settlers’ travels to the county and building their homesteads. Without these first hand accounts, would we realize the hardships they endured, and the very real perils of traveling to the wilderness of western New York?

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

The use of large earthen mounds dates back to the Woodland Period (200 BC to AD 500). Native peoples most likely used them for communal burial of the dead. Mounds usually contained multiple burials and artifacts that were ceremonial in nature. Because there are no written records for this period, we do not know why so much work was dedicated to making the mounds and their connective breastworks, the structure that served as elevated roadways connecting the mounds. The documented Cassadaga mounds were located throughout the perimeter of Cassadaga's lakes. Most have now disappeared through modern interface like plowing and construction.

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Bills Turn the Page to the Chargers

Contributing Writer
David Rice

The celebration is over. The lights of the new Highmark Stadium have dimmed, the banners have come down, and the Buffalo Bills can finally turn their attention to what comes next.

And what comes next is the Los Angeles Chargers.

Buffalo enters Sunday’s game riding the excitement of a 41-31 victory over the Detroit Lions in the first game played at the new Highmark Stadium. It was a memorable night for Bills fans, but the NFL has a way of making sure there is very little time to enjoy yesterday’s success.

The Chargers come to Buffalo for a 1 p.m. Sunday matchup in Week 3. Los Angeles opened its season with a 26-14 home loss to the Arizona Cardinals, putting the Chargers in a position where they will be looking to get their season moving in the right direction.

For Buffalo, the challenge is different. The Bills have opened the season with victories over Houston and Detroit, and the offense has already shown the ability to put points on the board. Josh Allen has been at the center of it all, including a five-touchdown performance against Detroit.

But good teams cannot live on momentum alone.

The Chargers present a different type of challenge than the Lions. Los Angeles is led by quarterback Justin Herbert, who has established himself as

one of the league’s most recognizable young quarterbacks. Buffalo’s defense will have to be ready for a passing attack capable of creating problems if Herbert is given time and space.

That makes the matchup in the trenches particularly important. Buffalo will need to pressure Herbert while also staying disciplined enough to prevent big plays. On the other side, the Bills’ offense will have to continue finding ways to keep the Chargers’ defense on its heels.

There is also something else working in Buffalo’s favor: the Chargers are coming into a Bills environment that should still carry plenty of energy.

The opening of Highmark Stadium was the big story in Week 2. Now the building gets its first Sunday afternoon game of the regular season. The novelty may be gone, but the home-field excitement certainly is not.

The Bills have taken care of business through the first two weeks. Now comes the next challenge.

No matter what happened Thursday night, Buffalo cannot afford to look backward. The Chargers are the next opponent, and they will arrive with something to prove.

For the Bills, Sunday is about taking the next step—not celebrating the last one.



Citizens for a Better Cassadaga

Featured Writer
Cynthia Flaherty
President, Citizens for a Better Cassadaga

The Citizens for a Better Cassadaga are thriving and have delivered since our inception in 2014. For twelve years, we have been bringing joy and improvements to our community. The CBC, became a designated non-profit in 2016 which enabled our eligibility for various grants. Grant awards in the last 10 years include a beautification grant, signage, improved accessibility, security, and playground equipment at the beach, an AED for the Community Room and a grant to renovate the historic bandstand. The CBC was instrumental in securing the walking path around the lake and making our village a “Complete Streets” community. Recently, the CBC secured a large grant for a feasibility study for a multimodal trail to the Cassadaga Lakes Nature Park.

The CBC also presents the summer concert series each year. Our concert series is a huge hit. We present 7 concerts each summer. Attendees from throughout the county and beyond come to witness the quality

live performances on our unique floating stage. Some come in boats, some by land. Our local economy is boosted and best of all, village residents can enjoy a true slice of Americana right here in our backyard.

The CBC organizes and presents the annual Winter Festival, the Strawberry Social, the Labor Day Festival and a holiday event dubbed “Light Up Cassadaga” which is coming up on December 5th at 4:00. We plant flowers in Ames Common, sponsor our Farmers Market and support the local celebration of National Night Out. We welcome new businesses. A volunteerism award is given annually to a deserving CVCS senior.

The CBC always welcomes new members from throughout the area – not just within the village. No dues, no membership forms, no pressure. The CBC holds monthly meetings on the second Thursday of each month at the Cassadaga branch library at 7PM. Check our website www.cbccassadaga.org or our Facebook page for updated information on meetings and events. Feel free to talk to any of our Board members to learn more. Please join us!

Congratulations Chuck!

Fessenden Laumer & DeAngelo, PLLC, is proud to announce that Charles S. DeAngelo, a partner in the firm, was recently honored once again by being named to the Upstate New York 2026 Super Lawyers list. This is the tenth time Chuck has been named to the Upstate New York Super Lawyer list. Chuck DeAngelo was selected in the practice area of general litigation. Super Lawyers selects attorneys using a multiphase selection process. Peer nominations and evaluations are combined with independent research. Each candidate is evaluated on 12 indicators of peer recognition and professional achievement. Selections are made on an annual, state-by-state basis. Super Lawyers notes that the objective is to create a credible, comprehensive, and diverse listing of exceptional attorneys. The Super Lawyers publication notes that only 5% of the attorneys in the state are selected to receive Super Lawyers recognition.



Cassadaga Was a Prehistoric Hub of Activity

Continued from Page 7

Ichabod Fisher came to Cassadaga from Oneida County in 1808. He, like many others, traveled down the shore of Lake Erie from Buffalo because there were no roads or bridges across the many streams that fed into the lake. After spending the first few winters back in Oneida County, Ichabod returned again in 1812 with a load of leather for Leverette Barker of Fredonia. Traveling along the lakeshore was perilous enough, but we were now at war with England. A boat from Canada (British territory) accosted Fisher, plundered his wagon and took everything but the clothes on his back and his ox team, probably because the team wouldn't fit in their boat. Sometimes wagons got mired in the sand, or a fast moving storm brought waves crashing into them. The Fisher family settled along what is now North Main Street in Cassadaga and stayed for several generations.

Another Cassadaga pioneer, Obed Taylor, arrived in 1817, having walk-

ed the entire way from Massachusetts with a 24 pound pack on his back. Another fascinating letter in the Foote papers, from the Smith family, recounts their arrival in Cassadaga, only to find that the creek to their parcel was too swollen to cross with their wagon, which included a large iron kettle for making potash. One son decided to use the kettle as a boat and climbed in, attempting to row it across the creek. The kettle ended up at the bottom of the creek until the water level was lowered sufficiently for them to retrieve it.

I would encourage anyone with an interest in local history to utilize the resources that we are so fortunate to have in Chautauqua County. The Elial T. Foote Papers are digitized and available on the county historical society's website. Other valuable digital resources include the Historic Structures Database and the Anti-Slavery Map, also available through the county historical society (cchsmcclurg.org)

DID YOU KNOW?
Cassadaga's first Settlers began arriving in 1808.

CASSADAGA
Trivia

- 1. Tasty winner of 2026 CHQ Chamber's Hospitality Business of the Year?
- 2. Local business that owns two gorgeous lakeside vacation properties available for your next staycation or out-of-town guests.
- 3. There is still time this fall to rent your kayak or fishing boat for a Cassadaga Lakes venture from this small business?
- 4. Are sweets your weakness? You won't want to miss this growing business
- 5. Keep your vehicle in top condition with Kirk's expert service here.
- 6. Here comes the bride all dressed in "the RED -----"
- 7. Cassadaga's hottest new hair stylist Abbey DuBois may be found boothng within this Main Street staple salon.
- 8. Plan the perfect event or special occasion with an expert professional at Cassadaga's newest business.
- 9. The king of not just Kones, but gas, fermentation, local development and more.
- 10. Ready for fall leaf removal? Call this Cassadaga-based company to come to your neck of the woods today!

