



NEWSLINE *April 2025*

A Publication of the Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce

The Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce supports our members and our region as a partner for business, workforce, and tourism development.

MARCH EVENTS SUPPORTED WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, COLLABORATION, NETWORKING AND NEW BUSINESS



Left: Close to 200 students from Career & Technical Education, as well as from districts throughout Hamilton, Fulton and Montgomery Counties, were able to join us at the Women in the Workforce event at HFM BOCES on March 12. Students listened to a panel of women in non-traditional roles, and then had roundtable discussions with other women in fields such as auto body repair, construction technology, criminal justice, and more. See more photos and information on page 15. (Photo courtesy of HFM BOCES Communications Staff)

Right: The Chamber held the first event in its quarterly Chamber 101 Webinar series in March, Maximize Your Chamber Membership. Discussion focused on an Intro to Membership, information on the Business Education Partnership, how to use your information on the Chamber website, and more. We had a great turnout and hope everyone found the webinar informative. Watch for our next webinar in the series which will take place during the summer months.



Left: We had a great speed networking event for our members, in collaboration with [FMS Workforce Development Board](#) and [SUNY Fulton-Montgomery](#) at The Allen House at SUNY FM on March 27. Over 40 people made new connections in a fun, new way!

Right: [Fun Fusion](#), a new business in Fultonville at 242 Riverside Drive, had a ribbon-cutting event on March 28. Fun Fusion offers a variety of great experiences, starting with escape rooms, with special Teen and Kids Nights. As they grow they expect to add a nerf arena and a rage room, along with seasonal events and a woman's Intro to Construction class. Pictured at the event are Bridgett Ricci, Owner (with scissors), friends and family, and Montgomery County officials, Chamber Ambassadors, Board members and staff.





Message from the Executive Director

Dear Chamber Members,

It is with a heavy heart that I announce my resignation as the Executive Director with the Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce, effective at the end of May. This decision was not made lightly, but after much thought and consideration, I believe it is the best course of action for myself and my family.

I want to assure you all that the Chamber is in a strong position. We have an incredible Board of Directors, who have been very supportive of my decision. Our membership remains vibrant, we continue to be powerful advocates for local businesses, and we have a bright future ahead. Our event schedule will remain busy and solid, and I encourage you to participate and maximize your Chamber membership!

Our Chamber staff will continue to serve and be available for you. They are ready and eager to assist you with any needs or questions you may have moving forward. The team is committed to supporting our members and ensuring that the important work of the Chamber continues seamlessly.

Now - are you ready to keep the momentum going, and to have an opportunity to work with the greatest staff, partners, and community one could imagine? A search committee has been established, and they are ready to help put in place the next leadership for the Chamber. There is also a job description available which describes in detail the requirements and responsibilities for the position.

In summary, the Executive Director will provide overall leadership and management for the Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce. This individual will be responsible for implementing the Chamber's strategic direction, overseeing day-to-day operations at the Chamber, and maintaining relationships with key stakeholders.

If you are interested in applying, please email your resume to anneb@fultonmontgomeryny.org

I have been truly honored to serve this region and to work alongside so many passionate individuals and organizations. I look forward to seeing you at a Chamber program or event in the next couple of months before my departure. The relationships I've built and the progress we've made together will always hold a special place in my heart. Thank you to you all

Forever grateful,
Anne Boles

2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair—Geoff Peck, *Nathan Littauer Hospital & Nursing Home*

Vice Chair—Jeffrey Methven, *St. Mary's Healthcare*

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Janine Dykeman, *Mental Health Association in Fulton & Montgomery Counties*

Ryan Faville, *Stewart's Shops*

Ryan Heck, *Alpin Haus*

Colleen Ioele-DeCristofaro, *Gateway Realty Solutions*

Peter Lawrence, *The Family Counseling Center*

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Mike Schaus, *THNK Tank Media/WENT Radio*

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CHAMBER STAFF

Anne Boles, *Executive Director*

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Jennifer Hammons, *Special Projects Assistant*

Natalie May, *Business & Education Partnership Coordinator*

MaryBeth Shults, *Membership Director*

Terry Swierzowski, *Newsline Editor/Reporter*

Nicole Walrath-VanAlstyne, *Director of Workforce Development*

THE FULTON MONTGOMERY CHAMBER IS A MEMBER:

- ◆ [Business Council of New York State](#)
- ◆ [Center For Economic Growth—Capital Region](#)
- ◆ [Chamber Alliance of New York State](#)
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- ◆ [Fulton County Farm Bureau](#)
- ◆ [Montgomery County Farm Bureau](#)
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Welcome New Members

March 2025



MEMBERSHIP MESSAGE

Director of Membership
Marybeth Shults



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The Reis Group is a full service insurance agency with locations in Latham, Saugerties, Kingston, Walden, and Goshen. We specialize in all types of insurance including Personal Lines, Commercial Lines, and Life & Health.

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(518) 774-1324 | the-boho-dinosaurs-greenery.square.site/
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4822 State Route 30, Amsterdam
(518) 774-1324 | gikamsterdam.com
Restaurant serving a variety of Indian food and alcohol. Daily lunch buffet, dinner a la carte. Dine in, take out, catering available.

I am thrilled to step into the role of Director of Membership at the Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce. As someone who has built and grown a business from the ground up, I know firsthand the challenges and opportunities that come with running a business in our region. My goal is to help strengthen the Chamber to continue to support and uplift our local businesses.

In this role, I'll be focusing on building strong connections, increasing member engagement, and expanding opportunities for business growth. One of my first initiatives is to expand our existing Ambassador Program to strengthen our outreach and ensure every member feels valued and supported. I'm also excited to get involved with the Fulton Montgomery Young Professionals Network, to continue to provide a space for the next generation of business leaders to connect, learn, and grow.

Our Chamber is more than just a membership organization—it is also an essential resource for businesses of all sizes. Whether through networking events, professional development, or strategic partnerships, I want to make sure that every business in our region sees the value in being an active Chamber member.

Even if your business doesn't have a brick-and-mortar storefront, there is still immense value in being a Chamber partner. We can help you expand your digital presence, strengthen your SEO, and increase your online reach to connect with customers both near and far. Whether you're an e-commerce business, a service provider, or a freelancer, leveraging the Chamber's network and marketing resources can help elevate your visibility, attract new clients, and build credibility within the business community.

