



CHAUTAUQUA GAZETTE



CHQgazette.com | L. Cornell and Company, LLC

ART & MUSIC EDITION

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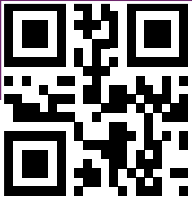
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"Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life"

~ Berthold Auerbach

ALL IN: JAMESTOWN'S MUSIC SCENE IS THRIVING

Featured Writer

Miki Girts

Good news, Jamestown! Live music is not only alive, it's thriving. The concert world has taken some heavy hits since 2020, but like a prizefighter in the late rounds, Jamestown's talent-rich music scene has come off the ropes swinging. What was fragile and weary is now standing tall, punching above its weight, and ready for more.

From breweries to skateparks, bars to coffeehouses, Jamestown has once again become a city where live music is a way of life. On any given weekend you might catch nationally touring acts like Donna the Buffalo or the Magic Beans lighting up Wicked Warren's, the Reg Lenna, or The Spire Theater. Winter Garden Plaza has become a hub for annual events like Whirlybird



Photo Credit: John Raczynski

Memorable moments from the Whirlybird Musical Festival at Winter Garden Plaza

Music & Arts Festival and Third Thursday, which routinely bring heavy-hitting performers such as Jimkata, Mikaela Davis, Smackdab, and Lazlo Hollyfeld to town for free community concerts. Legendary names and cult bands like Dinosaur Jr. find their way to

Jamestown Skate Products with regularity.

Meanwhile, intimate venues such as The Lab and 2 Gingers Inn give acoustic artists a stage, while the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23

FROM TORONTO TO NEW YORK TO CHAUTAUQUA: A MUSICAL PATH

Marketing Director

Shannon Nixon

Life has a funny way of circling back. Years ago, Russian-Canadian classically trained pianist Maria Kaushansky and I shared a small apartment in New York City, chasing our respective paths in the "if you can make it here, you can make it anywhere" town. Today, though we live hundreds of miles apart, Maria has found her way to my own hometown: Chautauqua County. For the past two summers, she has traveled from New York to serve as a ballet accompanist at Chautauqua Institution, and it feels serendipitous that our lives have intersected here once again. In our conversation, Maria reflected on the contrast between the relentless rhythm of New York and the restorative pace of Chautauqua, her work with dancers, and her debut album, Northbound to Finch, along with its companion album for ballet dancers, both of which are set for release on October 17.



Photo Credit: Mark S. Kornbluth

Pianist, Maria Kaushansky

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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This Week Around Town

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1

Nights of the Living Reg: Weapons | 7 PM
Reg Lenna Center for The Arts Jamestown
For Info: reglenna.com

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2

CHQ Professionals Group Coffee Meetup | 8 AM-9:30 PM
Tulip's Brunch House | Mayville
For Info: choosechq.com/chqprofessionals

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

CHQ Chamber 2025 Business Awards Banquet | 6 PM
Williams Center | SUNY Fredonia
For Info: chqchamber.org

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3

First Friday: Culinary Herbs for Your Garden | 11 AM
Audubon Community Nature Center
For Info: AudubonCNC.org/Events

Enchanted Forest | 6 PM-8 PM
Audubon Community Nature Center
For Info: AudubonCNC.org/Events

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4

Free Rabies Vaccination Clinic | 9 AM-12 PM
Lakeshore Humane Society Dunkirk
For Info: healthyhq.com/rabies

Saints & Sinners Cemetery Tour | 10 AM-1 PM
Lake View Cemetery | Jamestown
For Info: fentonhistorycenter.org

Made in Falconer 10 AM-2 PM
Village of Falconer
For Info: Village of Falconer FB Page

Lakewood Fall Fest 10 AM-4 PM
Chautauqua Ave. | Lakewood
For Info: Lakewood Community Development Corporation FB Page

Dr. Strangelove | 1 PM
1891 Fredonia Opera House Performing Arts Center | Fredonia
For Info: fredopera.org

Enchanted Forest | 6 PM-8 PM
Audubon Community Nature Center
For Info: AudubonCNC.org/Events

International Observe the Moon Night | 7 PM
Martz-Kohl Observatory Frewsburg
For Info: martzobservatory.org

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4 & SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5

Panama Rocks Foliage Festival 10 AM-5 PM
Panama Rocks | Panama
For Info: panamarocks.com

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5

FREE First Sunday Story Time 12:30 PM
Audubon Community Nature Center
For Info: AudubonCNC.org/Events

From Toronto to New York to Chautauqua: A Musical Path

Continued from front page

You’ve spent much of your life immersed in New York City’s bustle, and now for two summers you’ve come to Chautauqua as a ballet pianist. What are the parts of this place and this rhythm that surprise you or challenge you?

Living in NYC is like riding a constant express train, making it very hard to slow down and take breaks. Being in Chautauqua was such a wonderful respite from that way of life. I was very inspired by the people I met there, and I’m so grateful to have been in this very historic and unique environment.

If you had to describe a “typical” day while you’re working at Chautauqua in summer, what would it look like?

A typical day would include playing for ballet classes and attending some of the wonderful events and concerts that take place at the Institution. On some days, it would also include exploring the surrounding areas, which reminded me a lot of Ontario, Canada.

Are there particular moments in rehearsal at Chautauqua that stand out to you as exemplary of what you love about being a ballet accompanist?

It is always inspiring to work with ballet dancers, whose dedication to their craft is highly infectious! Ballet is such a physically demanding art form, so the role of the pianist, ideally, is not just to play music that fits the exercise, but also to help sustain the dancers through all the steps they do. As a pianist, this pushes you to be creative, which is something I really love about this job.

Looking back on your younger self (say, when we were roommates in NYC), what would you tell her about pursuing this path?

Don’t wait for someone’s approval before doing something. Create your own opportunities, and be grateful for all aspects of the process - including the challenges. Do things even when you feel underprepared. There is a time to focus on the details, and also a time to step back and look at the bigger picture. Never take anything for granted.

Where did the idea for Northbound to Finch come from, and what does the title evoke for you?

On this album, I wanted to reflect on my life in my hometown of Toronto, where “Finch” was my subway stop. All the tracks on the album are my original compositions and capture specific memories of places and moments of my life there.

For example, “So Long Centerpoint Mall” is a reference to the potential closure of my neighbourhood mall, and “Four One Six” was my area code. Coincidentally, this year marks ten years since I moved to NYC, so it felt like the perfect moment to revisit the memories and pay tribute to the city that, in many ways, I still consider home. Alongside the jazz album, I created a companion project, Northbound to Finch - Music for Ballet Class, because playing for ballet dancers has been an important part of my life for a very long time.

What were the greatest challenges (technical, emotional, logistical) in producing your first album?

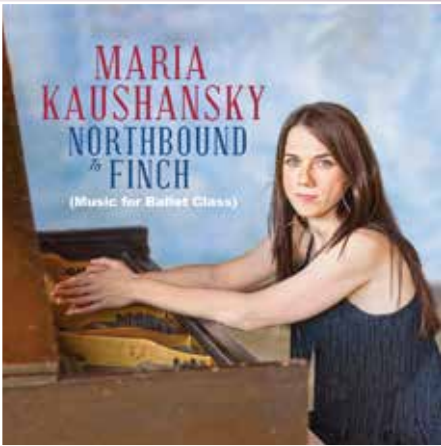
Understanding the different aspects and phases involved in recording and releasing an album was definitely a steep learning curve, especially as this is a self-produced project.

Reflecting on a past period of my life was somewhat melancholy at times, though ultimately it was a nice reminder of the moments and experiences that shaped the foundation of where I am today.

Above all, the most difficult part of releasing this record was the passing of our beloved friend and drummer on the record, Anthony Pinciotti, who died a few weeks after we did the recording. The album is dedicated to his memory.

What do you hope a first-time listener (who may not know your ballet work) takes away from Northbound to Finch?

I hope that the listeners will enjoy the different moods of each tune and the stories behind them. I also hope that this album will inspire listeners to reflect on their own memories of places and times that had an impact on their lives.



AVAILABLE OCTOBER 17

Jazz Album - Northbound to Finch

Ballet Album - Northbound to Finch

(Music for ballet class)

photo credit: Mark S. Kornbluth

mariakaushansky.com • @masha_piano_gal

Editorial with Katrina Fuller

CHQ, Home to Artists of All Stripes



Editor-in-Chief
Katrina Fuller

Dear readers, it is my pleasure to step in and attempt to fill the incredible shoes of our publisher, Lori, this week for an editorial. And what a week to be able to contribute! The arts and musical scene in Chautauqua County has and always will hold a special place in my heart. I couldn't possibly name all the incredible local theatre actors, local artists and homegrown musicians that I adore - there just isn't enough room in our paper.

We are, however, a community of artists. Within the boundaries of this great county, we have

birthed legends of music, of comedy and of course, art. In my mind, however, the term "art" can mean so many things. It can be said, for example, that a baker creating the perfect treats is an artist. Or perhaps a HVAC technician who designs the perfect heating system. We can even see art being made at our local coffee shops when they craft the perfect beverage. When a human being takes their skills and puts that energy into to the world, some truly beautiful and wonderful things come of it, and I am thrilled to say that we here in Chautauqua County are absolutely chock full of them.

I hope, dear readers, you take advantage of the wonder and whimsy we have here in this area over this next week. I hope this edition of our newspaper grips your soul and stirs your spirit to find something beautiful, be it a musical performance, an art exhibition or even just a lovely cup of coffee. It'll be worth it, I promise.

CHAUTAUQUA
GAZETTE

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SUBMISSION DEADLINES
Thursdays at 5:00 pm

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

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Brought to you by: L. Cornell and Company, LLC

“Music does a lot of things for a lot of people. It’s transporting, for sure. It can take you right back, years back, to the very moment certain things happened in your life. It’s uplifting, it’s encouraging, it’s strengthening”

- Aretha Franklin

Trivia

1. What’s the highest male singing voice?
2. What symbol indicates silence in music?
3. What’s Elvis Presley’s middle name?
4. Who wrote the opera *The Magic Flute*?
5. What style of art is Salvador Dalí famous for?
6. Who wrote the ballet *The Firebird*?
7. What’s the lowest female voice type?
8. What art movement’s name comes from a critic calling a Monet painting “unfinished”?
9. In Greek theaters, what was the semicircular “dancing floor” called?
10. What is the Italian term for “very soft” in music?