1. 3 Lakes Cafe 2. Blue Tomato LLC 3. Cassadaga Hook and Paddle 4. Daw Daw's Delights 5. KCR Enterprises 6. The RED House 7. Savvy Hair Design 8. The T Party 9. AJ Witkowski 10. Carter Landscaping

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King Kone Ribbon Cutting
12:00 PM
September 25th, 2026

Join us and celebrate this exciting new chapter for a beloved local business. For years, King Kone has been a go-to destination for delicious ice cream in Cassadaga, and now they're expanding their menu to include pizza while staying open throughout the winter! Please join us in congratulating King Kone on this exciting expansion and continued commitment to the Cassadaga community!



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Senator George Borrello Joins Upstate Leaders to Discuss New York’s Nuclear Future



Contributed by
Senator George Borello

Senator George Borrello joined state and local leaders, economic development officials and energy experts last week at the Upstate Nuclear Conference in Waterloo to discuss the growing interest in nuclear power and what new nuclear development could mean for communities in New York.

Senator Borrello participated in the conference’s Community Impact Panel, which focused on the jobs, investment and other economic benefits that nuclear facilities can bring to host communities, as well as the importance of involving local residents and leaders throughout the process.

Senator Borrello has become involved in the discussion over New York’s nuclear future since the City of Dunkirk signaled its interest in potentially hosting a new nuclear facility. Dunkirk is one of eight upstate communities that responded to the state’s request for communities interested in exploring new nuclear development.

The opportunity comes as New York is making a major new commitment to nuclear energy. The state has set a goal of developing at least 5 gigawatts of new nuclear generation, including a New York Power Authority initiative to develop at least 1 gigawatt in upstate New York.

“Once Dunkirk raised its hand and said it was interested, I wanted to learn as much as possible about what this could mean for the community and our region,” Senator Borrello said. “Part of that means learning more about advanced nuclear technology and sharing that information with the public. There are still misconceptions about nuclear power, and it’s important that people understand how far the technology has advanced and have confidence in its safety and reliability. The state is moving forward with an ambitious nuclear agenda, and my priority is making sure communities like Dunkirk have the facts they need to understand the opportunities, the challenges and what it would take to be part of this investment.”

One of the presentations underscored why nuclear is attracting renewed attention as New York looks for ways to meet growing electricity demand. Nuclear plants can produce power

nearly around the clock, generating about 92 percent of their maximum potential over the course of a year, compared with about 15 percent for solar sited in New York. Nuclear also requires far less land. A nuclear facility may occupy about one square mile, while producing the same amount of electricity with solar could require as much as 100 square miles.

“We need to be realistic about what it takes to keep the lights on 24 hours a day, 365 days a year,” Senator Borrello said. “Nuclear produces highly efficient, zero emission baseload power from a relatively small footprint. As demand for electricity grows, that is an advantage New York can’t afford to ignore.”

The renewed interest in nuclear isn’t limited to New York. Interest in nuclear energy is growing across the country, with dozens of new nuclear projects moving through the planning and development process and several advanced reactor projects already under construction.

“Our current and prior federal administrations have prioritized the development of nuclear, which has helped spur the nuclear resurgence happening across the country,” Senator Borrello said. “For communities like Dunkirk, decision making has to include consideration of the opportunities to bring back good jobs, grow our tax base and create economic opportunities that will be here for generations.”

Senator Borrello has also been working to make sure local leaders have the information they need as the state explores new nuclear development. In June, he hosted a “Nuclear 101” forum that brought together local government, education, economic development and business leaders to learn more about advanced nuclear technology and discuss what a potential project could mean for Dunkirk and Chautauqua County.

“No decisions have been made about Dunkirk, and there is a long way to go,” Senator Borrello said. “But this is an opportunity worth exploring. We need reliable power, Dunkirk wants to be an energy community again, and there is tremendous potential for new investment and jobs. We should be doing everything we can to make sure Western New York has a seat at the table as this next chapter of nuclear energy takes shape.”

On-Track Tutoring Starts for the School Year at Chautauqua Striders



Contributed by
Chautauqua Striders

Chautauqua Striders has announced the start of its On-Track Tutoring Program for the 2026–2027 school year, providing academic support to K-12 students throughout Chautauqua County and beyond.

The On-Track Tutoring Program is designed to help students build foundational academic skills, improve classroom performance and stay on track for graduation. Students from any school district are welcome to participate, and the program can also accommodate post-secondary students.

Tutors provide support in a variety of grade-level subjects, including English Language Arts, mathematics, Earth science, Chemistry and social studies/history.

Tutoring sessions are offered in person at the Chautauqua Striders offices at 301 E. 2nd St. in Jamestown, as well as online. Students may participate in small-group sessions with a ratio of one tutor to up to five students or receive individualized, one-on-one instruction.

In-person small-group tutoring is available Monday through Thursday in two-time blocks: 3:15 to 4:15 p.m. and 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Individual in-person sessions are available by appointment Monday through Thursday, with one-hour appointments scheduled between 3:15 and 6:30 p.m.

Online small-group sessions are offered Monday through Thursday from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. and 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Individualized online tutoring is also available by appointment, with one-hour sessions scheduled between 3:30 and 7:30 p.m.

The registration fee is \$65 per semester or \$130 for the full school year. The fee includes access to small-group tutoring sessions. Individual tutoring is available for an additional \$35 per hour.

In addition to On-Track Tutoring, Chautauqua Striders offers SAT workshops, Regents preparation courses and other academic programming throughout the school year and summer.

The On-Track Tutoring Program has demonstrated positive academic outcomes for participating students across the county, with an average of 92% of students passing their classes during the final quarter or semester of the school year. Chautauqua Striders would love to welcome your student for this semester! Registration is ongoing, and students can sign up at any point during the year.

Families interested in learning more about the program or registering a student can visit chqstriders.org/home/academics/



Photo Credit: Nancy Wickmark

Chautauqua County Executive Paul M. Wendel Jr. to Present 2027 Tentative Executive Budget

"Putting Money Back in Your Wallet": Budget Focuses on Affordability While Maintaining Essential County Services



Contributed by
County Executive
Paul Wendell

Chautauqua County Executive Paul M. Wendel Jr. will present his 2027 Tentative Executive Budget next week, outlining a spending plan focused on affordability, fiscal responsibility and protecting the essential services Chautauqua County residents rely on. Wendel will deliver his annual budget address on Wednesday, September 23, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. during the Chautauqua County Legislature meeting in the Legislative Chambers, 3 N. Erie St., Mayville. The presentation is open to the public, and residents are encouraged to attend in person or watch the address live on the County's YouTube channel at youtube.com/@ChautauquaCounty.

This year's budget presentation is themed "Putting Money Back in Your Wallet," reflecting Wendel's focus on affordability and responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars.

"At a time when families are feeling the pressure of higher costs for groceries, housing, utilities and everyday necessities, every dollar matters," said Wendel. "Government has a responsibility to be just as disciplined with taxpayers' money as families are with their own. This budget is about protecting the services our residents depend on while making responsible decisions that recognize the financial pressures facing our families."

During his address, Wendel will outline how the County plans to maintain and strengthen essential services while continuing to protect Chautauqua

County's strong financial position and responsibly manage taxpayer dollars.

"Our goal is clear: provide accessible, responsive and effective County services while making sure we are delivering them in the most efficient, effective, impactful and fiscally responsible way possible," Wendel said. "Residents deserve a County Government that understands the value of every dollar and works hard to make sure their tax dollars are put to work where they matter most."

The 2027 budget presentation will highlight the administration's approach to managing mandated costs, like SNAP and safety net, maintaining essential services and making strategic investments while continuing a record of fiscally conservative budgeting.

Wendel will also unveil key elements of the 2027 budget proposal that are designed to provide greater financial relief for County taxpayers while positioning Chautauqua County for continued stability and growth.

"This is a budget built around the people we serve," Wendel said. "We are going to continue strengthening the services our residents rely on, protecting our financial position and making decisions that put our taxpayers first. I look forward to sharing the details of this plan with the Legislature and the people of Chautauqua County."