I'm looking forward to meeting business owners, learning about your needs, and working together to make this Chamber stronger than ever. If you have ideas, want to get involved, or just want to chat about the future of business in our community, let's connect!

Here's to new growth and opportunity,
Marybeth Shults
Director of Membership



MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

March 2025

Thank you for your continued support!



41+ YEARS

Betz, Rossi, Bellinger and Stewart Funeral
Homes—51
F-M-S Counties Private Industry Council—41

31 – 40 YEARS

Amsterdam Housing Authority—37
Gloversville Economic Development Corp.—31

21 – 30 YEARS

Fulmont Community Action Agency, Inc.—29
Adirondack Harley-Davidson. Inc.—28
Roser Communications Network, Inc.—27
Great Sacandaga Lake Association—26
Harold's Restaurant and Lounge—26
Glove Cities Veterinary Hospital, PC—25
Family Ear, Nose & Throat Care, PC—22

11 – 20 YEARS

Salvione Insurance Agency Inc.—20
Dunlap Chiropractice—19
KeyBank National Assn., Wallins Cor-
ners—19
Community Bank—Johnstown—17
Sam's Seafood Steakhouse—15
Frank's Gun Shop Inc.—15
Zanella's Market Hill Service & Auto
Sales, Inc.—14
Bethany Schumann-McGhee, Attorney
At Law, 13
Stephen Miller General Contractors, Inc.
—13
Hales Mills Country Club—12
Flooring Authority, Inc.—11

1 – 10 YEARS

NBT Bank, Fonda—10
Advanced Cleaning & Restoration Services,
LLC—8
Rogers' Cideryard LLC—8
Mingo's Moving—4
Lisa Queeney-Vadney, CFP—4
Dygart Farms Creamery—3
Adobe Acrobat—2
Megabites Catering—2
Park Outdoor Advertising—1
Howard Hanna Realty—Cynthia Gifford—1
Fulton Street Liquor—1

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CHAMBER AWARDS—READ ABOUT THE WINNERS HERE!

Our Business Expo/Chamber Awards presentation is scheduled for **Thursday, April 3 at the Johnstown Moose Club**. The Expo will take place from 4-6pm and the Awards presentation will start at 6:00pm. Admission is FREE for all Chamber members and their employees and the public is also invited to attend! In this month's newsletter, and in the May issue, we will be publishing the stories about these amazing people and businesses. Please read them, and congratulate them in person on April 3 at the Expo/Awards Presentation!

Chamber Champions



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SUNY Fulton-Montgomery
Caroga Arts Collective | Montgomery County
Axis Strength Training

SPRING JOB FAIR AT SUNY FMCC

Sponsored by: SUNY FMCC, FMS Workforce Solutions Center, and the Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce

Register now to represent your business or organization and recruit new talent ready to enter the workforce!

Details:



**Wednesday,
April 23rd, 2025**



12-3 PM



SUNY FMCC GYM

There is no cost to register and complimentary lunch is provided!

Scan to Register:



or visit:

bit.ly/2025JobFairFMCC

Questions? Contact us at FMpartner@fmcc.edu

Meet and greet job seekers from the community and soon-to-be graduates from SUNY FMCC!



SPRING EVENTS FOR THE **FULTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

History Fair & Ice Cream Social on Friday, May 16th from 6-8pm!

Two of the historical society's popular annual events are joining forces! The Ice Cream Social kicks off the summer season and marks the official opening of the museum for the year. History Fair (typically held in October) is a chance for local museums, historians, re-enactors, authors, and community organizations to share all the great work they've been doing. Enjoy a scoop of ice cream and your choice of toppings, explore the museum, connect with friends and neighbors, and discover something new about Fulton County!

Rain or shine! Tickets are \$5 per person or 5 for \$20. Tickets are available pre-sale or at the door and can be purchased by mailing a check to the FCHS at 237 Kingsboro Ave. Gloversville, NY 12078 or emailing ssaladino@fultoncountyhistoricalociety.org. If you cannot attend, but would still like to support the museum, please consider making a donation.

Spring Cleaning Day on Saturday, May 3 from 9am to Noon

Stay as long as you like or join the group for the entire time, whatever you can do is greatly appreciated! There will be something for everyone, from outdoors work (trimming hedges, picking up litter, planting flowers) to indoor organizational and cleaning tasks. Everyone is welcome! The museum will provide water and some light refreshments for volunteers. Questions? Email ssaladino@fultoncountyhistoricalociety.org.



RCIL UNVEILS NEW WEBSITE

The Resource Center for Independent Living (RCIL) unveiled its newly redesigned website, RCIL.com. They have worked hard to create a more user-friendly, accessible and informative space

to better serve their community. The new site offers an intuitive layout, enhanced navigation, and a wealth of resources to help you find the information you need quickly and easily. Whether you are a consumer, caregiver, or community partner, RCIL hopes you find the new site engaging and informative. Please take a moment to check it out!.





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MOHAWK VALLEY BROWNFIELDS DEVELOPER SUMMIT RETURNS

Global Strategist and Senior Economic Advisor to Share Insights

Join the Mohawk Valley Economic Development District, Inc. (MVEDD) and its partner economic development agencies across Fulton, Herkimer, Montgomery, Oneida, Otsego, Schoharie, and Lewis Counties as they host a dynamic in-person opportunity to network, explore, and invest in brownfield rebirth. The 4th Annual Mohawk Valley Brownfields Developer Summit will be held April 29 – 30, 2025, at Herkimer College in Herkimer, New York.

This year's Summit will feature a keynote address from Spencer Levy, Global Client Strategist and Senior Economic Advisor at CBRE, who will provide expert insights into the evolving landscape of real estate investment and redevelopment. Spencer is a recipient of multiple industry awards, including a two-time winner of the CORE-NET Luminary Award for Excellence in Public Speaking, the CBRE Trammell Crow Master Builder Award, the CBRE Gary J. Beban Teamwork Award, the CBRE Capital Markets "MVP", and was named a State of Maryland Influencer in Real Estate and was recently given the Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Commercial Real Estate by the Daily Record.