1. Tenor 2. Rest 3. Aaron 4. Mozart 5. Surrealism 6. Stravinsky 7. Contralto 8. Impressionism 9. Orchestra 10. Pianissimo



We're Open!
Mon-Sat
8:30am-10pm
and Sun 11-8pm



In Loving Memory

September 20

Fredrick B. Perrin, 80
Jamestown
Lind Funeral Home

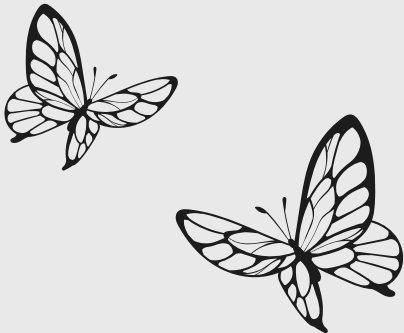
Lindsay Eden Jones, 48
Bemus Point
Lind Funeral Home

Alan E. Southwick, 78
Harrisburg, NC
Lind Funeral Home

Suzzan L. Thompson, 70
Jamestown
Riccardi's Family Funeral Home

September 22

Donna Pacitti, 86
Ashville
Riccardi's Family Funeral Home



Unitarian Church Celebrates 140th Anniversary This Sunday

This Sunday at 10:30 a.m. the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Jamestown is marking its 140th anniversary. Included in the service will be retired Methodist minister Lauren Turner's portrayal of founding minister Rev. James Townsend, a welcoming of new and recognition of current members, special music, and the opportunity to view historical artifacts and a video scrapbook. All are welcome to the service and the donations-only luncheon that follows at 1255 Prendergast Avenue. To participate virtually, use the link at UUJamestown.org/calendar.



Submitted Photo

The Kiwanis Club of Falconer recently donated newborn supplies to UPMC Chautauqua. Michele Turk and Donna Barber represented the club during the presentation and were joined by Amanda Hagg, Kellie Clabatz, Jushni Richter, and Katie Fales. Kiwanis' mission is to "improve the world by making lasting differences in the lives of children." For more information about Kiwanis, contact any club member.

"Where words fail, music speaks"

- Hans Christian Andersen

Faith Matters

A Part of the Community Since 1885

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Jamestown



Rev. James Townsend



Townsend's Independent Congregational Church

Contributed by
The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Jamestown

An anniversary is an opportunity for an organization to look back on its history, remember – or for many, discover – its roots, and look to its future.

The service at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Jamestown (UUCJ) this Sunday celebrates 140 years that we have been a part of the greater Jamestown community. Members and visitors alike may be surprised to learn how closely the beliefs and principles on which we were founded align with our beliefs and principles today.

In September 1885, the New York Times published a story about Rev. James G. Townsend, describing his decision to leave his Methodist church in Buffalo because he rejected the idea of eternal punishment. His new creed of beliefs, headlined "Townsend's Creed," sent theological shock waves across the country.

Rev. Townsend described one of those beliefs as, "We believe that the inordinate love of money, which seems to possess so many like madness, is most hurtful; but we do not believe that poverty is a blessing, but rather a curse. We believe in the gospel of good houses, good food and good clothes, and we will endeavor as far as we can, to help all our brothers and sisters to these opportunities."

Having been approached by local civic leaders to found a liberal church in Jamestown, on October 4, 1885, Rev. Townsend spoke to a meeting in the Allen's Opera House, the current site of the Lucille Ball Little Theatre of Jamestown. The electrifying presentation of his views on religion was received so enthusiastically that by the end of the meeting, 230 people had joined the new "Independent Congregational Church," the forerunner of the Unitarian Church. Many of his subsequent sermons were printed in their entirety in The Jamestown Sun newspaper.

At Sunday's celebration, Rev. Townsend will be portrayed by Lauren Turner, a retired Methodist minister and regular speaker at UUCJ, who finds many similarities between himself and its founder.

While our congregation has changed names over the years and moved from its original location at the junction of East Second and Chandler streets, it remains the seat of liberal religion in the Jamestown area. Our mission is "to support and celebrate each other, encourage spiritual and individual growth, and serve the wider community." Unitarian Universalism has a legacy of "deeds not creeds." True to our founder, the UUCJ has a long tradition of social action activities, supporting peace, literacy, immigrants, food programs, and more. Our T. Richard Parker Award for Social Justice is an annual recognition of the good work of others in our community.

The anniversary observance includes music related to Rev. Chris Raible, UUCJ's minister from 1957 to 1962. Rev. Raible went on to become well-known internationally among Unitarians and returned to preach the sermon for our 125th anniversary in 2010. A video scrapbook will play and historical artifacts will be on display before and after the service.

An important part of the morning will be welcoming new members and recognizing current ones. Like many churches, we are generally an older congregation, so it has been exciting to have new people visiting and joining us recently.

This Sunday's 140th anniversary celebration is an opportunity to understand that the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Jamestown is continuing a long history of liberal religion and social justice.

All are welcome to the 10:30 service and the donations-only catered luncheon that follows at 1255 Prendergast Avenue. To participate virtually, use the link at UUJamestown.org/calendar. Parking is available behind the church.

LOCAL AUTHORS AND ILLUSTRATOR RELEASE NEW CHILDREN'S BOOK

Contributed by
Fenton History Center

Cousins Too in Search of the Hidden Treasure

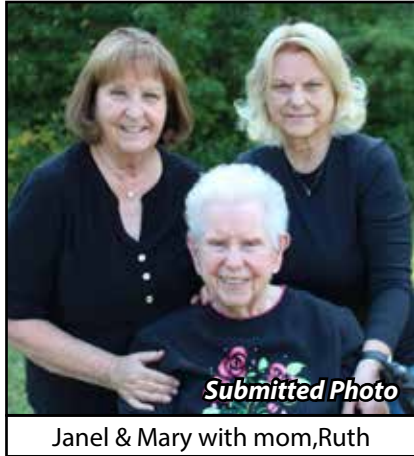
Authors: Janel Brown Stormer and Mary Ellen Brown Carlson
Illustrator: Wesley Bossman

Sisters Janel Brown Stormer and Mary Ellen Brown Carlson grew up in western New York surrounded by parents, brothers, and a large extended family. Family gatherings have always been central to their lives, and both are proud graduates of Panama Central School and SUNY Fredonia, where they each earned BA and MA degrees. Janel also spent time studying at the University of Copenhagen.

Janel built her teaching career in Lake Mary, Florida, where she and her husband, Don, raised two sons and now reside. Though they settled in Florida, the family returned to western New York each summer to spend time with relatives and enjoy country life. These days, Janel especially treasures adventures with her six grandchildren, Jaxon, Wyatt, Hudson, Luke, Jace, and Reagan.

Mary also pursued a career in education, teaching in elementary classrooms, directing daycare, and serving as a college instructor. Now retired, she and her husband, Jeff, live near their three grown children. Mary fills her days with reading, writing, walking, and hosting family gatherings, and cherishes her role as "Gaga" to her five grandchildren: Kate, Zach, Evie, Charlie, and Sophie.

The sisters teamed up with longtime friend and illustrator, Wesley Bossman of Frewsburg. A retired art teacher, Wes also



brought Mary's earlier books Cousins and Princess Casey to life with his artwork. When he's not painting or woodworking, Wes enjoys gardening, bagpipin, and the outdoors. He shares life with his wife, Michel, a retired elementary teacher and semi-retired dairy goat farmer.

About the Book

Each summer, twenty-eight cousins gather at Great Grandma Brown's house to keep family traditions alive. They've grown up hearing their fathers' stories about bears, arrowheads, fossils, camping—and, most exciting of all, the legendary hidden treasure. In Cousins Too, readers join the cousins as they embark on another summer of adventure, teamwork, and discovery while searching the woods for Great Grandma Brown's treasure.

Contact: Mary Carlson | (716) 665-1285 | carlson.mary@gmail.com

Other books by Mary Ellen Brown Carlson, illustrated by Wes Bossman:

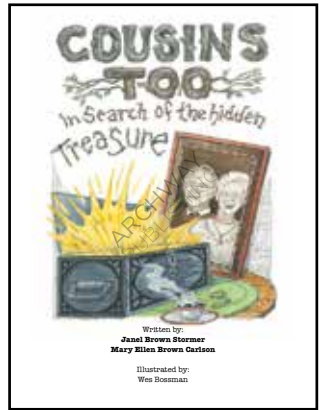
- Cousins
- Princess Casey

All titles are available at Good Neighbors Bookstore in Lakewood, NY, and on Amazon.

COUSINS TOO in Search of the Hidden Treasure

by Authors Janel Brown Stormer
& Mary Ellen Brown Carlson
Illustrator Wes Bossman

The Family tradition is kept alive when all twenty-eight cousins meet at their Great Grandma Brown's house for a couple of days in the summer. For many years the cousins have heard the stories told by their fathers about bears, arrow heads, fossils, camping in the woods and by far the cousins favorite, the hidden treasure. Summer has arrived and what exciting adventures are in store this year? Cousins Too, is a story that every child can relate to and will bring about the natural wonder of exploring the world around them. Full of nonstop action, team work and leaving no stone unturned the cousins have fun searching for the treasure hidden in the woods at their Great Grandma Brown's house.



Available at Amazon & Good Neighbor Bookstore:



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Lip

Chautauqua County Humane Society Pets of the Week

Lip enjoys the simple things, like a cozy corner or a quiet afternoon. She is not one for a lot of fuss and values her independence. Lip can be a bit shy, so she appreciates gentle hands and patience. Once Lip gets to know you, she will be a loyal friend for life. Shelter No. RR179.

Glinda is a dazzling little starlet with a heart full of magic, a nose for adventure, and enough charm to make you believe in happily-ever-afters. She floats through life like a bubble, sprinkling joy and laughter everywhere she goes. Glinda is playful, sweet, and ready to take center stage in her very own home. If you've been searching for a four-legged leading lady who will leave you changed for good, look no further-your Glinda has arrived! Shelter No. RR179



Glinda

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FENTON HISTORY CENTER HOSTS ANNUAL LAKE VIEW CEMETERY TOURS



Contributed by Fenton History Center

The Fenton History Center invites the public to explore Jamestown's history during its 20th Annual Saints & Sinners tours and Mausoleum and More tours at Lake View Cemetery.

Saints & Sinners Walking & Carriage Tours

These anniversary tours take place over two Saturdays, October 4 and 11. Walking tours on October 4 run from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and on October 11 from 5 to 8 p.m., departing every 20 minutes. Carriage tours on October 11 run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., leaving hourly. Carriage tours for the first weekend are sold out, with half of the second weekend seats still available.

Costumed actors share the stories of a dozen cemetery residents, from a traveling saleswoman to a grandmother and grandson tragically killed by a train. Commemorative

t-shirts mark the 20th year of the event. Pre-sale walking tour tickets are \$10 for members, \$15 for non-members, and \$2 for children; at the gate, \$17. Carriage tickets are \$25 per seat. Tours are held rain or shine and start at the main office at Buffalo St. and Lakeview Ave.

Mausoleum and More Tours

On Sunday, October 12, the Fenton History Center will open three mausoleums and highlight several monuments during guided tours from 6:30 to 9 p.m., departing every half hour. Visitors will learn the history of the area and the mausoleum residents from costumed actors, with access inside the mausoleums. Tours conclude at the main office, where guests will enjoy mulled cider and sweets. Tickets are \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members.

For tickets and more information on all tours, visit www.fentonhistorycenter.org/events2 or call 716-664-6256.

Health Department Announces Upcoming Animal Rabies Immunization Clinics at the Lakeshore Humane Society

Contributed by Chautauqua County Health Department

The Chautauqua County Health Department (CCHD) is announcing a free rabies vaccination clinic sponsored by the Pet Pantry, Lakeshore Humane Society, and the CCHD. Animals must be pre-registered to receive vaccinations. Vaccinations will be provided free of charge to all dogs, cats, and domesticated ferrets three months of age and older.