For more updates from Chautauqua County Executive PJ Wendel, visit chautauquacountyny.gov/county-executive/welcome and follow him on Facebook at @CountyExecutiveWendel.

New Patricia Phillips Prize to Celebrate Volunteerism in Chautauqua County

Contributed by
Chautauqua Region
Community Foundation

The Phillips family and the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation announced the creation of the Patricia Phillips Prize for Excellence in Volunteer Engagement, a new annual award recognizing nonprofit organizations that strengthen the community by meaningfully engaging volunteers in service.

The Prize honors the legacy of Patricia M. "Pat" Phillips, whose commitment to volunteerism touched countless organizations and enriched Chautauqua County for decades. Alongside her husband, Jim, Pat helped build and run their family-owned business, Acme the Appliance Store, where she served as vice president. She also dedicated countless hours to volunteer leadership across the community. Recognized as the Jamestown Area Woman of the Year in 2001, she served organizations including the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation, Jamestown Community College Foundation, WCA Hospital Foundation, Crèche, Jamestown Concert Association, Reg Lenna Center for the Arts, St. Susan Center, and many others.

Pat believed that every community is stronger when people choose to show up for one another. That belief inspired not only her own lifetime of service but also the creation of this new award. Beginning in 2026, the Patricia Phillips Prize will annually recognize one nonprofit organization that exemplifies this spirit. The recipient organization will receive a \$10,000 unrestricted grant to support its mission.

"Our mother didn't just teach us the importance of volunteering. She inspired us by the example she set every day," said Jason Phillips, Pat's son. "She believed deeply in the power of service to bring people together and strengthen communities. Creating this Prize is our family's way of carrying her legacy forward by recognizing the organizations that make volunteerism mea-



ningful and inspire others to serve."

Community members are invited to nominate nonprofit organizations whose volunteers make a meaningful impact. Anyone with firsthand knowledge of an organization's volunteer efforts, including volunteers, board members, clients, partner organizations, and other community members, is encouraged to submit a nomination.

"We are looking for nominators to simply tell the story of how volunteers help the organization fulfill its mission and strengthen the community," said Tory Irgang. "The Foundation has established an ad-hoc committee to review the nominations. While only one nonprofit will receive the \$10,000 prize, we look forward to the nomination process as a celebration of the wonderful organizations serving the Chautauqua region."

Nominations will be accepted at crcf.me/phillipsprize through October 26, 2026. The inaugural Patricia Phillips Prize will be presented on December 1 as part of Giving Tuesday.

"We hope the Prize will celebrate the spirit of volunteerism that has long been a hallmark of Chautauqua County and inspire future generations to continue that tradition," added Jason Phillips.

For more information about the Patricia Phillips Prize, contact the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation at (716) 661-3390.

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52ND ANNUAL BUSTI APPLE FESTIVAL

Saturday, September 26 & Sunday September 27 • 10am - 5pm



Busti Apple Festival – One of the Largest Events in the County

*Contributed by
Busti Historical Society*

The Busti Apple Festival will once again fill the Busti Historical Society's 1850 campus the last weekend in September. "We have continued working on adding more vendor space for artisan, commercial and nonprofit groups to bring more of our communities together, all to improve the two day event," said Brad Buck, Board President, "the Apple Festival will be Saturday and Sunday, September 26 and 27, from 10 AM to 5 PM

each day. And we are always looking for volunteers to help at the event." New this year is a schedule of events to make sure visitors don't miss a demonstration, Civil War drill or the restored mill grinding grain. The Hazeltine Library staff are holding a story time both days. The schedule will be posted on the Apple Festival Facebook page prior to the festival as well throughout the festival and in the handouts available at the gates.

The new FREE PARKING LOT area is off of the Busti-Sugar Grove Rd, just

south of the 5-point intersection in Busti. From Jamestown, take Forest Ave. Ext. "Please use our free parking lot. Do not pay for parking to get closer, we have handicapped parking and a shuttle to move our guests to and from the parking lot," said Mr. Buck.

Admission is still only \$5, cash, or \$5.50, card, at the gate for adults, children under 12 are free. "The Busti Apple Festival is held rain or shine, and we strongly ask that you leave your pets home," he added, "we are encouraging families to

start a new tradition of taking a fall photo to at the festival using one of our fall sceneries."

In the past few years, the Busti Historical Society received grant funding for the campus improvements from the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation and the Hultquist Foundation to fix the parking lot area, add electricity access for vendors and add drainage to the vendor area.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



- **\$5 CASH Admission**
- **\$5.50 CARD Admission**
- **Children under 12 free**
- **Free Parking - follow signs**
- **Old Time Handcrafts**
- **125+ Vendors**
- **Food Trucks**
- **Hands on Activities**
- **NO PETS!**

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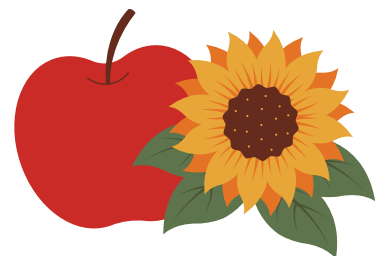
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BustiHistoricalSociety.com

Busti Apple Festival – One of the Largest Events in the County

Continued from Page 12

Children’s activities are throughout the festival. From learning how to milk a cow to playing with old-fashioned toys and games, along with talking with the old-time craft demonstrators who are basket weaving, leather working, woodworking and more. The wagon and pony rides are also available for a small fee.

Sponsors for the event are Brad Buck Trucking, Lakewood Runnings, Todd R. Allen Financial Advisor, Morgan Stanley, The Frewsburger, The Bucket, Lakewood Rod & Gun Club, Maple Springs Tree Service and Ecklof’s Bakery and Deli.

Up to 150 vendors will fill the campus from the 1839 grist mill to the new parking area. Over 125 hand-made craft vendor spaces are available with an added area for commercial and non-profit vendors. One area is set aside for food trucks, plan to spend the day.

The festival features many volunteers who will be demonstrating old-time everyday activities that are no longer done by hand. To be a demonstrator, please email bustihistorical@gmail.com. “We welcome anyone that is interested in everyday tasks from the mid-nineteenth century. If you would like to learn any of the tasks, please let us know,” said Victoria Parker, Demonstrator Committee. She added, “last year we asked our visitors to wear their historic inspired costume to the festival, we would like more to do so this year. Over the years our volunteers have dressed in colonial or Victorian era outfits to help set the at-

mosphere. This year we would like to invite more guests to join us, so break out the hoop skirts and top hats and come join the fun.”

Of course, many visitors come for apples, cider and homemade fruit pies. The Busti Cider Mill is a vendor at the festival selling bags of apples and gallons of cider. The Country Store, which is filled with handmade crafts and food items benefits the Busti Historical Society. And of course, pies, over 200 handmade pies will be available for sale either by the slice or as a whole pie.

The event features the restored 1839 grist mill. The mill is one of only a few working mills left in the northeast. Along with the mill is the miller’s house which is being lovingly restored to its 1846 elegance. Flour, buckwheat and corn meal, all ground at the mill, will be available for purchase. The mill will be running throughout the festival with educational tours available. “The campus also has a museum about Busti history with several hands-on exhibits for children. Even if you have been to the museum every year – this year will be different,” says Joni Blackman, Director, “we have added a shuttle service this year to help move people through the parking area. It looks like a train and is donated for the event by Brad Buck, Board President.”

Additional information can be found on the Busti Historical Society’s Facebook page, facebook.com/bustihistoricalsociety and the website, www.bustihistoricalsociety.com.