"We are proud of the Summit and hope to see many new and returning faces," said Ron Peters, President & CEO, Fulton County Center for Regional Growth & MVEDD Director. "This event is making great progress on tackling brownfields. MVEDD is a strong advocate for brownfield remediation and is actively engaging communities in cleanups using US EPA funding."

Attendees will explore the many reasons why investing in the Mohawk Valley has never been better. Visit the Mohawk Valley Economic Development District, Inc. website to register for the event, check out our prioritized sites, and become a part of this year's Summit.



**New Look
New Company
Same Great Service!**





Colleen Ioele-DeCristofaro
Real Estate Salesperson
NYS Certified Appraiser
C: 518-281-4467
E: ColleenOpensDoors@gmail.com

NEWS FROM ST. MARY'S HEALTHCARE



ST. MARY'S HEALTHCARE IS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR CARONDELET COMMUNITY FUND GRANTS

Deadline to apply is April 25

St. Mary's Healthcare is accepting applications for grants from its Carondelet Community Fund, which provides modest awards to help local nonprofits advance new initiatives or strengthen existing programs.

Grants are reserved for nonprofit organizations in St. Mary's service area. Because these are microgrants, requests may not exceed \$10,000. The **deadline to apply is April 25**.

To apply: Organizations should submit a letter of application that includes the following:

- Brief description of the history and scope of the applicant's services.
- Brief statement of the problem or need addressed.
- Description of applicant's expertise in addressing the need.
- Geographic area and population served by the applicant.
- Brief narrative or summary of the project, including objectives and anticipated results.
- Financial statement including IRS 990 and proposed budget for the requested grant.
- Proposed program start and completion dates.

List of partners.

Letters should be no more than five pages, double-spaced. They should be submitted via mail to:

Carondelet Community Fund
% Margaret Brodie
Vice President of Mission Advancement and Patient Experience
St. Mary's Healthcare
427 Guy Park Ave.
Amsterdam, NY 12010

Or, via email to: brodiem@nysmha.org

The Carondelet Community Fund was established in 1996 to honor St. Mary's founders, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, by continuing their tradition of service to the "dear neighbor." The fund also reflects St. Mary's commitment to partnering with other community organization to improve the health and well-being of people throughout the Fulton-Montgomery region.

Requests will be evaluated by the Carondelet Community Fund Committee, and recommendations will be forwarded to the St. Mary's Healthcare Board of Trustees for review and approval. Decisions will be announced after May 31.

For questions or more information about the application process, contact Margaret Brodie at (518) 841-7135 or brodiem@nysmha.org.

NEW DIRECTOR OF PHARMACY AT ST. MARY'S HEALTHCARE

Joshua Baker has joined St. Mary's as director of pharmacy. He has more than 15 years of pharmacy experience, including in leadership positions at area hospitals.

Baker comes to St. Mary's from the Albany Med Health System, where he served as pharmacy supervisor of ambulatory, hazardous and regulatory services. Previously, he was the pharmacy operations manager at Ellis Medicine in Schenectady, pharmacy manager at Walgreens Pharmacy in Amsterdam, and pharmacy supervisor at Tower Pharmacy, also in Amsterdam.

"Josh is experienced in overseeing complex pharmacy operations in hospital, retail and specialty settings," said Trish Sanders, vice president of operations and chief operating officer at St. Mary's Healthcare. "His expertise will help enhance the patient experience throughout our organization, including the hospital and our St. Mary's Community Pharmacy in the Rao Outpatient Pavilion." Baker also has strong ties to the region. A graduate of Broadalbin-Perth High School, he earned his Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. He and his family live in Perth.

"At St. Mary's, I've joined an organization whose mission is to make sure high-quality care remains easily accessible in this rural community," Baker said. "It was an opportunity I simply couldn't pass up—especially since we serve the region I've long called home."



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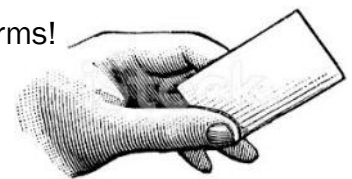
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or membership@fultonmontgomeryny.org

COLLEEN IOELE-DECRISTOFARO: 2025 AMBASSADOR OF THE YEAR

The Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce proudly recognizes Colleen Ioele-DeCristofaro as the 2025 Ambassador of the Year. Colleen's unwavering commitment to her community, her business acumen, and her dedication to the Chamber's mission have set her apart as a true leader and advocate for the region.



Born in Tully, NY, Colleen's family relocated frequently due to her father's job. She experienced several school transitions, which instilled in her a deep appreciation for stability and community. This experience influenced her decision to settle in Johnstown when her son started kindergarten, ensuring he had the hometown experience she longed for. Though she briefly left Johnstown in her twenties, she ultimately returned, recognizing the region's appeal and opportunities. Having lived in Fulton County for over 35 years, she still resides in Johnstown with her husband, Joe.

Colleen began her professional journey in real estate in 1991 while working as a marketing representative for a manufactured housing lender in Albany. In 1993, she transitioned into real estate appraisal, later founding her own company, CBI Appraisal Services, in 2000. A decade ago, she expanded her focus to full-time real estate sales while continuing appraisal work part-time. Her exceptional skills and dedication have consistently placed her in the top 10% of Realtors in the Capital District. She has earned numerous accolades, including Top Producer, Listing Leader, Sales Leader, and National Sales Excellence.

Most recently, Colleen joined Gateway Realty Solutions, an exciting transition that brings her full circle as she partners with her son, DJ. Her passion for real estate has always been family-centered, and working alongside DJ is a fulfilling milestone in her career.

Colleen's dedication to community service is evident in her extensive involvement in various organizations. She served three terms as President of the Greater Johnstown Lion's Club and chaired its annual golf tournament for eight years. She remains an active member, supporting its mission wholeheartedly. Additionally, she is involved with the ADK 100 Women Who Care Chapter, is a member of the Fulton County Planning Board, and on the Board of Directors for the St. Mary's Healthcare Foundation. She also serves on the Board of the Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Her commitment to the community extends to her role as a Host for *American Dream TV*, an Emmy-nominated national show. Through this platform, she highlights the lifestyle and opportunities of the Southern Adirondacks, promoting local businesses, events, and the dream of homeownership. On the show, she has highlighted our region with features on the Caroga Arts Collective and Sherman's, Arkell Hall and Canajoharie, Royal Mountain and Caroga Lake, and the City of Johnstown, to name a few.