Pre-registration is required and should be submitted online by visiting HealthyCHQ.com/Rabies and view the calendar for upcoming clinics or scan the code.

There are a limited number of spots available, so pet owners should pre-register online as soon as possible. If you register but decide not to attend the event, please cancel your appointment so the spot is available for another pet. You can cancel appointments via the confirmation email you receive when you register.



When:

Saturday, October 4th
9:00am-12:00pm

Where:

Lakeshore Humane Society
431 E. Chestnut St.
Dunkirk, NY 14048



For general rabies information, visit HealthyCHQ.com/Rabies or contact Chautauqua County Health Department at (716) 753-4481.

Zonta Club of Jamestown Donates to CAP



During the month of September, the Zonta Club of Jamestown collected snacks and craft supplies for the Child Advocacy Program.

Pictured L to R: Lisa Langford - Forensic Interviewer, Beth Oakes - Executive Director of CAP, Deb Piotrowski - Zontian, Amanda Weaver - Forensic Interviewer, Alexis Frangione - Family Advocate, Mary Cook - CAP Board Vice President and Zontian, Saraden Randall - Safe Harbour Coordinator and Zontian, and Eileen Healy - Zontian.



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2025

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BUSINESS OF THE YEAR
Bemus Point Golf Club & Tap House

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60 YEARS
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55 YEARS
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Peaceful Designs
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25 YEARS
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Betts Insurance Agency
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The price includes a complimentary bottle of local wine on each table and also supports the year round work of the CHQ Chamber.

Our mission is to build vital connections, provide professional resources, and champion local businesses in Chautauqua County.

Please reply at www.chamberrsvp.org by September 25.

Please support our event sponsors:



Support Local Businesses and Enter to Win!

When you visit our awardees and honored businesses by October 2 you can be entered to win a \$200 ShopLocalCHQ Gift Card! Visit the businesses and organizations listed as award recipients and milestones and do a quick GPS check-in through our online game pass at www.chqchamber.org/experiences. Once you have checked in at 10 locations, you can complete your entry form. The winner will be drawn randomly from all completed entries. There is no purchase required.

Find the game online by using this QR code or at
www.chqchamber.org/experiences.



Creative Writing Classes

Contributed by
John Brantingham

This October, John Brantingham emeritus professor of English and creative writing at Mt. San Antonio College and author of 23 books and hundreds of stories, essays, and poems will be teaching month-long classes in poetry, flash fiction, and memoir. These will be taught through Zoom and video so you can be anywhere you want to be for the instruction. He will also be offering manuscript review. If you would like to work with him, please contact him at johnmbrantingham@gmail.com.

John Brantingham moved to Jamestown after having taught at

Mt. San Antonio College for 25 years while running its creative writing program. He was also the first poet laureate of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. He specialized in working to break down gate keeping barriers for his students by helping them to publish in magazines and with book publishers.

Since moving to Jamestown, he has worked online with Inlandia Institute and in person at the Chautauqua Institution and the Sinclairville Library where he hosts a poetry reading every month and teaches free poetry workshops. Find more information at the Sinclairville Library's website.

ASYNCHRONOUS CLASSES AND MANUSCRIPT REVIEWS

Join my month-long classes! This October I will be teaching poetry, flash fiction, and memoir. Three different classes. I will be holding hours for these on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays from 6-9pm (that's New York time). You don't have to go to all of those hours. These are just hours that are open for you.

- About 15 hours of instructional videos that you can watch at your own pace.
- One-on-one instruction during my open hours.
- Group workshoping and instruction during my open hours (we will have to come to a consensus of when these hours work for everyone.)
- Personal manuscript review where we will read your whole manuscript outloud and prep it for publication.
- Personal help publishing it. I have helped 100s of students to get their first publications.

AVAILABLE CLASSES

- Poetry
- Flash Fiction
- Memoir
- Personal Manuscript Review

JOIN NOW

To join, email me at johnbrantingham@gmail.com



“Art is the only way to run away without leaving home”

- Twyla Tharp

OPERA HOUSE PRESENTS COMEDY MASTERPIECE, DR. STRANGELOVE



Submitted Photo

The 1891 Fredonia Opera House Performing Arts Center will present a new staging of Stanley Kubrick's Dr. Strangelove, captured live via satellite from London's Noel Coward Theatre, on Saturday, Oct. 4, at 1 p.m., as part of Arts in the Afternoon.

Seven-time BAFTA winner Steve Coogan plays four roles in this world premiere stage adaptation of Kubrick's classic comedy about a rogue U.S. general who triggers a nuclear attack. The production is led by Emmy winner Armando Iannucci and Olivier winner Sean Foley. Critics praise it as "a masterful recreation of sublime comic acting" (Broadway World), "fun, adventurous" (The Guardian), and "enthusiastic and sharp" (WhatsOnStage). The performance runs two hours and 30 minutes, with one intermission.

Tickets are \$15 (\$10 students) and available in person at the Opera House Box Office, by phone at 716-679-1891, or online at www.fredopera.org. Assistive listening headsets are available upon request.

The 1891 Fredonia Opera House is a member-supported nonprofit presenting diverse, high-quality performing arts for the community at an affordable price. It is located in Village Hall, downtown Fredonia. For a full schedule, visit www.fredopera.org.

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**MARTZ-KOHL
OBSERVATORY**

International Observe the Moon Night


Photo Credit: NASA

The Far Side of the Moon

Contributing Writer

Andy Felong

Public and Media Relations
Martz-Kohl Observatory

Why does the rising Harvest Moon look so big? How did the Moon form and evolve? How and what are we still learning about the Moon? What are Lunar Maria? What are some of the prominent features on the Moon? Get answers to these questions and examine up close an actual piece of the Moon!

The public is invited to join us for International Observe the Moon Night on Saturday, October 4 at 7 p.m. This free event will be live at the Martz-Kohl Observatory and will not be Zoom streamed. It should be entertaining and educational for all ages. There will be opportunities for questions and answers during the demos and presentations as well as after. Door prizes include observatory swag and books about the Moon, for both adults and children. If the weather permits,

viewing opportunities through various telescopes will be available. Dress as if you are outside as observatory domes are not climate controlled and some telescopes may be set up outside.

International Observe the Moon Night is a worldwide public event that encourages observation, appreciation and understanding of our Moon and its connection to space science, exploration, and human culture. This annual event connects scientists, educators and lunar enthusiasts from around the world. More info: <https://martzobservatory.org>

The Martz-Kohl Observatory, located at 176 Robbin Hill Rd, Frewsburg, NY, is operated by the Marshal Martz Memorial Astronomical Association, Inc. a non-profit organization devoted to the amateur astronomer. The emphasis of the association is observational astronomy, education outreach, citizen science, and enjoyment of the starry skies.

INTERNATIONAL OBSERVE THE MOON NIGHT

for all ages

door prizes

SATURDAY
OCTOBER 4, 2025

7:00 PM - CLOUDY OR CLEAR!

martzobservatory.org

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RULES

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- Tank cannot be enclosed in any way
- Residential customers only

- Best decorated/most creative propane tank wins **ONE YEAR OF FREE PROPANE!**
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- Third place receives **\$250 IN FREE PROPANE**
- Every entry gets **\$50 OF FREE PROPANE**
- Entry Deadline **September 30th 2025**

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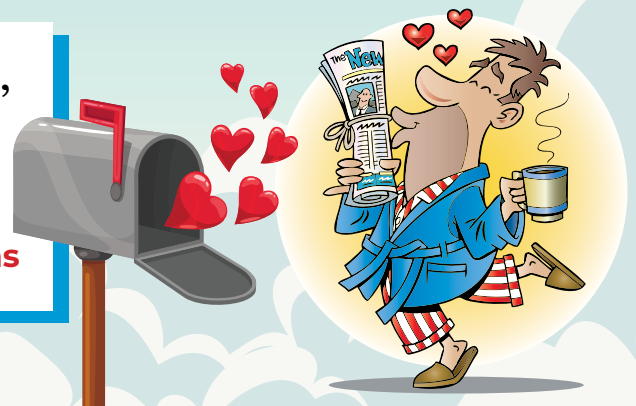


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LAKEWOOD FALL FEST 2ND ANNUAL EVENT

Contributed by
Lakewood Fall Fest

Plan to join us in the Village of Lakewood on Saturday, October 4th, for the 2nd Annual Village Fall Fest, happening from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. along Chautauqua Avenue. This is a FREE family-friendly event hosting LIVE music all afternoon, featuring Polleywood Nights and Osborn-Nash playing in the street for your dancing and listening pleasure.

The Lakewood Community Development Corporation is proud to support this year's event, offering over 60 vendors,

a "Kidz Korner," wagon rides, face painting, food trucks, and so much more! Be prepared, the kids will love visiting with our furry friends, who will be on-site with the Humane Society. You may even return home with a larger family than you came with!

Our many shops along the avenue will be open for business and offering great deals in celebration of this popular fall gathering of friends, family, and community.

For more information and updates, follow us on Facebook.







Submitted Photos

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Saturday Oct. 4
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It's not too early to think about Christmas shopping!

Vendor slots still open!
For more information contact
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See you there!

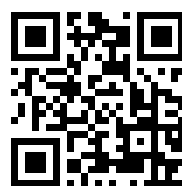


Saturday
Oct. 4th
10am to 4pm
Chautauqua Avenue
Lakewood, NY

LAKEWOOD
Fall Fest

Osborn Nash
11:30 AM - 2:30 PM

**Polleywood
Nights**
2 PM - 5 PM



<https://lcdcn.org>



Chautauqua’s Own, Marsha Holland Re-elected to Board of Trustees For FASNY Firefighter’s Home

Contributed by
SUNY Fredonia



The Firefighters Association of the State of New York (FASNY) proudly announces the re-election of Marsha Holland of Chautauqua to the Board of Trustees of the FASNY Firefighter’s Home. Her re-election was announced during FASNY’s 153rd annual convention at the Hyatt Regency Long Island in Hauppauge.

“My decision to run for a second five-year term was inspired by a rewarding first term, during which I learned the day-to-day operations of the Home, connected with staff, and engaged with the members we serve,” said Holland. “Over the next five years, I will also continue serving as Secretary of the Trustees. I look forward to representing the Firefighter’s Home and FASNY at events throughout Chautauqua County and the Southwestern region of New York.”

Holland has made history throughout her career: she was the first female president of the Southwestern Association of Volunteer Firemen, is a nationally certified fire prevention and life safety educator, and in 2020 became the

first woman appointed deputy fire coordinator in Chautauqua County, overseeing the Second Battalion of 10 fire departments. “Marsha’s leadership, dedication, and heart for the fire service shine through in all that she does,” said FASNY President Eugene Perry. “Her commitment ensures our members continue to receive the dignity, respect, and care they deserve. We are fortunate to have her continue this important work.”

The FASNY Firefighter’s Home, located in Hudson, NY, provides residential care to volunteer firefighters from across the state. The Board of Trustees oversees strategic planning, operations, and the well-being of residents while remaining accessible to firefighters and their families statewide.