SUDOKU

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

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							

CLUES ACROSS

1. A place for worship
7. Referee declaration
10. Torsos
12. Used to introduce something
13. Healing method
14. Takes to the sea
15. Make law
16. French coastal city
17. Hawaiian dish
18. Young of domestic cattle
19. Women’s undergarments
21. 60-minute intervals (abbr.)
22. One after another
27. It’s a hot topic these days
28. Folk band frontman
33. They precede C
34. Heavenly
36. Fiddler crabs
37. Major Hindu deity
38. Hebrew given name
39. Cost per mile
40. __ Romeo, car
41. Rural municipality in Manitoba
44. Narratives
45. “A tragedy had __ him”
48. Iranian city
49. Praises publicly
50. Founding Father Franklin
51. Herbal tea

CLUES DOWN

1. Indian unit of mass
2. “Tears in Heaven” singer Clapton
3. Part of a sailing vessel
4. Part of (abbr.)
5. Polynesian garland of flowers
6. Keyboard key
7. One who steals
8. Large oven
9. Former CIA
10. Idea
11. Solomon Islands capital
12. Afrikaans
14. Remove thatch
17. Television network
18. Jalen Brunson is one
20. Title of respect
23. Flowering trees
24. Occurring in a tube
25. Exists
26. Woman (French)
29. Expression of doubt
30. NHL legend Bobby
31. Accomplished
32. Makes slightly wet
35. National Assn. of Manufacturers
36. Not sated
38. Poe’s middle name
40. Swiss river
41. Rhythmic pattern in Indian music
42. “Shane” actor Ladd
43. Popular whodunit board game
44. Bar bill
45. Ballplayer’s tool
46. Indicates near
47. Feet per second

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With young families to support, both men shared a deep commitment to building careers centered on serving others and giving back to their communities. Together, they forged a business partnership that spanned over 50 years, providing vital insurance protection and investment strategies for local individuals, families, and business owners.

While their general agency was based in Buffalo, the duo opened a dedicated branch in Jamestown, eventually purchasing their permanent home at 513 West Third Street in the heart of downtown.

A Family Legacy Continues

Though both Bob and Tom retired in 2024, the business remains a true family legacy. Bob’s grandson, Eric Harvey, now serves as Managing Director. The multi-generational team also includes Bob’s son-in-law, Mark Nelson, another grandson Andrew Nelson, and four additional dedicated associates.



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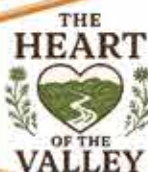
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Photo Credit - Cassadaga Community & Business Alliance



Not a Pass-Through: Cassadaga's businesses, natural assets and community spirit are building a four-season destination

Continued from Front Page

ment of Planning and Development and support from the Chautauqua County Partnership for Economic Growth, the plan connects individual projects to a larger community vision. It also focuses attention on the Route 60 corridor, where Cassadaga has both its greatest visibility and its greatest opportunity. The village is exploring branding, marketing, wayfinding, pedestrian improvements and other possibilities that could better connect Route 60 travelers with Cassadaga's businesses, lakes and recreational assets. Applications through Market New York, NY Forward and Chautauqua County's 3% Occupancy Tax Tourism Product Development Grant Program could eventually help fund parts of that vision. Complete Streets concepts, which consider the safety and accessibility of motorists, pedestrians, bicyclists and people of all ages and abilities, may also inform future projects.

The momentum behind Cassadaga's transformation is already visible in the people, organizations and businesses doing the work every day.

The **Cassadaga Lakes Association**, founded in 1957, continues its longstanding stewardship of the community's defining natural resource. Its work includes water-quality monitoring, education, safety programs, weed control and advocacy for the lakes and their tributaries. Citizens for a Better Cassadaga contributes across a broad spectrum of recreational, artistic, beautification, business-development and quality-of-life projects. Its work can be

seen in community events and improvements. The **Cassadaga Community and Business Alliance** concentrates on economic activation, entrepreneurship, hospitality and responsible tourism. It helps connect existing and prospective businesses with support services while advocating for growth that respects Cassadaga's residential character and natural environment.

Each organization has its own focus, which will be explored more fully elsewhere in this publication, but their efforts converge around a common premise: Cassadaga's future will be strongest when environmental stewardship, community life and economic development reinforce one another.

That same sense of shared purpose is visible throughout the village's business community. Individually, these businesses meet local needs and offer distinctive experiences. Together, they give Route 60 travelers a growing list of reasons to turn a trip through Cassadaga into a visit.

At 3 **Lakes Café**, coffee, breakfast and lunch come with the unmistakable feeling of a neighborhood gathering place. The café will be honored as the CHQ Chamber's 2026 Hospitality Business of the Year at the chamber's Oct. 8 awards banquet, which is a significant recognition for both the business and the village.

Blue Tomato LLC introduces visitors to lakeside living through its Blue Oar Lakehouse and Blue Canoe Lake Cottage. The thoughtfully renovated vaca-

tion properties encourage guests to experience Cassadaga slowly and support the village's vision for responsible overnight tourism.

Cassadaga Hook and Paddle brings visitors directly onto the water with beginner-friendly kayak and fishing-boat rentals, meeting customers at the Middle Cassadaga Lake launch. Its emphasis on quiet recreation, wildlife and local stewardship is a natural fit for the community's four-season destination identity.

Daw Daw's Delights, LLC is growing from a home-based bakery toward a future storefront. Its cookies, made by owner Amanda Lancaster, demonstrate how small-scale entrepreneurship can develop into a visible part of Main Street.

K.C.R. Enterprises provides local automotive service and represents the kind of dependable, established business that keeps a rural community functioning year-round. It serves residents while also offering reassurance to the many motorists traveling through the Route 60 corridor.

The RED House brings people together on a distinctive historic property with a Victorian manor, timber barn and wooded grounds. Located at 91 Frisbee Road, the venue focuses on weddings and other special events, including ceremonies and receptions.

Savvy Hair Design owner, **Dawn Beckman**, has created space not only for her own work but also for other professionals, including booth renter **Abby Dubois**. From quick cuts to "savvy" style, Savvy Hair Design gives clients the opportunity to leave feeling refreshed and rejuvenated.

The T Party, one of Cassadaga's newest arrivals, is preparing to celebrate with a

CHQ Chamber ribbon-cutting in the coming weeks. The new venue offers event spaces for meetings and parties, as well as event planning for those special occasions. Its opening adds another small business to the community and another reason for visitors to explore what is new in the village.

Carter Landscaping contributes the outdoor expertise that helps homes, businesses and community spaces put their best face forward. That work complements a broader effort to strengthen Cassadaga's curb appeal while preserving its welcoming, small-town character.

At 86 North Main Street, Alec J. Witkowski has assembled a highly visible business hub that includes **Wit's Convenience** and **VP Racing Fuels, King Kone** and **Fermentation Station Wine & Spirits**. It is precisely the kind of place where a Route 60 traveler can stop for one reason and discover several more. Witkowski is also a dedicated leader in the village's planning and broader economic-development efforts.

Together, these enterprises make Cassadaga more than a collection of attractions. They make it a living community: a place to buy a cup of coffee, repair a vehicle, book a celebration, enjoy the lakes, support an entrepreneur or simply linger longer than expected. They also demonstrate that the village's four-season ambitions are grounded in real experiences. A summer visitor can paddle the lakes and attend a concert at the floating stage. Fall brings colorful shorelines and weekends beside the water. Winter creates opportunities for snowmobiling and other cold-weather recreation. Throughout the year, local businesses provide the food, services, accommodations and gathering places that turn outdoor assets into a complete visit.

Photo Credit - Cassadaga Community & Business Alliance



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Horror film and documentary to show at Reg Lenna Center for The Arts



Contributed by
**Reg Lenna
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*Teenage Sex and Death at
Camp Miasma*

(Fri., September 25 at 7 p.m.) is the new horror film from Saw the TV Glow director, Jane Schoenbrun. After years of slapdash sequels and waning fandom, the Camp Miasma slasher franchise is handed over to an enthusiastic young director for resurrection. But when she visits the original's star, a now-reclusive actress shrouded in mystery, the two women fall into a blood-soaked world of desire, fear, and delirium. *Teenage Sex and Death at Camp Miasma* is rated R and is 112 minutes long.