Colleen has been a steadfast supporter of the Chamber since she founded CBI Appraisal Services. She has leveraged Chamber membership to grow her business and has

consistently encouraged other businesses to join. Former Chamber Membership Director Janet Davis praised Colleen's advocacy, stating that 90% of the referrals Colleen provided resulted in new members. Janet recalled that Colleen often volunteered to accompany her on sales calls, but her enthusiasm for the Chamber was so infectious that businesses were convinced to join before Janet even arrived.

As a member of the Chamber's Board of Directors, Colleen continues to be a driving force in promoting its mission. She firmly believes that Chamber membership provides invaluable networking opportunities and business growth potential. Her passion for the organization and her ability to convey its value make her an exceptional Ambassador.

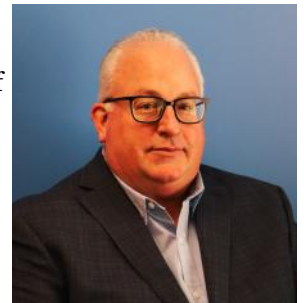
Colleen's dedication to her work, her community, and the Chamber remains steadfast. With over 30 years of experience, she continues to give her clients 100% while also contributing to the betterment of the Fulton Montgomery region. Whether through real estate, community service, or her role as an Ambassador, Colleen exemplifies the spirit of leadership and commitment.

Congratulations to Colleen Ioele-DeCristofaro, the 2025 Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce Ambassador of the Year! Her impact on the community and the Chamber is immeasurable, and her enthusiasm for growth and progress continues to inspire those around her.

GATEWAY REALTY SOLUTIONS |
www.gatewayrealtysolutions.com

DANNY J. WHEELER, PRESIDENT OF ELECTRO-METRICS: 2025 EXECUTIVE OF THE YEAR

The Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce is proud to recognize Danny J. Wheeler as the 2025 Executive of the Year. As the President of Electro-Metrics Corp., Danny has led the company through an extraordinary period of transformation, marked by innovation, growth, and a commitment to both his team and the broader community. Electro-Metrics Corporation has a rich history as a leading designer, producer and integrator of antennas, sensors and systems for broadband RF communications and testing since it was founded in 1963.



A seasoned executive with extensive leadership experience, Danny has played a pivotal role in shaping Electro-Metrics into an industry leader in broadband RF communications and precision machining. His strategic vision has driven significant advancements within the company, from implementing cutting-edge technology to fostering a culture of accountability and excellence among his employees.

Under his leadership, Electro-Metrics has:

- **Enhanced Operational Efficiency:** By integrating advanced technologies into the quoting process, Electro-Metrics has dramatically improved response times and customer service.

- **Invested in Workforce Development:** Danny spearheaded comprehensive internal training programs, equipping employees with the skills to master new machinery and significantly reducing production time-lines.
- **Expanded Market Reach:** Electro-Metrics has diversified its customer base, attracting new major clients like Siemens while maintaining strong partnerships with long-standing customers like General Electric.

Danny's journey to Electro-Metrics began with a unique opportunity—serving as a business advisor to company owner Thomas Remien during the firm's acquisition. His expertise in financial structuring and due diligence made him a natural choice for Chief Operating Officer in 2021, and he swiftly transitioned to President in December 2022.

His prior leadership roles include serving as Partner at FAZ Strategic Investors, CEO of ATSCO Products, and Director of Financial Analytics at Capital Communications FCU. A Cornell University graduate with a degree in Finance and Accounting from the University's Hotel School, Danny has leveraged his strong analytical skills and people-centric approach to drive business success in his career.

While Danny's leadership has been instrumental in Electro-Metrics' success, he is quick to credit his team. "By no means could I operate a machine or design an antenna, but I have built and inherited a team of experts who excel in their fields," he says. His ability to foster a collaborative and accountable culture has enabled Electro-Metrics to make remarkable strides.

Looking ahead, Danny envisions Electro-Metrics continuing its aggressive growth trajectory. Over the next 7–8 years, he anticipates the company will quadruple in size, expanding both organically and through acquisitions. With an annual growth target of 25%, he remains focused on scaling the company sustainably while embracing new technologies, including AI-driven enhancements in manufacturing processes.

Danny recognizes that a thriving business environment depends on a strong, skilled workforce. He is invested in addressing regional employment challenges by creating opportunities for future generations. As part of addressing these challenges, he acknowledges broader social challenges affecting workforce stability. "Happy and healthy people make great employees," he notes, emphasizing the need for business leaders to support initiatives that improve education, well-being, and economic stability.

His leadership at Electro-Metrics has not gone unnoticed. The company was recently recognized as the #5 fastest-growing business under \$25 million in the Capital Region in by the *Capital District Business Review*—an achievement that underscores the economic impact Danny and his team have made.

As we celebrate Danny's well-deserved recognition as the 2025 Executive of the Year, we recognize a leader whose passion for innovation, people, and progress continues to shape the future of Electro-Metrics and the broader regional business community.

ELECTRO-METRICS | www.electro-metrics.com

CHAD MAJEWSKI: 2025 ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR

Chad Majewski, a life-long resident of Amsterdam, has been honored as the Entrepreneur of the Year by the Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce for his outstanding contributions to the real estate industry and his commitment to our region. As Entrepreneur of the Year, he



embodies the entrepreneurial spirit by organizing, managing and assuming the risks of building his business and then persevering to see these efforts come to fruition. Born and raised in Amsterdam, Chad splits his time between his homes in the city and the Sacandaga Park on the Great Sacandaga Lake, a place he has cherished for over 25 years. His deep roots in the Mohawk Valley and Adirondack Park, combined with his dedication to public service, have made him a well-respected figure in the region.

Chad's professional journey has been exceptional. With a diverse background in sales and marketing, he has also held leadership roles in the City of Amsterdam as a former alderman and deputy mayor. Currently serving as the Legislator for District 6 in Montgomery County and Deputy Chairman of Montgomery County for 2025, Chad has built strong connections with businesses, charitable organizations, and community boards. His involvement in serving on the board of directors of organizations such as the St. Mary's Hospital Foundation and the Montgomery County SPCA underscore his unwavering commitment to our region and its people.