ABOUT FASNY

Founded in 1872, the Firefighters Association of the State of New York (FASNY) represents the interests of approximately 80,000 volunteer firefighters and emergency medical personnel across New York State. For more information, visit www.fasny.com.



“Music is the emotional life of most people.”

- Leonard Cohen



Paul M. Wendel Jr.

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Chautauqua County Executive Wendel Proposes 2026 Budget with Lower Tax Rate and Continued Investments

Chautauqua County Executive Paul M. Wendel Jr. unveiled his 2026 Executive Tentative Budget on Wednesday, proposing a lower property tax rate while maintaining investments in services, infrastructure, and long-term fiscal stability.

“For the past five years, we’ve delivered more for less,” Wendel said. “Even as the value of a dollar has declined since 2020, we continue providing essential services without overburdening residents.”

The \$309.7 million budget includes public safety, infrastructure, education, economic development, and tourism investments, all under the New York State property tax cap. The levy would increase \$1.7 million (2%), below the 3.4% inflation rate, while the tax rate drops to \$6.17 per \$1,000 of assessed value, 54 cents lower than in 2025. Since 2020, the rate has fallen from \$8.46 to \$6.17.

The budget maintains an 11.4% fund balance, limiting its use to one-time expenses to ensure long-term financial stability. Wendel cited unfunded state mandates, totaling \$93.2 million in 2026, as a major challenge, noting that reduced state burdens could further lower local taxes.

Capital projects total over \$13 million, including road

maintenance, bridge and culvert repairs, and \$2 million in upgrades at Jamestown Community College. Public safety investments exceed \$3 million, including an expanded County Fly Car program to improve EMS response in southern Chautauqua County.

Economic development and tourism initiatives include \$350,000 for greenfield and complete streets projects and \$2.39 million in occupancy tax revenue, 40% for lake and waterway protection, 60% for tourism promotion.

A new \$500,000 Government Efficiency Fund will provide upfront financing to support municipal mergers, consolidations, and shared services, reducing redundancies and long-term property taxes.

“Our budget balances fiscal discipline with community investment,” Wendel said. “For the fifth consecutive year, we are lowering the tax rate, keeping the levy under the state cap and inflation, and delivering essential services without increasing costs to taxpayers.”

View the full budget at CHQGov.com/2026Budget. For updates, visit chautauquacountyny.gov or follow Wendel on Facebook @ CountyExecutiveWendel.



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Busy Weekend at Audubon: Herbs, Stories, Enchanted Forest



Submitted Photos

*Contributed by
Audubon Community
Nature Center*

Highlighted by Friday and Saturday evenings' Enchanted Forest, a lot of things are happening at Audubon Community Nature Center this weekend!

First Friday at 11 a.m. features herbal educator, writer, and therapeutic gardening facilitator Sarah Sorci (pictured left) presenting "Native Culinary Herbs for the Home Garden." She will spotlight native plants that are easy to grow and add flair to your meals. Bring a lunch and stay for conversation. Learn more at SweetFlagHerbs.com.

Come to Audubon with your favorite 2–8 year old(s) for First Sunday Story Time, 12:30–1 p.m. Then visit the live animals, indoors and out, explore the interactive exhibits including the new honeybee display, and

choose a trail for a walk in the beautiful outdoors – all for free. If there are still openings, you won't want to miss the Enchanted Forest on Friday or Saturday evening. Follow a guide through the luminary-lit Enchanted Trail where creatures like the Spring Peeper (pictured right) will tell you about their lives. After the walk, stop in the backyard to enjoy a campfire where snacks and drinks can be purchased. In the Nature Center building there will be crafts, live animals, and exhibits to explore, including the new interactive honeybee display. Paid reservations are required; no tickets sold at the door.

The Nature Center is at 1600 Riverside Road, one-quarter mile east of Route 62 between Jamestown and Warren. For more information and to make reservations for Enchanted Forest or save spots for First Sunday Story Time, call (716) 569-2345 or go to AudubonCNC.org/Events.

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Backers of Jamestown Buzz Montagna, Dewey Thomas, and Chad Waddington show donation sent to the Browns Foundation.



Backer T.J. Weimer and sons Jacob, Caleb, and Nolan present a donation to Diana and Dana Scott of Recovery Options Made Easy (Jamestown Warming Center).



Backers Sandy Weimer and Kim Touhey present a donation to Kelly Thornton of the Small Animal Shelter of Sherman.



Backer Joel Oesch presents a donation to Jessica and Rich Gray of Arise Chautauqua.



Backer Sandy Weimer presents a donation to Ruth Baker and Pastor Dodi McIntyre of Joy Fellowship.



Submitted Photos

Backer Buzz Montagna presents a donation to Cherie Rowland, Director of St. Susan Center.

Zonta Club of Jamestown Hosts Then, Now, and the Future: Women Empower Women Program



Submitted Photo

Saraden Randall, Paula Kirsch, Kathy Stedman, Laura Corey, Dawn Columbare, Donna Bloomquist, and Sarah Goebel

Contributed by
Audubon Community
Nature Center

At its September program meeting, the Zonta Club of Jamestown hosted an inspiring presentation entitled Then, Now, and the Future – Women Empower Women, highlighting the vital role of mentorship in empowering women across generations.

The event featured Zonta members sharing personal stories about the importance of both having and being mentors. Speakers reflected on how mentorship has shaped their personal and professional journeys, provided encouragement during challenges, and fostered confidence to pursue leadership

roles.

The program aligns with Zonta International’s mission of building a better world for women and girls. Attendees left with a renewed commitment to fostering connections and creating opportunities for future generations.

The Zonta Club of Jamestown has been serving the local community since 1921, supporting projects that advance the status of women through service, advocacy, and scholarship.

For more information about the Zonta Club of Jamestown or to learn how to get involved, please visit www.zontajamestown.org or reach out to the club at P.O. Box 913, Jamestown, NY 14702.

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UPCOMING MOVIES AT THE REG INCLUDE:

- Weapons (mystery-horror) October 1 at 7 p.m.
- Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale (costume drama) October 10 at 7 p.m.
- Clemente (documentary on the Pittsburgh Pirates legend) October 15 at 7 p.m.
- Clue: The Movie 40th Anniversary (murder-mystery/comedy) October 17 at 7 p.m.
- The Conjuring: Last Rites (supernatural horror) October 22 at 7 p.m.
- The Rocky Horror Picture Show 50th Anniversary (audience-participation) – October 31 at 10 p.m.



“The best music is essentially there to provide you something to face the world with.”

~ Bruce Springsteen





Made in Falconer

Saturday, October 4, 2025

10am - 2pm

Tour Local Manufacturers

and visit additional local businesses to play our online scavenger hunt and be entered to win great prizes!

Manufacturing Tours

Tours begin every half hour

- Dahlstrom Roll Form, 221 Lister Ave.
- Ellison Bronze, 125 West Main St.
- Falconer Printing, 55 East Main St.
- Fancher Chair, 121 South Work St.
- Hanson Sign Co., 82 Carter St.
- Stuart Tool & Die, 6500 North Work St.

Restaurants

- 3 C's Food Truck on West Main St.
- PersNikkity Pies, 9 East Main St.
- Phil-N-Cindy's Lunch, 1391 East 2nd St.
- Sister Restaurant, 3218 Falconer-Kimball Stand Rd
- Tasta Pizza, 153 West Main St.

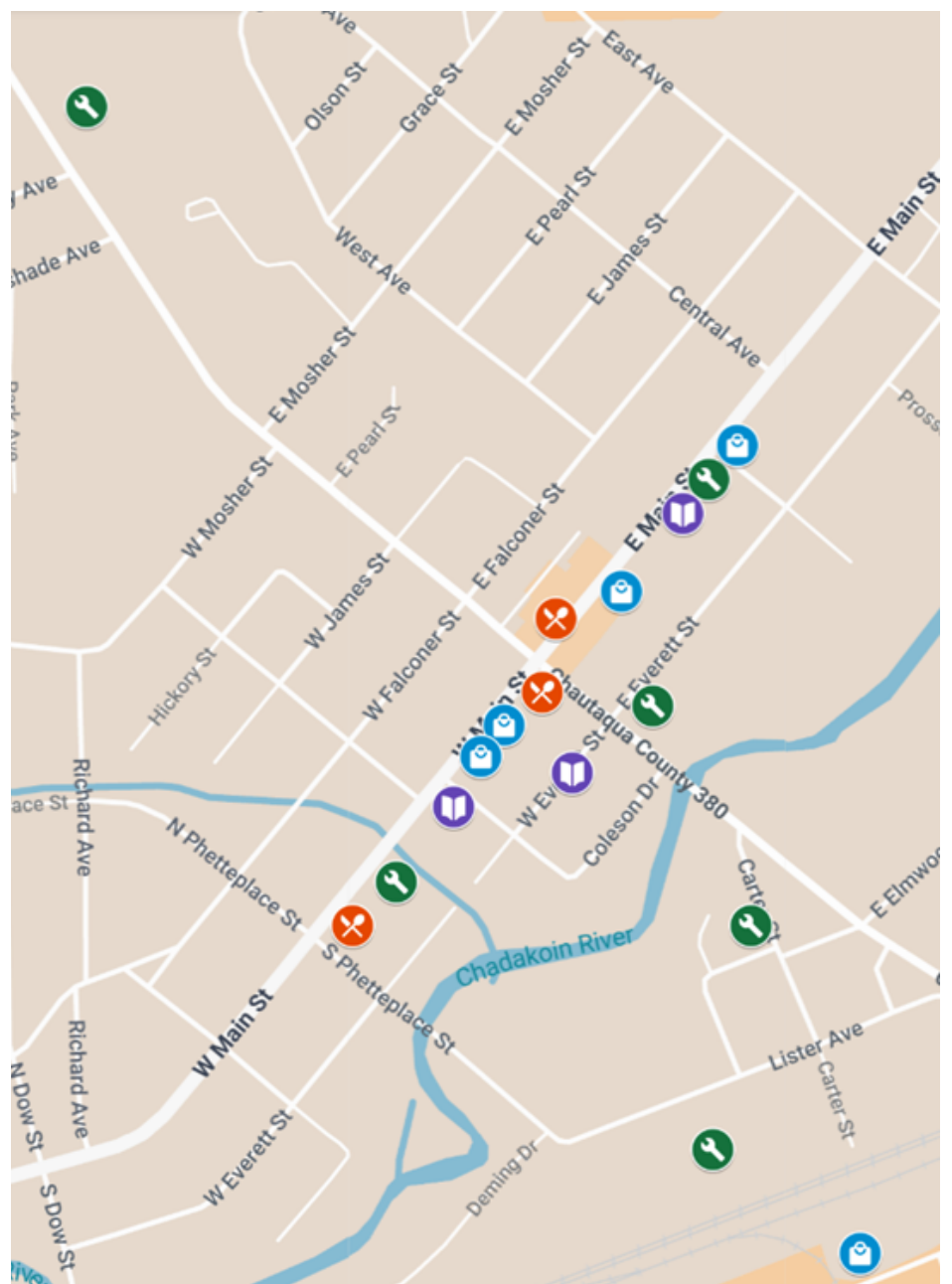
Retail

- Carlberg Farm, 1982 Peck Settlement Road
- Cherri's Cute Creations, in front of 17-19 West Main
- Falconer Power Sports/Harley Davidson, 1951 East Main St.
- Good Bargains Chautauqua, 2044 Allen St.
- The Hearing Place, 102 East Main St.
- LandPro Equipment, 1756 Lindquist Dr.
- Robo Falconer, 34 East Main St.
- West Main Mercantile, 17-19 West Main St.