*Mary Oliver: Saved by the Beauty
of the World*

(Wed., September 30 at 7 p.m.) considers the poet's long lifetime of work in context, capturing the uniqueness of her world and the natural beauty that inspired her. The documentary features interviews with her close friends,

including John Waters, never-before-seen personal photos, notebooks, and correspondence from her archive, and recitations of her work by Stephen Colbert, Lucy Dacus, Steve Buscemi, and Oprah Winfrey. *Mary Oliver: Saved by the Beauty of the World* is unrated and is 91 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.) - 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.



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Conservationists of the Year: Bob and Anne Deming

Photo credit: Western New York Land Conservancy



Pictured with Anne and Bob are Andrew Gaerte, Director of Development and Communications; Marisa Riggi, Executive Director.

Contributed by
**Western New York Land
Conservancy**

At its September 10th Conservation Celebration, the Western New York Land Conservancy presented Chautauqua County residents Drs. Bob and Anne Deming with its Henry J. Kreher Conservationists of the Year Award. Since 1991, the Land Conservancy, based in East Aurora, has permanently protected more than 8,500 acres with significant conservation value in Western New York.

As a James Joyce scholar and literature professor at several universities, including Fredonia, where he served as Chair of the English department, Bob Deming understood how to dig around in the linguistic soil of great books to find meaning. As a certified master gardener in both Ohio and Delaware, he was also expert in digging around in actual soil to grow plants and vegetables, and he loved to instill in others the joy of gardening. After earning her doctorate, Anne Deming embarked on a career that brought her to SUNY Fredonia as a faculty member, counseling psychologist, and administrator. She then left to accept vice presidencies at universities in Pennsylvania, Tennessee, DC, and Ohio—where she retired as the President of Notre Dame College.

This year, their 50th on the lake, the Demings went out of their way to assist the Land Conservancy in its efforts to protect the 311-acre Bear Lake Preserve. But they were awarded the Henry J. Kreher Conservationists of the Year Award because of their tireless, years-long efforts to keep Bear Lake's rare wetland habitat intact.

Since the last glaciers retreated, this freshwater kettle lake in Stockton, NY has been an integral part of Western New York's wetland ecosystem. For thousands of years, wetland complexes like the one at Bear Lake have provided habitat to a broad range

of plant and animal species, filtered drinking water, and protected human communities from flooding. In New York State, more than 60% of wetlands have vanished, including once extensive freshwater wetlands that encircled Lake Erie. These critical systems have been lost or degraded by development, drainage, and changes to hydrology. At Bear Lake, however, the wetlands the Land Conservancy will protect remain connected and functional.

That is in large part thanks to the work of conservationists like the Demings. During her tenure as President of the Bear Lake Association, the community developed the bio control program that—for more than sixteen years—has managed invasive weeds and prevented toxic algal blooms while protecting native weevils, a vital component of the bio control program. In addition, the Demings have lovingly chronicled the community's rich past in three books: A History of Bear Lake (2018); Camp in the Woods on Bear Lake (2021); and most recently, A History of Bear Lake, 2nd edition (2025). The Demings have educated the entire region about this wondrous place.

Bear Lake is located within a WNY Wildway corridor that includes the previously protected Land Conservancy properties Floating Fen and College Lodge Forest, as well as two Everwild Land Trust properties, totaling nearly 1,000 acres. The WNY Wildway is the Land Conservancy's plan to create an extensive series of protected lands that connect the vast forests of northern Pennsylvania to the Great Lakes and link up with the Eastern Wildway. Once protected, the Land Conservancy will turn the Bear Lake Preserve into a publicly-accessible nature preserve. Visitors will be able to enjoy recreational activities like bird-watching, hiking, and paddling.

To learn more about the Bear Lake Preserve and the Land Conservancy's efforts to permanently protect it, visit the Land Conservancy's website: WNYLC/Bearlake.

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CHQ Chamber Welcomes Two New Team Members

Contributed by
**Chautauqua County
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The Chautauqua County Chamber of Commerce has welcomed two new members to its team: Ashlan Davis as Operations Coordinator and Jackie Greene as Director of Marketing and Communications.

Davis will support the Chamber's day-to-day operations and help strengthen connections among local businesses and community organizations. A graduate of SUNY Jamestown Community College with an associate degree in Media Arts, Ashlan Davis brings experience in administration, nonprofit leadership, community service and communications. Before joining the Chamber, she served as office manager for the Mayor of the City of Jamestown and previously worked as executive assistant to the CEO of a nonprofit organization.

Davis is also a photographer and owner of New Leaf Photography. Her creative background complements her work with the Chamber, particularly in storytelling, communications and community engagement. "I'm passionate about supporting local businesses, building meaningful relationships and contributing to the continued growth and vitality of our community," Davis said.

Jackie Greene joins the Chamber with experience in marketing, communications, community outreach and relationship building, as well as previous Chamber leadership experience. She previously served as executive director of the Wellsville Area Chamber of Commerce and has worked in communications and outreach roles with

nonprofit, healthcare and workforce development organizations.

Most recently, Greene worked with Goodwill Industries of Western New York, focusing on community outreach and enrollment for a workforce development program. She developed partnerships and promotional strategies to connect individuals with employment and training opportunities. A native of Angelica, N.Y., Greene is a graduate of Ithaca College with a bachelor's degree in communications. Her experience includes social media, newsletters, website content, public relations, event promotion, presentations and community outreach.

"I'm excited to return to Chamber work and to have the opportunity to use my communications and community engagement experience to support businesses and organizations throughout Chautauqua County," Greene said. "Having

made this community my home, I'm especially excited to contribute to the county and help tell the stories of the people and businesses that make it such a great place to live and work." Outside of work, Greene enjoys spending time with family and friends and exploring Chautauqua County.

CHQ Chamber President and CEO Daniel Heitzenrater said the two new team members bring valuable experience to the organization. "We are thrilled to add Ashlan and Jackie to our staff," Heitzenrater said. "Their experience and knowledge will strengthen an already dynamic team." The Chamber said Davis and Greene will play important roles in supporting Chamber members and strengthening connections throughout the Chautauqua County business community.



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Framed in Pink Cornhole Tournament Planned for September 27



Contributed by

Framed in Pink Committee

The committee of the annual Framed in Pink fundraiser is carrying forward the event's mission in a new way this year. Following the recent closure of a local bowling alley, organizers have pivoted from the long-running Framed in Pink Bowling Over Breast Cancer event to a cornhole tournament scheduled for September 27 at the Celoron Moose, 52 Dunham Avenue, Celoron, NY. Registration begins at 12:30 p.m., with cornhole beginning at 1 p.m. The cost is \$40 for a team of two.

Founded in 2014 by the late Sue Lamb, Framed in Pink Bowling Over Breast Cancer began as a bowling fundraiser and quickly became a beloved community tradition, drawing nearly 150 bowlers each year. To date, the effort has raised more than \$91,600 with the support of the WCA Foundation endowment's investment. All funds are directed to care for local women and men receiving treatment for breast cancer.

Proceeds from this year's fundraiser will support the mammography expansion at UPMC Chautauqua, helping enhance access to breast imaging services and support early detection for patients in the community. Although this year's fundraiser will look different, the committee is determined to build upon

their success through community support, sponsorships, raffles, and other giving opportunities connected to the cornhole tournament.

Sue Lamb passed away in 2021 from health issues unrelated to breast cancer. Today, her daughters, family members, and friends continue raising funds and awareness in her honor. Julie Abramson and her sisters are helping lead the ongoing effort to continue their mother's legacy. "My mother took great pride in making a difference for patients, helping them live beyond a breast cancer diagnosis and enjoy life to the fullest," said Julie Abramson, Lamb's daughter.

Generous donors and local businesses will help ensure the success of this year's fundraiser, continuing the strong community support that has made Framed in Pink Bowling Over Breast Cancer a triumph year after year.