His transition into real estate was sparked by the pandemic. Having worked for Newell Brands, a Fortune 500 company, Chad was accustomed to traveling 40 weeks a year. When travel was restricted, he sought a new venture, enrolling in online real estate courses. Despite starting part-time, he achieved \$8 million in sales in his first year. After two years of working under a broker, and gaining the required experience in residential, commercial, and agricultural real estate, and all the requirements that go along with being in the industry, he pursued his broker's license, recognizing the opportunity to establish his own firm.

Chad founded his real estate firm at first from his home with a small team of three. Seeking a physical office outside of this home, he discovered an old gas station at Lyon Street and Forest Avenue in Amsterdam. With a vision and a \$100,000 investment in renovations, he transformed the space, opening in March 2023 and celebrating a memorable grand opening in October 2023. This move solidified the firm's presence in the community, leading to rapid growth. By 2024, he expanded into Fulton County, leasing space in Gloversville and opening this second location in August of last year. With phenomenal support from the community, he is now looking at the possibility of a third office.

Chad Majewski Real Estate has quickly become a decorated brokerage, receiving accolades such as Best of the Best from the *Times Union* and *Daily Gazette*, as well as Best Real Estate Broker in Fulton and Montgomery Counties from the *Leader Herald* and *Recorder*. He remains on the cutting edge of the industry, adapting his own marketing strategies to maintain a strong presence.

Beyond real estate, Chad is deeply involved in community initiatives, sponsoring events such as the Amsterdam Halloween Parade and Santa Con. His philosophy is simple: give back to the community that has embraced him. His home on Guy Park Avenue, a meticulously renovated project, has been featured in the St. Mary's Foundation Holiday Homes event. It serves as a hub for friends, family, and colleagues, reflecting his love for hospitality and bringing people together.

A passionate mentor, Chad has grown his team to 12 agents, prioritizing training and mentorship. He seeks individuals new to the industry, ensuring they develop strong foundations free of bad habits. New agents shadow him on appointments, listings, and showings, gaining valuable hands-on experience. His team thrives on collaboration, sharing leads, and supporting one another. Incentives such as cruises and quarterly rewards motivate agents, fostering a positive and high-achieving work environment.

Despite his many achievements, Chad remains humble and was genuinely overwhelmed upon receiving the Entrepreneur of the Year award. His philosophy is treating every client with equal care, whether they are purchasing a \$100,000 home or a \$1 million estate. In 2024, he joined an exclusive group, ranking among the top 50 realtors in the Capital District out of 3,219 realtors in the area.

Chad firmly believes his career in real estate was destined, shaped by his past experiences and global travels. As he continues to grow his business and give back to the community, he remains grateful for the opportunities that have led him to this moment. His success is a testament to perseverance, vision, and a deep love for his hometown and our region.

CHAD MAJEWSKI REAL ESTATE |
www.chadmajewski.com

MEGAN ANAGNOSTOPULOS, General Manager, Amsterdam Mohawks: 2025 YOUNG PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

The Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce



proudly recognizes Megan Anagnostopulos as the Young Professional of the Year, an honor bestowed upon a Chamber member under 40 whose dedication, enthusiasm, and positive energy have significantly contributed to the betterment of the region. Megan's journey is a testament to hard work, perseverance, and a deep-rooted passion for sports and community engagement.

Born and raised in Johnstown, Megan graduated from Johnstown High School before pursuing her dreams in sports management. She earned her bachelor's degree in Sports Management from SUNY Brockport in 2019, with minors in

Business Administration and Coaching. She then continued her education at Old Dominion University, where she obtained her master's degree in Sports Management in 2021.

During her time at Old Dominion, Megan served as Coordinator of Marketing and Events for the U.S. Collegiate Athletic Association (USCAA) through a graduate assistantship. She also gained hands-on experience as a baseball/tournament intern at The Ripken Experience in Myrtle Beach, SC, further honing her skills in sports operations and marketing.

After attaining her master's degree, Megan worked as an Account Executive in Ticket Sales and Operations for the Albany FireWolves, a professional box lacrosse team, during the 2021-2022 seasons. However, her most remarkable career journey has been with the Amsterdam Mohawks, our region's premier summer collegiate baseball team.

Starting as an intern in 2018, Megan's exceptional work earned her a spot on the Intern Honor Roll for that summer. She quickly moved up the ranks, becoming Director of Group Sales (2019-2021) before taking on a full-time role as Assistant General Manager in 2022. In 2024, her dedication and leadership propelled her to the role of General Manager.

The Amsterdam Mohawks are a nationally recognized baseball powerhouse, boasting 10 league titles, 14 division titles (including consecutive wins from 2022-2024), and well over 200 former players who have signed professional baseball contracts. In 2022, Perfect Game USA named them the Summer Collegiate Team of the Year.

Brian Spagnola, President of the Amsterdam Mohawks and the nominator for this award, praised Megan's contributions, saying, "*Megan is a superstar and has helped lift the Mohawks to new heights. A tireless worker, she has built great relationships with most businesses in the region.*"

Megan's greatest reward as General Manager comes from engaging with the community. She takes immense pride in initiatives such as:

- Mohawks' Kids Camps, offering free youth baseball camps in Montgomery County for children who might not otherwise have access to the sport.
- The Miracle Game, an event she helped create two years ago, in partnership with Liberty ARC, to give individuals with disabilities the opportunity to experience the thrill of being in a starting lineup, walking a red carpet, and enjoying a full-fledged game-day experience. She is also proud of how the event means so much to her college-aged players. The event also holds personal significance for Megan, as her best friend Kendra has a sister with developmental disabilities. Securing a grant to support a baseball camp for individuals with disabilities, allowing players and coaches to engage in a rewarding experience that extends beyond the sport itself.

While Megan has achieved significant success, she acknowledges the challenges she has faced along the way. As a self-proclaimed people pleaser, she strives to make everything run smoothly, but she has learned that setbacks and unexpected hurdles are part of the game. Whether it's weather-related disruptions or professional obstacles, she has developed resilience, learning to adapt, problem-solve, and keep a positive mindset.