Community

- Falconer Rotary, in front of Falconer Printing
- Live CHQ, in front of West Main Mercantile
- Prevention Works, in front of West Main Mercantile

- Denotes Trolley Stop Location



Sign up for the Made in Falconer pass and be entered to win great prizes donated by local businesses.

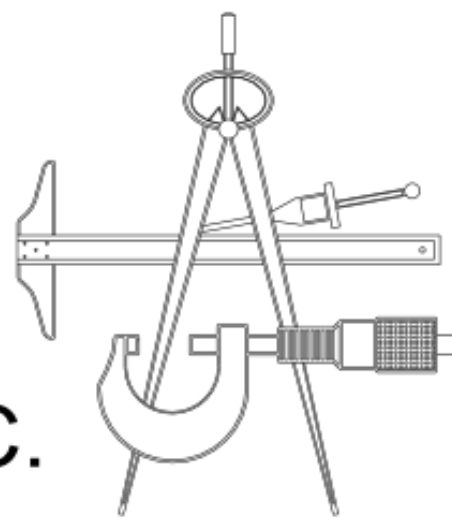
- Scan the QR code here to sign up for the Made in Falconer Pass. You will need to 'Checkout' to sign up. You only need to do this once.
- Answer the question correctly at each location you visit.
- Collect enough points to enter the drawing.
- Once you have at least 55 points, click the 'Rewards' icon at the bottom of the screen. Click 'Claim Now' to complete your drawing entry.

Made in Falconer is sponsored by:



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Made in Falconer

October 4 • 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

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GIRLS IN MANUFACTURING

**OCT 18, 2025
9AM-2PM**

**At Jamestown Community College
Manufacturing Technology Institute**
512 Falconer Street - Jamestown, NY



DURING THIS EVENT, PARTICIPANTS WILL:



Learn all stages of the manufacturing process



Use tools and equipment to manufacture a project that they can take home



Meet local women leaders who work in manufacturing



Enjoy lunch and receive a Dream It Do It t-shirt

Join our one day hands-on technical experience designed to empower and encourage girls to consider careers in manufacturing!



SCAN ME! >>>



Dream It Do It Western New York offers equal opportunity programming. While the Girls in Manufacturing program is focused on females the program is open to all genders. Women make up about 47% of the American workforce but only 30% work in manufacturing. The focus of Girls in Manufacturing programming is to encourage more girls and women to consider careers in manufacturing.

CHAMBER CORNER

Tour Local Manufacturers During Made in Falconer October 4

Article Contributed by

Daniel J. Heitzenrater

Chautauqua County Chamber of Commerce
President and CEO

In celebration of National Manufacturing Month, the CHQ Chamber proudly presents Made in Falconer, Saturday, October 4. After a great first year in 2024, Made in Falconer is back, offering public tours of local manufacturers to provide a fascinating first-hand look at some of the products made right here in Chautauqua County.

Manufacturers participating in this open house event are: Dahlstrom Roll Form at 221 Lister Avenue, Ellison Bronze at 125 West Main Street, Falconer Printing at 55 East Main Street, Fancher Chair at 121 South Work Street, Hanson Sign Co. at 82 Carter Street, and Stuart Tool & Die at 6500 North Work Street. Tours will begin every half hour at each site starting at 10am and ending at 2pm.

In conjunction with the tours, you can play along with our virtual online scavenger hunt. Register online at www.chqchamber.com/experiences. Click "Sign Up" on the Made in Falconer pass, then go to "Checkout" and enter your contact information, and "Complete Order." You do not have to buy anything to participate. This is just the registration process. You'll receive a text link to access the pass. You can save the link to your home screen or access the pass through your text thread. There is no app added to your phone. Falconer businesses have donated a number of prizes that will be given away as part of the scavenger hunt.

In addition to the manufacturers, a number of small local businesses are participating as well. They are: 3 C's Catering (food truck to be located on West Main Street), PersNikkity Pies, Phil-N-Cindy's Lunch, Sisters Restaurant, Tasta Pizza, Carlberg Farm, Falconer Power Sports, Good Bargains Chautauqua, LandPro Equipment, Robo Falconer, West Main Mercantile, Falconer Rotary

Club, and The Hearing Place/Mission Hearing. Prevention Works, Cherrie's Cute Creations, Live CHQ, and Falconer Rotary will all have tables set up in the village during the event.

Made in Falconer is a community effort, organized by the CHQ Chamber with the support of local businesspeople, the Village of Falconer, Manufacturers Association of the Southern Tier and Dream It Do It WNY. Sponsors this year are Cattaraugus County Bank and the County of Chautauqua Industrial Development Agency.

Shortly before the tours start this year, local dignitaries, the CHQ Chamber, MAST, and Dream It Do It will do a ceremonial photo and media event at Ellison Bronze as an official kick off for Manufacturing Month.

The CHQ Transit Trolley will be making loops through the Falconer region for Made in Falconer. Sponsored by the CCIDA, the trolley will make stops at all participating tour locations as well as in front of West Main Mercantile, making it easy to park once and ride the trolley to a variety of locations.

Made in Falconer gives us the opportunity to create an experience that showcases local manufacturers and drives foot traffic to local restaurants and retail, perfectly hitting the Chamber's mission to build vital connections, provide professional resources, and champion our local businesses.

Celebrate Local Business and Enter to Win

Between now and our Business Awards Banquet, October 2, you can show your support for the businesses we'll be recognizing and enter to win a \$200 ShopLocalCHQ Gift Card from the CHQ Chamber. You don't have to purchase anything, just do a quick check-in through our online

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25

Tues, Nov. 4
VOTE 2025

**Chautauqua
Countywide Races 2025**

County Executive



Paul M. Wendel Jr.
www.facebook.com/CountyExecutiveWendel



Thomas Carle
www.facebook.com/Chauta.2025

County Clerk



Gregory K. Carlson
www.facebook.com
Greg Carlson For Chautauqua County Clerk



Gregory Krauza
www.facebook.com
Greg Krauza for County Clerk

County Court Judge



David W. Foley

Voter Questions?

**Contact the Chautauqua County
Board of Elections (BOE)**

[https://chqgov.com/board-of-elections/
Board-of-Elections](https://chqgov.com/board-of-elections/Board-of-Elections)



Hall R. Clothier Building

7 North Erie St.
Mayville, NY 14757
Ph: 716-753-4580
Fax: 716-753-4111
Email: vote@chqgov.com

**Commissioner of Elections
Democratic**

Luz E. Torres
TorresL@chqgov.com
Ph: 716-753-4250

**Commissioner of Elections
Republican**

Nacole L. Ellis
EllisN@chqgov.com
Ph: 716-753-4226

Hours

Monday - Friday
8:30 am - 4:30 pm
Closed Holidays



Get Involved, Share a Donation - Contact Your Local Party Leaders

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE

Marcia Westling Johnson, Chair
PO Box 1218 Dunkirk, NY 14048
chqdem@gmail.com

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE

Nacole L. Ellis, Chair
PO Box 256 Ripley, NY 14775
ellisnacole@yahoo.com

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY CONSERVATIVE COMMITTEE

Anna Wilcox, Chair
3105 Cable Rd Fredonia, NY 14063
annamwilcox@att.net

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY WORKING FAMILIES COMMITTEE

Robert Dando, Chair
8631 Fredonia Stockton Rd Fredonia, NY 14063
robedi127@gmail.com

CCIDA SHOULD WELCOME CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM

Contributed by
Legislator Fred Larson

Our Chautauqua County Industrial Development Agency (CCIDA) was created by the State Legislature in 1972 at the request of our Chautauqua County Legislature. CCIDA is a public body ultimately controlled by our Chautauqua County Legislature and/or County Executive. CCIDA is not a private organization.

There are 7 CCIDA Board members. 6 are appointed by the County Executive or County Legislature. The 7th member must be a County Legislator.

As a member of the County Legislature's Economic Development Committee I work to encourage the Committee to take seriously its job of overseeing our CCIDA, which the County funds, in part. In 2023, for example, your County government handed CCIDA over \$6,000,000 in taxpayer funds to build an industrial park in Ripley (believe it or not).

In 2023 the State of New York Authorities Budget Office completed a thorough review of the operation and practices of our CCIDA. The State found that in 2021 CCIDA had 7 full-time and 5 part-time employees on its payroll.

Interestingly from 1972 through 2005 CCIDA performed its Industrial Development role with no employees of its own. Its functions were carried out by approximately 5 employees in the County's Planning and Development Department.

The State review concluded that the CCIDA had \$130,000 in “inappropriate and questionable discretionary spending...”

County officials were critical of the State's findings.

ny student of management of private and public organizations is familiar with concepts such as “continuous improvement.” The continuous improvement model was developed after World War II. It refers to a never-ending striving for perfection in everything an organization does. Every organization, including the CCIDA, can always be doing a better job. The

Institute of Quality Assurance defines “continuous improvement” as “getting better all the time.”

Every independent review or audit of the CCIDA should be welcomed and embraced and oversight of CCIDA by the County Legislature should be welcomed. While sometimes parts of any audit can be “nitpicking”, all such outside reviews and its constructive criticisms give the CCIDA the opportunity to be a better public body. The CCIDA should embrace the goal of “getting better all the time.”

The State also discovered that the CCIDDA was repeatedly violating New York State’s Open Meetings Law by not giving reasons for going into “executive session” where the public and the press are excluded. In 2019, 2020, and 2021 the CCIDA board went into executive session for 28 of 32 meetings of which 57 percent of the meeting minutes did not include a reason for the use of executive session.

The CCIDA has the same duty to honor the Open Meetings Law as does the County Legislature, and all city, village and town councils or boards. The Open Meetings Law is often known as government “in the sunshine.” There is an old saying from the famous attorney and US Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis in 1914, that “sunshine is the best of disinfectants.”

The Chautauqua County Industrial Development Agency was created primarily to help existing industries and businesses and attract new industries and businesses to the County to provide good jobs for our residents. CCIDA, for example, helped bring Cummins here in the 1970s and Bush Industries here in the 1980s

I have pushed our County Legislature and the CCIDA to make facilitating job creation our number 1 economic development goal. Our CCIDA giving away tax breaks to \$10,000,000 solar farms that may not result in even 1 new full-time job, for example, in exchange for a \$100,000 fee to CCIDA does not result in more of our children and grandchildren finding a good job here.

Fred Larson
Chautauqua County Attorney
1998-2005
County Legislator

Carlson Proposes a Systematic Approach to Leading the Clerk's Office

Contributed by
Greg Carlson
Candidate, Chautauqua County Clerk

In last week's publication, I was excited to announce my campaign and introduce myself to Gazette readers officially. This week, I'm laying out my systematic approach to leading the Clerk's Office. I take nothing for granted, and on November 4th, the voters will make their decision. If I'm fortunate enough to be elected, I'll begin my term with a thorough, data-driven evaluation of all services.