As family and friends prepare for the September 27 Framed in Pink Cornhole Tournament at the Celoron Moose, 52 Dunham Avenue, Celoron, NY, those interested in registering a team of two for \$40, making a financial contribution, sponsoring the fundraiser, or donating a gift basket may contact framedinpink@gmail.com or call Julie Abramson 716-485-8456. Updates are also available on their Facebook page Framed in Pink Bowling Over Breast Cancer.

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Solutions to the most pressing issues facing the Silver Creek Irving community are being sought, and funds are available to help achieve them through the Silver Creek Irving Heritage Fund (SCIHF), which is focused on "Remembering Our Past – Securing Our Future."

Any charitable organization that serves the Silver Creek and Irving communities can apply for a Silver Creek Irving Heritage Fund grant. The application form is accessible on the Northern Chautauqua Community Foundation website at <https://www.nccfoundation.org/helping-nonprofits/>. It must be submitted by September 20, 2026 to the Northern Chautauqua Community Foundation, SCIHF, 212 Lake Shore Drive W., Dunkirk, NY 14048.

Past SCIHF grant recipients include the Anderson Lee Library, Boy Scout Troop 252, Festival of Grapes, Dunkirk Fredonia Meals on Wheels, Silver Creek Senior Citizens, Silver Creek Hanover Garden Club, Hanover Little League, and St. Columban's on the Lake. SCIHF committee members are Matt Bogosian, Susan Borrello, Marv Cummings, Marcey Denardo,

Maureen Morabito, Donna Roof, Kathy Tampio, and Liz Vancheri.

The SCIHF is a community donor-advised fund of the Northern Chautauqua Community Foundation. For questions on this fund, contact a committee member, call the NCCF at 716-366-4892, or e-mail nccf@nccfoundation.org. To make a gift to the Silver Creek-Irving Heritage Fund, visit www.nccfoundation.org/scihf.

The NCCF, incorporated in 1986, is a nationally accredited community foundation and a tax-exempt charitable organization. Since its establishment, the NCCF has distributed more than \$25 million through its various grant programs. It is an organization committed to enriching the northern Chautauqua community, encouraging local philanthropy, and has proven compliance with the National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations, demonstrating integrity, equity, accountability, transparency, and effectiveness in meeting the needs of its community. For more information on the NCCF, or to establish your own named Community Fund, visit www.nccfoundation.org or call 716-366-4892.



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Ancient Mounds were discovered in
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Register Now for Audubon's Enchanted Forest, October 2–3



Contributed by

Audubon Community Center

For more than two decades Audubon Community Center's Enchanted Forest has delighted children and the adults – parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, friends – fortunate enough to accompany them.

On this magical, non-scary evening, follow a guide through the luminary-lit trail to meet human-sized animals who will engage your imagination, maybe make you laugh, and teach you something about wildlife in the region. You can expect to be charmed and delighted by the captivating life stories told by the Pileated Woodpecker, Little Brown Bat, Black Bear, and others.

As it is a reservations-only event, now is the time to reserve your slot for Friday or Saturday, October 2 or 3. Starting at 6 p.m., walks go out every 10 minutes and last about 40 minutes. The last walk starts at 8 p.m.

After the walk, stop in the backyard to enjoy a campfire and live music. Snacks and drinks will be available to purchase. Inside the Nature Center building will be crafts, live animals, and exhibits to explore.

Admission is \$14 for adults, \$10.50 for Nature Center members and children ages 3-15, and free for children 2 and under. Reservations can be made by calling (716) 569-2345 or going online to AudubonCNC.org/enchanted-forest. No tickets are sold at the door.

Enchanted Forest happens rain or shine, so be sure to dress for the weather. For protection from biting insects like mosquitoes, long pants, long-sleeved shirts, closed-toe shoes, and insect repellent are recommended. Halloween costumes are welcome.

Audubon Community Nature Center is located at 1600 Riverside Road, one-quarter mile east of Route 62 between Jamestown, N.Y., and Warren, Pa. Learn more at AudubonCNC.org.

Mental Hygiene Care Coordinators Visiting Mental Health Association



Executive Director Michael Nordin welcomed Health Home Care Coordinator Nichole Johnson to the Mental Health Association in Chautauqua County's September recovery luncheon. Johnson and a colleague will be visiting the MHA weekly to provide support services through the Chautauqua County Department of Mental Hygiene. Individuals who qualify can be assisted with supportive services including healthcare, housing, food, and transportation. The hearty meal was prepared and served by St. Luke's Episcopal Church members Sandy Kearney and Linda McCallum. Two new groups, Medication Assisted Recovery and Wellness in Recovery, are starting October 1 at the MHA's North County recovery center in Dunkirk. For locations, hours and services of the MHA's Jamestown and Dunkirk recovery centers, call (716) 661-9044 or visit MHACHQ.org or [Facebook.com/MHACHautauqua](https://www.facebook.com/MHACHautauqua).



CHAMBER CORNER

ARE YOU READY?

Article Contributed by

Daniel J. Heitzenrater

Chautauqua County Chamber of Commerce
President and CEO

It's that time of year—the leaves are changing, there's a chill in the air, and the sun is setting a little earlier each evening. Autumn is here, and that can only mean one thing: it's officially football season!

Whether you're cheering on your local high school team, a college football powerhouse, or your favorite NFL team, there's nothing quite like football season here in Chautauqua County. And when it comes to getting ready for game day, you don't have to look far—our Chamber members have you covered.

Start with the food, because no game day is complete without it! With more than 70 Chamber member restaurants, there are plenty of local options to satisfy every craving. Pick up pizza, wings, subs, burgers, appetizers, or all those game-day munchies that somehow disappear before kickoff. Whether you're feeding the family or hosting a house full of fellow fans, you can make your game-day spread a local one.

Need to show your team spirit? CHQ Chamber member retailers have you covered there, too. Find everything from hoodies and hats to signs, gloves, and plenty of other gear to help you represent your team in style. Whether you're supporting your hometown team, your favorite college, or NFL team, you can find plenty of ways to represent your team—and support a local business while you're at it.

That's one of the best things about living and cheering here: our local businesses are part of the community, too. They help make our neighborhoods vibrant, support local jobs, sponsor teams and events, and give us plenty of reasons to shop, eat, and gather right here at home.

Looking for a local business to help with your game-day plans? Visit the Chamber's online member directory at chqchamber.org to find a local business for just about everything on your game-day checklist.

So, whether you're hosting a watch party, heading to the stadium, or settling in at home for kickoff, shop local and make your game day a CHQ Chamber member game day! Our members have what you need to eat, gear up, gather with friends, and cheer your team on all season long.

Now, who's ready for kickoff?

Final 3rd on Third is September 17

Our last 3rd on Third of the season is scheduled for tonight from 5-8. This free community event is designed

to help you shop, dine, and explore downtown Jamestown. The final 3rd on Third 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 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! This event is sponsored by: the County of Chautauqua Industrial Development Agency, Chose CHQ, Live CHQ, Cattaraugus County Bank, West Main Mercantile, Persnikkity Pies and Falconer Vacuum and Polywood Shop.

Chamber Business Awards Banquet

Join us for an evening of celebration as we honor this year's awardees and milestone recipients and recognize their outstanding contributions and achievements. Guests will enjoy a delicious buffet dinner featuring a carving station with roasted turkey breast and Virginia baked ham, penne pasta primavera with Alfredo sauce, seasonal grilled vegetables, garlic mashed potatoes, seasoned bread stuffing, mixed green salad, and assorted desserts. The evening will also feature local beverage tastings

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28

Made in Falconer

Main Street, Falconer

Saturday, September 26, 10-2pm

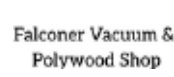


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Discover Cassadaga: A Four-Season Economic Vision

Continued from Front Page

Photo Credit - Cassadaga Community & Business Alliance



beautification, improving the connection between Main Street and key community destinations, enhancing public spaces such as Village Commons Park and other community areas and supporting local businesses.