For young professionals aspiring to break into the sports industry, Megan emphasizes the importance of early experience. She encourages students to seek internships, gain exposure, and explore different career avenues within the field. Recognizing the importance of early engagement, she actively recruits high school interns for the Mohawks, providing them with a glimpse into the world of sports management.

Despite her busy schedule, Megan remains deeply committed to her community. She is the head coach of the Johnstown Lady Bills varsity basketball team and the newest member of the Amsterdam Rotary Club, further cementing her role as a community leader. She is truly a leader on and off the field.

Megan credits much of her success to the mentors and role models who have guided her along the way, including:

- Her professors at SUNY Brockport, who provided her with invaluable knowledge and career direction.
- A General Manager at The Ripken Experience, who encouraged her to pursue her master's degree in Sports Management at Old Dominion University.
- BJ Burgess, a fellow sports executive who showed her that women can excel in leadership roles in a male-dominated industry.

Brian Spagnola, for giving her the opportunity to grow within the Amsterdam Mohawks organization.

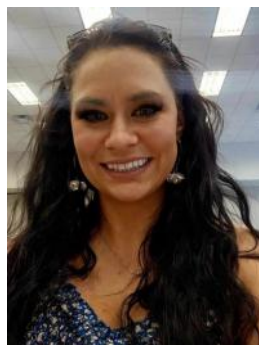
Above all, Megan is eternally grateful for the support of her family, her parents who taught her a strong work ethic, her brother and sister-in-law who are her loudest cheerleaders and fiancé, Kevin, who supports her with every new adventure she takes on: *"I wouldn't be who I am without all of you."*

Megan Anagnostopoulos embodies the spirit of leadership, perseverance, and community engagement. Her journey—from a small-town athlete to a highly respected General Manager and Young Professional of the Year—is an inspiration to young professionals everywhere. As she continues to push boundaries and elevate the Mohawks to new heights, there is no doubt that her impact on the sports industry and the Fulton Montgomery region will be felt for years to come.

AMSTERDAM MOHAWKS | amsterdammohawks.com

ASHLEY CAPOBIANCO: 2025 HERBERT T. SINGER COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

The Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce proudly recognizes Ashley Capobianco, Human Resources Generalist at Townsend Leather, as the recipient of the prestigious Herbert T. Singer Community Service Award. This honor is bestowed upon individuals who demonstrate selfless dedication to enhancing the quality of life in their community, and Ashley embodies this spirit wholeheartedly.



With over three years at Townsend Leather, Ashley has played a pivotal role in workforce development, business education, and community engage-

ment. Her diverse professional background, spanning roles as a branch manager and assistant manager at Trustco Bank, a shop steward and trainer at Beech-Nut for five years, and eight years in retail management, has shaped her into a leader dedicated to people and progress.

Born at St. Mary's Hospital in Amsterdam and raised in Canajoharie, Ashley is a proud graduate of Canajoharie High School (Class of 2009). She furthered her education at Sage Albany, focusing on general arts with a concentration in cartooning and illustration. Her deep roots in the region have fueled her passion for giving back to the community that shaped her.

Ashley actively serves on the FMS Workforce Development Board of Directors and the Chamber Board of Directors. She is also heavily involved with the Chamber's Business Education Partnership, where she participates in Workplace Wednesdays at PTECH, as well as a long standing PTECH mentor for the monthly Professional 101 seminars. "This partnership with PTECH and Townsend Leather is so important for us," Ashley emphasizes. "We get to talk about Townsend Leather to students in their own community and show them firsthand how we create our beautiful, colorful leathers. It also allows us to highlight the variety of career opportunities available at Townsend, which employs approximately 150 people in Johnstown." Ashley's impact on the Chamber's Business Education Partnership is so important that she was the 2023 HFM PTECH Completion Keynote Speaker.

As a Chamber Board member, Ashley values the firsthand experience of witnessing the Chamber's impact on businesses. "The Chamber truly advocates for and supports businesses in numerous ways. Being part of the board allows me to help welcome new businesses to our area and spread awareness about Townsend Leather in the community," she says. Ashley represents the Chamber's Board of Directors and its mission in so many ways, and attends almost every event and program – from ribbon cuttings, to networking events, seminars and more.

Beyond her professional and Chamber commitments, Ashley and her husband operate a craft business, attending fairs and festivals across the region and beyond. This venture allows her to connect with people, share insights about the region's vibrant offerings, and promote Townsend Leather.

Ashley's commitment to selflessness extends to her workplace as well. She was one of Townsend Leather's top three nominees for the esteemed Barbara Kucel Selflessness Award, which honors employees demonstrating compassion, dependability, teamwork, acts of kindness, and positive influence. Ashley exemplifies all these traits not only at Townsend but throughout her community roles, making her truly deserving of this recognition.

Her passion for service, advocacy for regional businesses, and dedication to workforce development make Ashley Capobianco a beacon of community spirit. The Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce is honored to celebrate her contributions with the Herbert T. Singer Community Service Award, recognizing her invaluable efforts in making the region a better place for all.

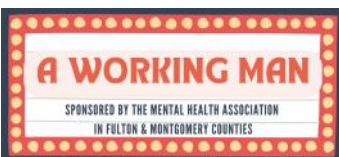
TOWNSEND LEATHER | townsendleather.com

SCHINE MEMORIAL HALL CELEBRATES ITS RENOVATIONS WITH AN OPEN HOUSE IN MAY

Schine Memorial Hall LLC will be celebrating the completed renovations of the third floor of the historic Schine Building, located at 26-40 North Main Street in downtown Gloversville. There will be an Open House to celebrate the renovations on Friday, May 2nd, beginning at 3pm with a ribbon cutting and champagne toast following at 4pm. Anyone interested in joining the festivities should RSVP to the Chamber at (518) 725-0641 or email fultonmontgomeryny@gmail.com Deadline for RSVPs is Friday, April 25.