Whether it's one of the three DMV locations, the Clerk's Office in Mayville, or Weights and Measures, nearly all of the county's 130,000 residents rely on our services. As I stated in my introduction, I will not make change for the sake of change. My first step will be a top-to-bottom review of all Clerk's Office functions: hours of operation, staffing, training, location, revenue, and modes of service delivery. This evaluation will include not only internal review, but also feedback from the public we serve, as well as input from governmental and community partners. Chautauqua County was founded in 1811, and it would be irresponsible to override 200 years of institutional knowledge without data to support change. Once this evaluation is complete, I will establish priorities.

Throughout my 20-year military career and nine years in county government, I've learned that perception doesn't always equal reality. Priorities must be data-driven, not based on temporary or politically expedient fixes. Taxpayers

are already struggling, and resources are limited. My priorities will focus on providing the best return on taxpayer investment while ensuring delivery of mandated services. Sound business practices will be applied to maximize efficiency and revenue, but always with the understanding that we are a government agency serving the public.

Once the data is gathered and priorities are set, it is time to act. In government, the best way to implement change is to start with simple, easily executed solutions, then progress incrementally to more complex ones. Build from the ground up. Start with changes that don't cost taxpayers money. For example, adjusting hours of operation or streamlining processes with existing staff and systems. Before committing to new expenditures, maximize revenue opportunities and public accessibility with the resources already available. Implementation will be carefully measured to ensure the desired impact.

With each change comes the final piece of the puzzle: continuous impact assessment. The test of good governance is simple: did our action achieve the desired result? This assessment must be ongoing. As elected officials, we cannot remain stagnant; conditions change, and we must respond accordingly.

If elected as the next Chautauqua County Clerk, my focus will be on achieving the following objectives: easier access to services, shorter wait times, maximizing taxpayer return on investment, and strengthening partnerships with our governmental and organizational allies.

A campaign graphic for Fred Larson's re-election. On the left is a portrait of Fred Larson, a man with grey hair wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and dark tie. To the right of the portrait, the text "RE-ELECT" is in large red capital letters, followed by "LEGISLATOR LARSON" in large blue capital letters. Below this, a red banner contains the text "THE TAXPAYERS FRIEND" in white capital letters. At the bottom right, the text "Paid for by Friends of Fred Larson" is in a smaller blue font. The background features a pattern of light blue stars on a white field, with a blue curved border on the right side containing a row of yellow stars.



GREG CARLSON **FOR**

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY CLERK



- ★ PUBLIC SERVANT, RETIRED MILITARY, DEVOTED FAMILY MAN
- ★ PROVEN LEADER COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE IN COUNTY GOVERNMENT
- ★ TRANSPARENCY, ACCOUNTABILITY, RESULTS

“My primary focus is serving the residents of Chautauqua County. There is no singular action or talking point that leads to good governance. It’s a commitment to continuous process improvement, and putting our dedicated public servants in the best position to provide efficient and friendly customer service. My focus will be proper staffing, improved training, and easier access for our residents and customers.” -Greg Carlson

*Paid for by:
Friends of Greg Carlson*

~ Henry Ward Beecher

Senior Scene with Carey Skelton

If You Enjoy Learning, You May Enjoy Our Upcoming Classes!

Contributed by

Carey Skelton

MS MPH RDN CDN/ Nutrition & Wellness Coordinator

The Wellness Initiative for Senior Education, or WISE, program is a 6 week course that celebrates aging and educates older adults on a variety of topics including medication use, communicating effectively with healthcare providers and strategies for healthy living. In this course you will:

- Learn about the aging process and how to make health lifestyle choices
- Celebrate this exciting stage of life and all the benefits that come with it
- Discuss risk factors and behaviors older adults should avoid to stay healthy
- Examine how alcohol, prescription medications and over-the-counter medications affect older adults differently and how they can avoid problems
- Learn how to use simple tools to help you feel more empowered about your health and the healthcare you receive.

WHEN: Mondays from 9:30 A.M. to 11:30 A.M.

- **October 20th:** Understanding the Changes Associated with Aging
- **October 27th:** Aging Sensitivity
- **November 3rd:** Valuing Cultural and Generational Diversity
- **November 10th:** Medication and the Older Adult
- **November 17th:** Substance Misuse, Addiction, and the Older Adult
- **November 24th:** An Enhanced Quality of Life

WHERE: Sinclairville Fire Hall at 30 Main Street, Sinclairville, NY

HOW to Register: Call NY Connects at 716-753-4582 and ask for the WISE class.

Office for Aging Services is proud to partner with Prevention Works in providing this valuable Evidence-Based Program to the older adults in Chautauqua County. We will continue to create partnerships like this one to provide a wide range of programs and services as leaders in aging well at home.

Check out our website at <https://chqgov.com/office-aging> to see all the programs and services offered. Additionally, by signing up for our communication system, if you are not already registered, will provide you with information at your fingertips. We send messages about the current programs you may be interested in through your preferred communication method: text, email, or an automated call. If you are not already signed up to receive these messages, just call us at our NY Connects line 716-753-4582.

By making simple and healthy choices on a daily basis, you will be well on your way towards achieving total wellness. We know the healthy choice is not always the easiest choice, but small changes can make a big difference. Chautauqua County Office for Aging Services offers Nutrition & Wellness programs to support you in your journey toward total wellness. Call NY Connects at 716-753-4582 for more details and information about any of the Nutrition and Wellness programs provided by Chautauqua County Office for Aging Services.

Some of these materials have been funded in whole or in part by grants from the New York State Office for the Aging (NYSOFA), and/ or the Administration on Aging (AOA) and/ or Administration for Community Living (ACL). Nothing herein is intended, nor should be construed, as an endorsement by the State of New York.

All In: Jamestown’s Music Scene Is Thriving

Continued from front page



Wine Cellar keeps the night alive with rock ‘n’ roll, jam bands, funk, and everything in between. Opportunities for artists to play and grow are everywhere. Restaurants and bars like Shawbucks, Haggy’s 4 Below, Pearl City Hops, Encore, and the new Raven & Rune double as music venues, consistently booking live performers and strengthening the bond between Jamestown’s nightlife, its culinary scene, and its music culture. In short, Jamestown has reemerged as a place where the music lives, breathes, and brings our community together.

Of course, no music scene thrives without its artists, and Jamestown is brimming with talent across every genre. Local legends Smackdab have reestablished their presence in recent years, selling out shows, headlining festivals, and reminding us what a true homegrown powerhouse looks like. Charity Nuse has become a household name not only for her incredible performances but for the way she lifts and inspires those around her. What is most exciting is that a new wave of bands has emerged! From the hard-driving riffs of Feverhawk to the jam-heavy grooves of Surprise Guise, the soulful sounds of SON to the sweeping riffs and powerful vocals of Stereo Death, new artists are carving out distinct sounds in the scene. At the same time, longtime staples like The Hallow Society, Afraid of Human, In Crowd, We Speak Canadian, and Mister Green continue to perform and release new music, proving Jamestown’s music culture is both rooted in history and always pushing forward.

These are just a few examples, barely scratching the surface of the countless talented, hardworking musicians who make up our community. Forgive my inability to include everyone in this address but know that every rehearsal, open mic, basement jam, and late-night set is significant and adds to the heartbeat of Jamestown. I see and appreciate all of you.

What makes our scene truly special isn’t just the shows or the venues, but the people who fill them and support them. Be it the artists, the audiences, or the devoted sponsors of the arts who keep it all going, together we are

building a culture where the music never quits. Among those supporters, one new local business has quickly stood out: Lifted, Jamestown’s first licensed dispensary at 320 N. Main St. With a community first mentality and a commitment to sponsoring local events, Lifted has become a driving force in the scene, supporting downtown staples like Whirlybird Music & Arts Festival, Jamestown Pride, and Lucy Fest, along with a steady stream of concerts featuring local, regional, and national touring acts at venues throughout the city. This is what a thriving scene looks like. Everyone, all in.

Are you all in? With so many shows on the horizon, there’s no better time to make plans with friends, pack a room, and ride the wave of sound that is putting Jamestown back on the map. Here are a few shows coming up you will not want to miss. Just a slice of what this scene is serving up so be sure to check in with your local venues and bands, come on out, and be a part of something positive! Much love, y’all!

October 4 - The Town Pants w/ Tin Can Reverie - Celtic Rock/Folk @ The Spire Theater

October 11 - Uncle Ben’s Remedy - Country/Party/ Rock @ Wicked Warren’s Jamestown

October 17 - Glow Stone - Fusion/Rock/Jam @ Jamestown Wine Cellar

October 25 - King of the Ramp w/ PAL - Indie/Punk/ Rock @ Jamestown Skate Products

October 31 - Mister Green w/ Stereo Death - Rock/ Punk/Party @ Jamestown Wine Cellar

November 14 - Donna the Buffalo w/ Driftwood - Jam/ Roots/Americana @ The Spire Theater

November 21 - PA Line - Bluegrass/Soul/Indie @ Wicked Warren’s Jamestown

November 22 - The Wizards of Winter - Holiday Rock Opera @ Reg Lenna Center for the Arts

“Music is the universal language of mankind”

- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

PANAMA ROCKS FOLIAGE FESTIVAL

OCTOBER 4TH & 5TH

PANAMA ROCKS ANNUAL FOLIAGE FESTIVAL

Contributed by
Panama Rocks Scenic Park

Autumn in Chautauqua County is about to get a little brighter as Panama Rocks Scenic Park prepares to host its annual Foliage Festival on Saturday and Sunday, October 4 and 5. From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day, visitors will be treated to a celebration of the season filled with art, music, food, and fall fun—all set against the colorful backdrop of the park's legendary rock formations and autumn foliage.

Admission to the festival itself is free, with the usual daily rate applying for those who wish to hike the Panama Rocks trail. Field parking is offered for just \$5 per vehicle.

One of the highlights of the weekend is the sprawling art and craft show and farmers market, featuring more than 85 vendors. Shoppers can browse handmade jewelry, woodwork, textiles, and farm-fresh goods, all while watching artisans at work. Chainsaw artist Lisa Barr will be carving logs, blacksmith John Stow will be hammering hot iron into shape, and Grant Robinson of Liquid Monkey will dazzle with live glass blowing. Other demonstrations will spotlight rocket stoves and quilting, keeping alive traditions both old and new.

The festival will also be filled with the sounds of live music. Davis & Eng will bookend each day with traditional and original tunes, while Drew & Lena perform on Saturday afternoon and SON takes the stage

on Sunday. Between sets, families can enjoy a variety of activities: children trick-or-treating with vendors, face painting with Ashlee Sprandle, horse-drawn wagon rides through the crisp autumn air, pumpkin painting, and even the chance to build a stuffed animal friend with Plushihut.