The village’s economic vision centers on building a vibrant, healthy and authentically local rural community. Its goals include helping families thrive, supporting business growth, preserving local heritage, improving quality of life and creating sustainable opportunities that attract new investment, welcome new families, retain talent and strengthen the community for future generations.

Mayor Rudy Abersold said the village’s economic mission and campaign are intended to show residents, businesses, development partners and potential funders that Cassadaga has “the desire, willingness and ability to support strategic economic growth.” He also highlighted the village’s natural seasonal assets and its location on “the most traveled highway in Chautauqua County.”

A newly formed NY Forward Grant Committee is working on the development of a comprehensive grant submission for this year. The NY Forward grant program supports smaller and rural downtown communities with their revitalization. Made up of local business owners and residents, the committee is chaired by Nathan Pownall and is working closely with village trustees to identify priority projects that support Cassadaga’s eco-tourism economy.

“For our rural community, we have a vision centered on economic development, four-season recreation, business development, workforce development, housing and quality of life,” said NY Forward Committee Chairman Nathan Pownall. “We want our residents to live well and encourage vacationers to visit often.”

The NY Forward Planning Committee includes Pownall, chairman, along with Laura Pownall, AJ Witkowski, Dave Rowley, Susan Asquith, Teri Seibert, Sean Seibert, Chris Cooke, Rob Lederer, Jake Toy, BJ Monacelli, Emma Cook and Tammie Wichlacz.

In addition to pursuing NY Forward funding, the village is seeking other grant opportunities. With assistance from the Chautauqua County Planning

Department, the village recently applied to the New York State Market NY Program for funding to support a comprehensive branding, marketing and wayfinding signage initiative. Likewise, Cassadaga is looking to improve its water infrastructure with an \$8.6 million to \$9.5 million capital improvement project to replace century-old water lines and improve water quality.

The Main Street plan also identifies potential funding sources for future projects, including the state Consolidated Funding Application, Transportation Alternatives Program, New York Main Street program, parks and recreation grants, water-quality programs and other state and federal infrastructure resources. The plan calls for projects to be advanced in phases as funding, partnerships and agency coordination make them possible.

Village officials hope these efforts will help build an eco-tourism destination anchored by a 217-acre lake system that supports boating, swimming and sport fishing. The region also offers access to Chautauqua County’s 400 miles of managed snowmobile trails, extending its appeal into the winter season.

By connecting its natural assets with strategic investment, Cassadaga is positioning itself as a year-round destination and a stronger place to live, visit and do business. The Discover Cassadaga vision gives the village a clear path forward: honoring its rural character while building new opportunities for residents, visitors and future generations.

Dave Rowley spent 42 years in the broadcasting industry before retiring in 2023. He served as news director at WDOE and WBKX for 31 years, previously worked at WKSJ-WHUG in Jamestown and began his career at the former WBZ in Fredonia.

Rowley attended SUNY Fredonia and is a graduate of Fredonia High School.

In addition to his broadcasting career, Rowley has remained active in local organizations. He currently serves on the Cassadaga Village Board of Trustees, along with boards of the Northern Chautauqua Community Foundation, the Cassadaga Lakes Association and the Kiwanis Club of Falconer. Rowley is also a member of the Sons of the American Legion, Post 1280 in Cassadaga.

Pearl City Clay House Welcomes Olivia Reynolds to Studio Team



Contributed by
Pearl City Clay House

There is a new face behind the desk and around the studio at Pearl City Clay House as the community arts center begins another year of classes, workshops, walk-in projects, and creative experiences in Downtown Jamestown.

Pearl City Clay House, a program of Infinity Visual and Performing Arts, is pleased to welcome Olivia Reynolds to its team as Receptionist and Studio Tech.

For Reynolds, joining the Clay House also means stepping into a new area of her own creative work. A graduate of Warren Area High School and current Fine Arts student at Jamestown Community College, Reynolds has primarily focused on drawing and painting and has received recognition for her work in both mediums. Now, surrounded by wheels, kilns, glazes, and plenty of clay, she is looking forward to exploring a different way of creating.

Reynolds plans to continue her fine arts studies in Edinboro. Her artwork frequently draws inspiration from nature, with plants, animals, and other elements of the natural world appearing throughout her work. Outside of art, she enjoys hiking, caring for her houseplants, and scouring antique stores for stained-glass lamps to add to her growing collection.

As Receptionist and Studio Tech, Reynolds will be part of the day-to-day activity at Pearl City Clay House, welcoming visitors into the space while also supporting the behind-the-scenes studio work that keeps its pottery and

visual arts programming running.

Since opening in Downtown Jamestown in 2022, Pearl City Clay House has grown into a space designed to make creating accessible to people with a wide range of ages, interests, and experience levels. Someone walking through the doors might be trying a pottery wheel for the first time, painting a piece of pottery with family or friends, taking a multi-week ceramics class, visiting a gallery exhibition, or experimenting with a new contemporary craft.

That environment of exploration makes Reynolds a natural addition to the team. While she brings her own experience as a developing visual artist to PCCH, the position also gives her an opportunity to continue learning alongside the artists, instructors, students, and community members who use the space.

Pearl City Clay House is located at 220 East 2nd Street in Downtown Jamestown, across the street from Infinity Visual and Performing Arts. In addition to pottery wheel instruction, PCCH offers walk-in pottery painting and creative projects, classes and workshops, gallery exhibitions, special events, and other opportunities for community members to make and experience art.

PCCH is both a community arts center and a program of Infinity Visual and Performing Arts. Proceeds generated through Pearl City Clay House help support Infinity’s youth arts education programming, connecting the creative experiences happening on both sides of East 2nd Street.



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A Historic Gift: Aspire of WNY Officially Assumes WCA Home to Expand Services

Contributed by
Aspire of WNY

Aspire of WNY and the WCA Home Board of Directors are thrilled to announce the official finalization of the WCA Home transfer. On August 20, 2026, the historic property was officially closed and transferred to Aspire of WNY as a generous gift.

The WCA Home, which unfortunately closed its doors early in 2023, will now serve as a vibrant Northern Chautauqua Community Hub for Aspire of WNY. The "WCA" will remain and the location will become "Aspire of WNY at the WCA," with WCA now standing for: We Connect All. This naming pays homage to the legacy of the WCA home and modernizes it to fit Aspire of WNY's nonprofit mission supporting children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This gift will allow the agency to consolidate its current Northern Chautauqua operations and significantly expand its continuum of care.

"Entrusting this historic building to Aspire of WNY guarantees that our century-long mission of care will not just continue, but truly thrive for generations," said Lori Poniatowski, Board President of the WCA Home. "When we met the team at Aspire of WNY, it was clear to me, and the board of directors at the WCA, that they were the right ones to carry on an important mission in this home. Seeing the doors open again, with human services being provided to support the health and wellness of people in our community, means everything to us."

The transition was years in the making. In March of 2025, after plans to sell the historic property were not meeting the vision of the WCA Home Board or the needs of the community, the WCA Board put out an ask in the community: are there nonprofits we could gift the home to for legacy continuance into the next 100 years?

After a series of proposals, the WCA Home Board selected Aspire of WNY, a nearly 80-year-old nonprofit agency serving Erie & Chautauqua counties, to be the recipient of the estate.

"We are profoundly grateful for this gift, which allows us to expand our person-centered services and ensure this beautiful property remains a cornerstone of the Fredonia community," said Renee A. Filip, President & CEO of Aspire of WNY.

The generous gift unites two organizations dedicated to human services. Community members, when notified of the formal transition after a zoning board hearing earlier in 2026, were overwhelmingly positive. Neighbors of the property in Fredonia, NY showed their support by coming to the meetings, posting publicly online, and sharing letters with both

Aspire of WNY and the WCA Home administrative teams.