This project was funded by Schine Memorial Hall partners and a New York State Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) awarded to Memorial Hall Cultural & Arts Center Inc. This nonprofit will occupy the newly renovated spaces. Plans are being formed to house a museum exhibiting local history, culture, industry, and the arts. In addition, an artist's cooperative workplace has been created and available to rent and for classes. The former Schine Enterprises screening room had previously been renovated by Schine partners and will be available for presentations and performances. The mission of Memorial Hall Cultural & Arts Center Inc. is to celebrate and inspire creativity by fostering cultural enrichment through education, exhibitions, performances, classes, and events. For more information on the Memorial Hall Cultural & Arts Center visit <https://schineongloversville.com/cultural-%26-arts-center>

MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION IN FULTON AND MONTGOMERY COUNTIES SPONSORS FREE SHOWING OF "A WORKING MAN"



The Mental Health Association is sponsoring a free screening of the film, "A Working Man" on Tuesday, April 22 at 7:00pm at the Johnstown Movieplex. The

film delves into the world of human trafficking and is intended for an adult audience. Complementary popcorn and beverage will also be served. Please RSVP to Melissa Geier at the Mental Health Association at (518) 762-5332, ext. 108 or email her at mgeier@mhafm.org.

KWIAT EYE CARE NOW AMSTERDAM EYE CARE

The former Kwiat Eye Care has been rebranded as Amsterdam Eye Care. Amsterdam Eye Care provides comprehensive eye exams, cataract care, retina care, glaucoma care with surgeons David Kwiat, MD; James T. Murphy III, MD; and Michael Collins, OD; Heather Monge, OD, and Kelly Siahpoosha, OD. For more information visit their website at amsterdameyecare.com



SOROPTIMIST SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

Soroptimist International of Fulton and Montgomery Counties is now accepting applications for their scholarship program, awarding at least \$1,000 for each scholarship this year. In the past 10 years, Soroptimist has provided over \$50,000 in scholarships to deserving high school seniors and other women looking to advance their education.

- Do you know a female high school student in her senior year who is enrolled in a Fulton or Montgomery County school?
- Are they continuing their education at a two-year or four-year college or university in the fall?
- Are they looking for financial assistance through scholarships awards?

Please email Sarah at seh1589@yahoo.com for an application, stop into any Fulton or Montgomery Counties High School guidance counselor's office, or visit the Soroptimist International of Fulton and Montgomery Counties' [Face-book page](#). Applications are due May 1.



Working together to build your business.

- Graphic Design
- Business Printing
- Catalog Creation
- Annual Reports
- Menu Creation
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- Brochures
- Business Cards
- Letterhead
- Envelopes
- Multiple Part Forms
- Signage
- Promotional Products
- Banners
- Etc....



518.842.0218 • ricmarsolutions@gmail.com

30 S. Main Street • Gloversville NY 12078

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Find us on

FULTON MONTGOMERY REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESENTS:

BUSINESS EXPO & ANNUAL AWARDS CELEBRATION

Thursday, April 3rd, 2025

4:00-7:00p

Johnstown Moose 1185
109 S Comrie Ave, Johnstown, NY 12095

Business Expo from 4:00-6:00

- Network with other Chamber members
- Forge meaningful partnerships that spark collaborations
- Build a network that will fuel your business endeavors for years to come.

Annual Awards presentation at 6:00

Enjoy light refreshments while we celebrate the winners of the following categories:

- Tourism
- Small Business
- Family
- Entrepreneurial
- Centennial
- Agricultural
- Young Professional
- Industry of the Year
- Ambassador of the Year
- Herbert T. Singer Community Service
- Executive of the Year

Vendor Table Fee: SOLD OUT!

Chamber Members and Guests
FREE to attend!

For details, sponsorship opportunities, and to register:

Please call the Chamber at (518) 725-0641 or email fultonmontgomeryny@gmail.com

ATTENTION BUSINESSES IN THE CITY OF GLOVERSVILLE

The [Gloversville Economic](#)

[Development Corporation](#) has loans

available for businesses located in the City at comfortable and competitive rates for a variety of needs and purposes! Interested businesses should call the Chamber or email anneb@fultonmontgomeryny.org

WAYS TO HELP CLEAN UP OUR REGION FOR EARTH DAY THIS MONTH

KEEP
MOHAWK
VALLEY
BEAUTIFUL



JOIN US FOR EARTH WEEK
KICKOFF EVENT AND
HELP US CLEAN OUR
PIECE OF THE PLANET!

WHEN: April 10th, 2025 @ 9:30am

WHERE: Allen House
@SUNY Fulton Montgomery
2805 State Hwy 67
Johnstown, NY



Hear local leaders speak about
the **impact of litter**, grab
some **free litter cleanup**
supplies, and roll up your
sleeves with us to **pick up**
litter around campus!



If you have any questions,
email info@mvedd.org

CITY OF GLOVERSVILLE: Wednesday, April 16 from 9:30am-11:30am. Interested people should meet at Gloversville City Hall (Frontage Road) at 9:30AM where they will hand out bags and gloves and do a group picture. The groups will then spread out to clean up downtown, nearby city parks, Rail Trail and more.

CITY OF AMSTERDAM: The City of Amsterdam's Earth Day Cleanup is sponsored by Montgomery County Legislator Robert Purtell and Century21 Purtell Realty. Celebrate Earth Day on Saturday, April 19 from 8:30am to 1pm and help clean up the City of Amsterdam. Bring your friends and family to help. Breakfast, lunch and drinks will be provided. Meet at Veterans Park, 25 Taft Place and Hashtag [#TRASHTAG](#) on social media and share your photos of the day.

TOURISMA NEWS & UPDATES

MONTGOMERY COUNTY TOURISM NEWS

State of the County Address with Montgomery County Executive Pete Vroman

Join us at The Allen House on the SUNY Fulton Montgomery campus on Thursday, April 17 at 9am to hear the State of Montgomery County address with County Executive Pete Vroman. RSVP to Morgan McClary at mmcclary@county.montgomery.ny.us



Take a Bite of Montgomery County

Are you a Montgomery County restaurant, coffee shop or bakery? You should participate in our county-wide restaurant week April 28 through May 4. It's simple. Fill out this form <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TakeaBiteofMontgomery2025> by April 14.

Establishments are encouraged to create unique "Take a Bite of Montgomery" specials and select a price point of \$15 or \$25. We also strongly encourage participating businesses to provide menu information ASAP to maximize exposure of your establishment.

250 Years of Freedom: Liberty Day & Pole Raising May 17 at 10AM at Saint Kateri National Shrine and Historic Site



Join us as we commemorate the start of America's 250th anniversary with the Liberty Pole Raising! Experience history come to life with Revolutionary War reenactments, exhibits, music presentations, and local vendors. Witness the symbolic raising of the Liberty Pole, a powerful tribute to our nation's fight for independence. Don't miss this exciting celebration of our history and heritage!