Food is always a big draw, and this year's lineup promises to satisfy. From classic festival favorites like cheesesteaks, funnel cakes, fries, and wings, to local specialties such as beef on weck, artisan cheeses, sauces, honey, fudge, and baked goods, the festival's vendors will make sure no one leaves hungry. Ice cream, Italian ice, kettle corn, and candy apples round out the sweet side of the menu.

Adding to the excitement is the daily

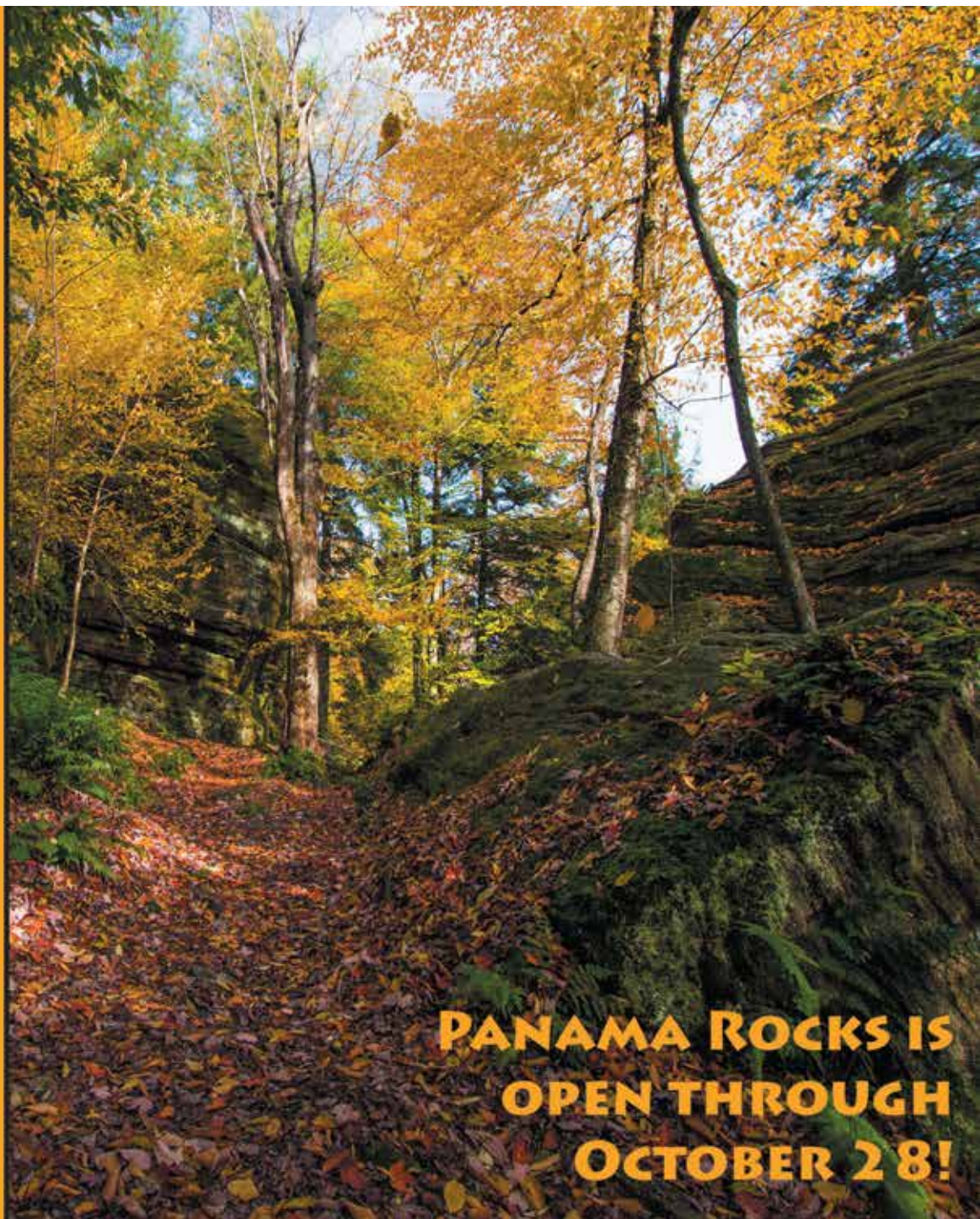
costume contest, which invites both children and adults to show off their creativity. Youth contests for ages 12 and under take place at 2:30 p.m. each day, followed immediately by the adult contest at 2:45. Winners walk away with \$100 in Panama Rocks credit, a fitting prize for a festival that celebrates both fun and community spirit.

Whether visitors come for the shopping, the music, the food, or simply to soak in the vibrant colors of the forest, the Panama Rocks Foliage Festival offers a slice of autumn magic. It's a chance for families and friends to gather, celebrate local talent, and make memories in one of the region's most beloved natural settings.



- OCTOBER 4 & 5 -
85+ VENDORS,
ART & CRAFT SHOW,
FOOD, MUSIC
CHAINSAW CARVING,
BLACKSMITHING,
GLASS BLOWING,
WAGON RIDES,
COSTUME CONTESTS,
FACE PAINTING,
& MORE!

PANAMAROCKS.COM



PANAMA ROCKS IS
OPEN THROUGH
OCTOBER 28!

Chamber Corner

Continued from page 19

game and when you have enough points collected you can enter the drawing.

It’s incredibly easy to get into this drawing! Visit www.chqchamber.com experiences and click Sign Up on the CHQ Chamber Celebration Passport. Go to “checkout” and enter your contact information then click “complete order.” You do not have to buy anything to participate; this is just the signup process. You’ll get a text with a link to access the pass, and from there you can save the link to your home screen or just access the pass through your text message thread. There is no app added to your phone.

When you’re near any of the businesses receiving awards or being recognized for milestone service years you can just check in through the passport. When you have collected 50 points by checking in at ten different organizations, you can redeem those points to enter the drawing.

The prize will be drawn randomly from all completed entries just after noon on Thursday, October 2, and the winner will be announced at our CHQ Chamber Business Awards Banquet that evening. You do not need to be at the banquet to win. Participating businesses and organizations are as follows: Bemus

Point Golf Club & Tap House, our Business of the Year; Jamestown Board of Public Utilities, Business Champion Award; West Main Mercantile in Falconer, Emerging Business of the Year; The White Inn in Fredonia, Hospitality Business of the Year; Porter-Blair Cleaning & Co. in Jamestown, Service Business of the Year; Triple E MFG & Design Inc. in Sherman, Producer of the Year; and Chautauqua County Rural Ministry in Dunkirk, Not-For-Profit of the Year. Our milestone recognition organizations are also included: Manufacturers Association of the Southern Tier, 125 years; Westfield Nursery & Garden Center, 90 years; Jamestown Community College, 75 years; Gebbie Foundation, 60 years; Kiwanis Club of Westfield-Ripley, 55 years; Falconer Power Sports, 50 years; Peaceful Designs in Westfield and Shawbucks in Jamestown, each 30 years; Elegant Edibles Catering in Jamestown, 25 years; Maple Springs Tree Service, 20 years; Betts Insurance Agency, Concord Quilting Studio, and Lake Shore Center for the Arts all in Westfield and all celebrating 10 years; and Chautauqua Soap Company in Jamestown, Full Strength Coffee Co. in Westfield, Stella: A Kitchen and Bar in Lakewood, and Whizz-n-Smash in Dewittville all celebrating five years.

SUDOKU

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

Here's How It Works:

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

Level: Beginner

CROSSWORD

	1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11	12	
13								14						15
16			17				18						19	
20		21				22				23		24		
25					26				27		28			
29				30				31		32		33		
		34	35						36		37			
38	39									40				
41					42				43					
44				45		46		47				48	49	50
51			52		53		54				55			
56				57		58				59				
60			61		62				63				64	
65		66						67				68		
	69							70						

CLUES ACROSS

1. Spiritual leaders

7. Salt

13. Fortified wine

14. Edible mollusk

16. They precede C

17. A way to compare

19. State lawyer

20. “Game of Thrones” actor Ciaran

22. Eighth month (abbr.)

23. Very willing

25. __ ex machina

26. Satisfies

28. Mountain in New Zealand

29. A doctrine

30. Popular Dodge truck model

31. Dekagram

33. Naturally occurring solid

34. Company officer

36. Villains

38. Cricket frogs
40. One of the founders of modern psychology

41. Endured

43. A female domestic

44. You can get stuck in one

45. Partner to feather

47. Passive optical network

48. French ballet dynasty

51. Employee stock ownership plan

53. Bottom layer

55. Sound

56. Yankee great Judge

58. Dickens character

59. Late beloved TNT sportscaster

60. South Dakota

61. Exposing human vice or folly to ridicule

64. Gold

65. Longtime Braves hurler Julio

67. Humor

69. Shawl

70. Hospital unit

CLUES DOWN

1. Animal disease

2. Commercial

3. Necklace materials

4. Containers

5. Investment account

6. Colorado Heisman Trophy winner

7. Dipped down

8. Head injury category (abbr.)

9. Lay about

10. Intestinal

11. Not yes

12. Caused to be loved

13. Muslim spiritual leader

15. Showing sincere conviction

18. Not in

21. Number above the line in a fraction

24. Lawn pest

26. Pouch

27. Ancient language in India (abbr.)

30. Start over
32. Wild white flower

35. Fourteen

37. Visual way to interact with computer (abbr.)

38. Side by side and facing the same way

39. Religious conflicts

42. Touch lightly

43. “Boardwalk Empire” actress Gretchen

46. Violent seizure of property

47. One who supports the pope

49. Malaise

50. Body fluid

52. Inauthentic person

54. Title of respect

55. Chilean city

57. Japanese city

59. Silk garment

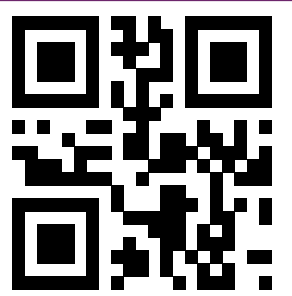
62. Draw from

63. Automobile

66. The man

68. Top government lawyer

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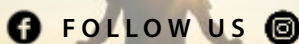
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Dunkirk Woman Loses 72.9 Pounds Through Local Non-Profit TOPS Named 2024 New York Queen

Contributed by
TOPS

TOPS Club, Inc. (Take Off Pounds Sensibly SM), the nonprofit weight-loss support organization, has announced its 2024 "royalty", members who recorded the greatest weight loss from their highest weight at TOPS and reached their goal.

Annabell Hahn of Dunkirk, who lost 72.9 pounds, and Murray Kinnetz of Brewerton, who lost 56.2 pounds, were named the 2024 New York Queen and King. They were honored May 30-31, 2025, at the New York Recognition Event at Batavia Downs Gaming and Hotel in Batavia, NY.

TOPS promotes weight loss and overall wellness through group support, health education, and member recognition. In 2024, New York members collectively lost 11,311 pounds. With New York's adult obesity rate at 28%, the organization continues to provide an affordable and effective support system.

"All of us at TOPS are proud of our members' accomplishments," said Rick Danforth, TOPS President. "Their dedication to lifestyle changes supported by peers and the TOPS program demonstrates the effectiveness of our approach."