"This space allows us to enhance community-based services for the people we support," said Carrie Spence, Chief Operating Officer at Aspire of WNY. "Having a homebase in Northern Chautauqua County gives families in this community the opportunity to see their children receive support beyond what we could have hoped."

"The WCA Home has the space for us to provide incredible training opportunities to our workforce," said Melissa Roth, Chief Human Resources Officer. "Our commitment is to provide hands on learning experiences like those they will encounter while supporting people with disabilities. The WCA Home gives us that "home-like" environment, with the space for classes and technical work. We are so grateful!"

Aspire of WNY plans to operate various community based programs from their catalogue, including iXpress art, Supported Volunteering & Lifestyle Enrichment (SVLE), Day Hab without Walls, Respite, Community B.R.I.D.G.E.S (connecting people with real life skills for independence in the community), Vocational Services, ADAPT Fashions (retail style training with opportunities for professional garments), workforce training, administrative support, and much more.

"A gift like this is incredible for our organization," said Jennifer Ball, Chief Financial Officer of Aspire of WNY. "Without the care, commitment, and community-oriented leadership of the WCA Board, this historic asset would not be what it is today. We are proud to carry on the legacy and are honored to be the partners chosen to lead the WCA Home into its next chapter of life."

To celebrate this new chapter, the public is warmly invited to Aspire of WNY at the WCA's Open House to tour the facility, meet the team, and learn about upcoming programs. Please note that parking is limited and street parking, according to rules, is expected. Aspire of WNY hopes to have a shuttle service and will be announcing details closer to the open house:

Date: October 7th, 2026

Time: 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Location: Aspire of WNY at the WCA
134 Temple St. Fredonia, NY

To learn more and register, please visit: www.aspirewny.org/events is committed to person-centered programs that foster independence, community integration, and advocacy.



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22nd Annual Pat McGee Memorial Dog Walk

Contributed by
Lakeshore Humane Society

The Lakeshore Humane Society will hold its 22nd Annual Pat McGee Memorial Dog Walk on Saturday, October 3 at the Lakeshore Humane Society Adoption Center, 431 E. Chestnut Street in Dunkirk. This event is named in honor of the late New York State Senator Pat McGee who worked to fight animal cruelty and supported the Felony Animal Cruelty Law, also known as Buster's Law. This activity is rain or shine. Dress-up your dog for this costume walk and contest (but all dogs are welcome to participate, even if not in costume)! There will also be doggie activities following the walk. Please note that, unlike in recent past years, the Dog Walk will take place on Saturday.

Dog Walk check-in the day of the event begins at 10 am. The Walk begins at 10:30 am. Registration is \$22. This includes a Dog Walk t-shirt and goodie bag. Pre-registration is strongly

encouraged to ensure receiving a shirt. (September 21 is the payment deadline to guarantee choice of t-shirt size.) Registrations are considered as non-refundable donations to the Lakeshore Humane Society. Each dog must have proper I.D. on a collar or be microchipped, be on a non-retractable leash at all times, and have an up-to-date rabies vaccination certificate to present at check-in.



For registration forms, come to Open Adoption Hours at the LHS Adoption Center Wednesdays from 6 pm to 8 pm and Saturdays from noon to 3 pm, or go to the Shop page of the Lakeshore Humane Society website - lakeshorehumanesociety.org/shop.

All ages and members of the community are encouraged to take part in this fun event, while helping the efforts of the Lakeshore Humane Society.

For more information, see www.lakeshorehumanesociety.org or LHS's Facebook page, or call 716-672-1991.

Chamber Corner

Continued from Page 25

and a cash bar, with a complimentary bottle of local wine provided at each table. Tickets are \$75 per person. You may also reserve a full table of 8 for \$550 (a savings of \$50).

Awards will be presented in the following categories:

- Business of the Year - DFT Communications
- Business Champion Award - Chautauqua Lake Dental
- Emerging Business of the Year - Westfield Makerspace
- Not-for-Profit of the Year - Northern Chautauqua Community Foundation
- Service Business of the Year - Sanfilippo Solutions Inc
- Producer of the Year - Wells Enterprises
- Hospitality Business of the Year - 3 Lakes Cafe

Milestone recognition will go to Chamber members celebrating significant milestones including: 200 years- State University of New York at Fredonia & The Post Journal, 160 years - Community Bank N.A., 135 years 1891 Fredonia Opera House & Lake Shore Bank, 125 years- Jamestown Mattress Company, 95 Years - Putnam Record Insurance Agency, 90 Years Johnny's Lunch, 75 years - Elizabeth Warner Marvin Community House,

70 years - Jamestown Container Companies & JRSC Digital, 60 years - Alliance Financial Network, Inc, 50 years - The Wine Cellar & U.S Steam Lines LTD, The Chautauqua Belle, 45 years - Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame, 40 year - Northern Chautauqua Community Foundation, Southwest Region Small Business Development Center & Springville Door & Window, 30 years - 3 C's Catering & Festivals Fredonia, Inc, 25 Years - Robert H. Jackson Center & Thru the Grapevine Travel, 20 years - Chautauqua Lake Chile Care Center, 15 years - Bag & String Wine Merchants & Portage Pie, 5 Years - Art Cloth & Craft, Ballgame Heroes & Buddy Brewsters - Lakewood.

The social hour will begin at 6 pm, with a buffet dinner starting at 6:45 and the program beginning at 7:15 pm.

This is the largest gathering of businesspeople in Chautauqua County each year. We hope you'll join us in celebrating all of the awardees and milestone recipients.

The Awards Banquet is sponsored by: AHN Westfield Memorial Hospital, Brooks TLC Hospital, the County of Chautauqua Industrial Development Agency, Glenora Radio Network, Lake Shore Bank and SUNY Fredonia.

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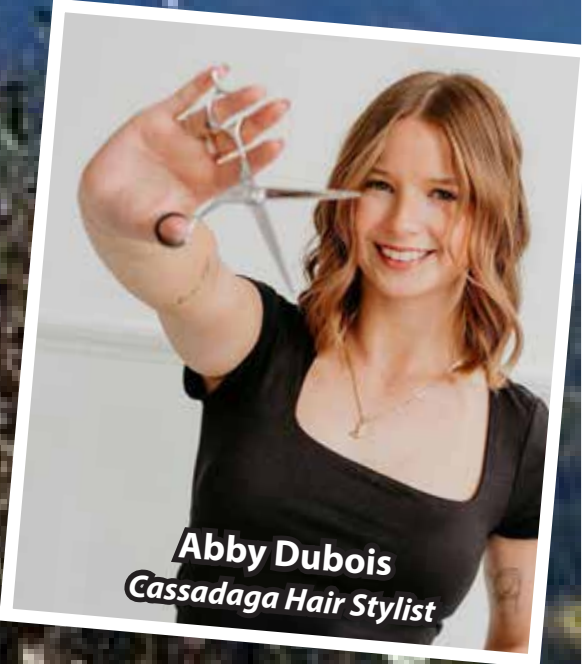
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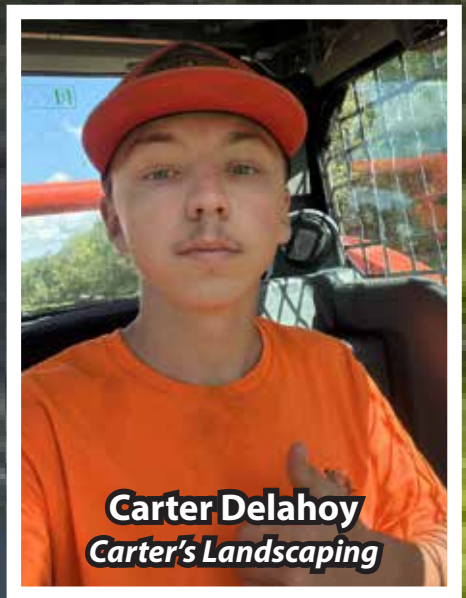
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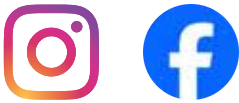
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