Weekly in-person meetings include an optional weigh-in, member sharing, and a program on health and wellness, often followed by awards and recognition. Visitors may attend their first meeting free of charge and are encouraged to explore more than one chapter.



Submitted Photos

Annabell Hahn of Dunkirk, who lost 72.9 pounds

For those preferring online membership, meetings are held via Zoom at least five times weekly, featuring member sharing, prepared programs, guest speakers, and action steps.

TOPS membership starts at \$70 per year, plus nominal chapter fees. To join, visit www.tops.org or call 800-932-8677.

About TOPS®

Founded in 1948, TOPS Club, Inc. is the original nonprofit weight-loss support and wellness education organization. Its "Real People. Real Weight Loss.®" philosophy combines group support, healthy eating, exercise, and wellness education.

Today, TOPS has about 65,000 members across thousands of chapters in the U.S. and Canada, along with an online program offering resources such as nutrition guidance, workouts, meal planning, and community support.

Visitors are welcome to attend their first meeting free of charge. Membership starts at \$70 per year, with reduced renewal rates available. Learn more at www.tops.org or 800-932-8677.

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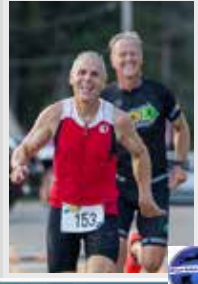
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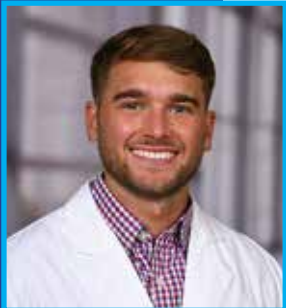
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Q What types of cancer do you treat?

A Our team treats all types of cancer. The most common cancers we see in our practice are lung, breast, and colon cancers. We also treat blood cancers, which include leukemia and lymphoma.

Q Why is it important to provide access to cancer care in rural communities?

A Cancer care disparities in rural areas can have long-term effects on individuals, families, and the community at large. It is important to have access to prevention and screening as rural populations tend to have higher rates of potentially preventable cancers. Due to barriers such as transportation to larger cancer centers, it is also important for our community to access appropriate treatment before cancer becomes too advanced.

Q Why choose UPMC Hillman Cancer Center at UPMC Chautauqua?

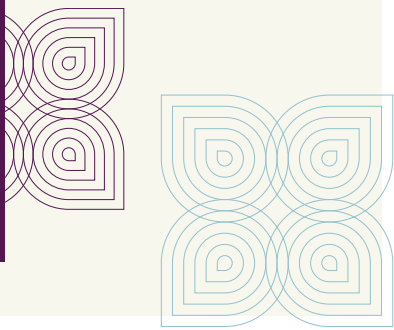
A UPMC Hillman Cancer Center at UPMC Chautauqua offers the services of a larger urban hospital in a smaller, family-oriented, community practice. In addition to medical oncology, we offer genetic testing, diagnostic imaging services like endobronchial ultrasound and PET-CT scans, and interventional radiology biopsy.

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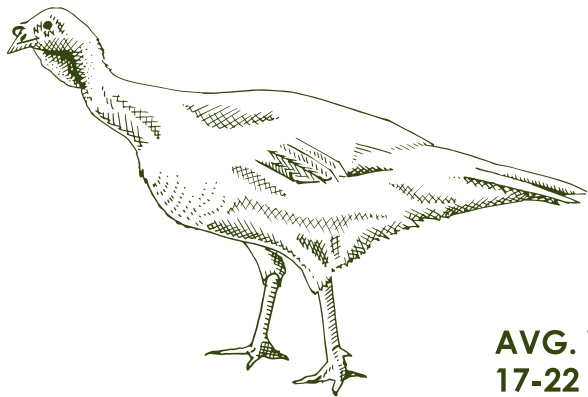
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IT'S FALL y'all

Chautauqua Region Community Foundation Honors Vince Horrigan with Prestigious John D. Hamilton Award

Contributed by
**Chautauqua Region
Community Foundation**

The Chautauqua Region Community Foundation celebrated a lifetime of service on Friday night, presenting the 2025 John D. Hamilton Community Service Award to Vince Horrigan at a special event held at the Roger Tory Peterson Institute. The annual award, presented since 1993, recognizes an individual's dedication, leadership, and support in furthering community spirit and enhancing the quality of life in the region.

The celebration was a tribute to Horrigan's unwavering commitment to public service, which began with a distinguished 27-year career in the United States Air Force and continued with profound impacts on the Chautauqua region. His extensive service includes roles as Executive Director of the Southwestern NY Chapter of the American Red Cross, Chautauqua County Legislator, and Chautauqua County Executive. He dedicated countless hours to volunteer work with numerous local organizations, including the Rotary Club of Jamestown, Chautauqua Leadership Network, and United Way of Chautauqua County.

The evening was filled with praise and appreciation for Horrigan's contributions. Tory Irgang, Executive Director of the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation, spoke to the impact of the event. "The evening was full of positivity and excitement in gratitude to a most well-deserved

man," Irgang said. "We are so grateful to Vince for his lifetime of service to our community."

Horrigan's family also shared their pride in his achievements. His daughter, Carrie, reflected on the honor. "There are no words to describe the pride my family and I have in watching our father receive such an award," she said.

His son, Sean, highlighted his father's character and integrity. "My dad practiced what he preached," Sean noted. "He not only raised me right, but he treated the community and those around him with the same respect he showed his own family."

Throughout his career, Horrigan has been known for his ability to bring people together and navigate complex issues with respect and a drive toward unity. His extensive record of volunteer work includes serving on the Bemus Point Central School District Board of Education and as a volunteer pilot for the Bemus Point-Stow Ferry.

The award is named in honor of John D. Hamilton, in celebration of his tireless efforts and leadership. It is fitting that this tribute was given to Horrigan, who has followed in those footsteps, leaving a lasting legacy on the community he and his wife, Barbara, call home.

To make a gift in honor of Vince and send him a message, visit www.crcfonline.org.

**CHAUTAUQUA REGION
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**

CHQ Professionals Group to Host Coffee Meetup at Tulip's Brunch House



Contributed by
CHQ Professionals Group

The networking event is the final scheduled morning meetup for 2025

The CHQ Professionals Group will host a Coffee Meetup at Tulip's Brunch House (186 S. Erie Street, Mayville) on Thursday, Oct. 2, from 8 to 9:30 a.m. No registration is required, and all professionals working in the Chautauqua Region are invited to attend.

The meetup is part of a series of monthly networking events designed to give local professionals an opportunity to connect and share their work. This year, CHQ Professionals has hosted coffee meetups across the county, including Cassadaga, Lily Dale, Brocton, Westfield, and Mayville. CHQ Professionals is an initiative of the Chautauqua County Partnership for Economic Growth (CCPEG).

"Our coffee meetups bring people together to share ideas, build connections, and start the day on a positive note," said Monica Simpson, CCPEG Partner Engagement Coordinator and co-chair of the CHQ Professionals Group. "We hope professionals from every background feel encouraged to join in and be part of the exciting momentum here in Chautauqua County."

This will be the group's final coffee meetup of the year before the series returns in spring 2026.

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

For more information, email CHQprofessionals@gmail.com or call 716-363-3770. Details about the group can also be found at ChooseCHQ.com/CHQProfessionals.

About the CHQ Professionals Group

The CHQ Professionals Group, housed under CCPEG, provides social, civic, educational, and networking opportunities for professionals at every stage of their careers. Learn more at ChooseCHQ.com/CHQProfessionals.

About CCPEG

The Chautauqua County Partnership for Economic Growth (CCPEG) is the main convener of economic development partners and resources in Chautauqua County. As an initiative of the Chautauqua Region Economic Development Corporation (CREDC), CCPEG serves as a catalyst for economic prosperity, focusing on job creation, retention, and quality of life. More information is available at CHQPartnership.org.

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- Beethoven

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9	6	7	1	2	8	4	5	3
4	3	2	9	5	6	7	8	1
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PUZZLES ON PAGE 25

Eventz by Scott

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Senior Scene with Dana Corwin

Food Safety Education Month

Contributed by

Ellen Colasuonno MS RDN

Nutrition & Wellness Educator

Chautauqua County Office for Aging Services

Food brings people together, but unsafe handling can just as quickly lead to illness. September is Food Safety Education Month, a perfect reminder to practice safe food habits.

Staying healthy as we get older isn't always easy, and food safety plays a big part in that. The first step? Keep it clean! Think of handwashing as the secret ingredient in every recipe. Wash with warm, soapy water for twenty seconds before and after handling food. Give counters, cutting boards, and utensils a good scrub because germs like to hide in the tiniest spots. Do not forget fruits and vegetables. Rinse them under running water, even if they have peels, to remove dirt and germs you cannot see.

Raw meat and fresh produce are not meant to mingle. Cross-contamination happens when the juices from raw foods sneak onto ready-to-eat items, and that can cause trouble. Use one cutting board for meats and a different one for fruits and vegetables. When storing groceries in the fridge, keep raw meat on the bottom shelf so it does not drip onto other foods. A little separation now means a safer plate later!

Cooking is how we make food safe to eat in the first place. Heat kills harmful germs, but only if food reaches the right temperature all the way through. A food thermometer is the best way to check. Chicken should reach 165°F, ground beef 160°F, and leftovers should be reheated to at least 165°F. Color alone is not a reliable clue. Keep in mind that reheating does not make spoiled food safe again, which is why storing leftovers properly and eating them within a few days is just as important. For older adults, it is safer to avoid foods like undercooked meat, runny eggs, or unpasteurized dairy that may carry germs.

Cold storage is your best friend for keeping meals safe after cooking.

Even perfectly cooked food can grow harmful bacteria if it sits out too long. Perishable foods should go in the fridge within two hours, or within one hour if the room is hot. Set your fridge at 40°F or below and your freezer at 0°F. Leftovers are safest when you label them with the date they were cooked. This makes it easy to remember how long they have been around instead of guessing. Do not keep cooked dishes longer than three to four days, even if they still look or smell fine. Bacteria that cause illness cannot always be seen, smelled, or tasted. That is why the saying holds true: when in doubt, throw it out.

This month, challenge yourself to add one new food safety habit to your routine. It could be washing produce more carefully, using a food thermometer, or labeling leftovers before storing them in the fridge. Small steps like these protect your health and strengthen the health of the whole community. By practicing habits such as cleaning, separating, cooking, and chilling, we keep meals safe and enjoyable. Together, these choices protect our health, support independence, and help us enjoy good food with peace of mind.

Check out our website at <https://chqgov.com/office-aging> to see all the programs and services offered. Additionally, by signing up for our communication system, if you are not already registered, will provide you with information at your fingertips. We send messages about the current programs you may be interested in through your preferred communication method: text, email, or an automated call. If you are not already signed up to receive these messages, just call us at our NY Connects line 716-753-4582.

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~ Vincent Van Gogh

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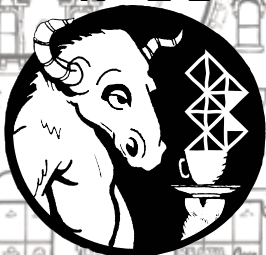
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