SPRING IS RETURNING TO FULTON COUNTY!

While things are warming up and spring is starting to bloom, here are a few April events from our www.44lakes.com calendar:

Friday, April 4:

7 pm - 518 Concert Series: Against the Grayne, Glove Theatre, Gloversville

Saturday, April 5:

7 pm - The 518 Concert Series Presents: The Refrigerators, Glove Theatre, Gloversville

Sunday, April 6:

2 pm - The Glove Education Series Presents: Bluebirds - and More! Glove Theatre, Gloversville

Thursday, April 10:

6 pm - "Music by Murder" a Murder Mystery Dinner at Historic Hotel Broadalbin, check availability at www.historicbroadalbinhotel.com/shop

6:30 pm - SVAN Presents: Big Fez and the Surfmatrics Dance Night at Sport Island Pub, Northville

Friday, April 11:

7 pm - Mamma Mania! - NYC's Ultimate ABBA Tribute, Glove Theatre, Gloversville

Saturday, April 12:

9 am - 2nd Annual Spring Open House & Vintage 3 Wheeler/ATV Show at Outdoor Motor Sports & Trailer Sales, 3953 NY-30, Amsterdam, NY

7 pm - 518 Concert Series: Legacy Music Group, Glove Theatre, Gloversville

Sunday, April 13:

10:00-11:30 am - Easter Family Fun Day at Paul Nigra Center (\$10 per child | free for babies under age 2)

Wednesday, April 16:

6 pm - The Harlem Wizards at SUNY FMCC -The doors open at 6 pm, game starts at 7 pm

Monday, April 21:

6:30 pm - Mayfield Historical Society Presents "Fashion in the Age of the Suffragists," at the Mayfield Presbyterian Church, 22 N. Main Street

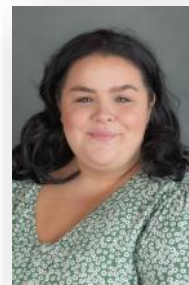
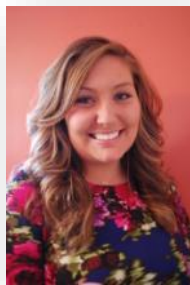
Saturday, April 26:

10 am to 4 pm - 11th annual Gloversville Youth Fishing Derby at Wohlfarth's Pond. This event is open to children of Gloversville 15 and under. Complete rules at www.44lakes.com

7 pm - The Best of the 70s with DizzyFish, Glove Theatre, Gloversville

Easter Bunny visits, music events, dinner and drink specials and much more happening all across Fulton County this month. Follow us on Facebook at Visit Fulton County, NY and go to www.44lakes.com for complete details!

Nicole Walrath VanAlstyne,
Director of Workforce Development
nicolew@fultonmontgomeryny.org



Natalie May,
Business & Education Partnership Coord.
nataliem@fultonmontgomeryny.org

2025 NYATEP YOUTH PRACTITIONERS CONFERENCE

On Tuesday, March 11, the Chamber's Director of Workforce Development, Nicole Walrath-VanAlstyne and HFM Career & Technical Education Principal Michael DiMezza presented at the NYATEP (NY Assn. of Training and Employment Professionals) Youth Practitioners Conference in Saratoga.



Their workshop, Building Your Career: The Power of Awareness, Conversations and Connections highlighted the collaborative efforts of the Fulton Montgomery Chamber and Career & Technical Education in fostering regional economic growth and workforce development through career exploration.

Nicole and Mike spoke about the series of impactful events including Career Con, Healthcare Conversations and Women in the Workforce (non-traditional roles)—designed to provide students in the HFM BOCES region with meaningful opportunities to explore potential careers. They also spoke to how partnerships between schools, businesses and community organizations play a vital role in shaping student's futures by offering them the tools and guidance needed to make informed career decisions.

WOMEN IN THE WORKFORCE EVENT AT HFM BOCES

On Wednesday, March 12, the Fulton Montgomery Chamber alongside HFM Career & Technical Education hosted an incredible event aimed at empowering 200 high school female students in the HFM region by connecting them with inspiring women in non-traditional roles. The industry professionals in attendance represented a variety of non-traditional careers, including auto body repair, auto technology, construction technology, criminal



justice, environmental conservation, robotics and engineering, skilled trades and more. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, non-traditional careers for women are defined as those with a female employment rate of 25% or less.

It was an amazing opportunity for our participants to gain valuable insights and advice from industry leaders who are breaking barriers in their careers. A huge thank you to our 50 fantastic industry partners for their unwavering support in making this event a success and for being a vital part of our Career Support Series. Together, we're helping to create a more inclusive and diverse workforce! (Photos for this story courtesy of the HFM BOCES Communications Staff)



2025 EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS SURVEY

The Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce is dedicated to fostering strong connections between local school districts in Hamilton, Fulton, and Montgomery counties and the evolving needs of today's workforce. Through our Business Education Partnership, we are committed to closing the gap between education and career opportunities, ensuring students are prepared for success in their future careers. We sincerely appreciate your invaluable feedback, which plays a crucial role in shaping our ongoing efforts.

To access the survey, please visit <https://forms.gle/ptmkkFVm5qo2mPUTA>. If you have any questions, please contact Nicole Walrath-VanAlstyne at nicolew@fultonmontgomeryny.org or nwalrath@hfmbores.org.

LAKEVIEW ORCHARD: 2025 AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

Lakeview Orchard in Mayfield stands as a testament to dedication, resilience, and the power of family. Recognized as the 2025 Agricultural Business of the Year by the Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce, the orchard has flourished under the new ownership of Joe and Kim Amell, alongside brother Wallace Amell and his wife, Maureen Dignon. Their journey began three years ago when they purchased the orchard with one vision: to preserve its legacy and keep it from falling into the hands of developers.



The orchard had long been a beloved fixture in the community, first under Ron and Lynn Kelly and later under Albert Adamkoski, Jr. When Albert died tragically, his widow considered selling everything and returning to Texas. Seeing an opportunity to continue Albert's legacy, Joe Amell and his family stepped in to save the orchard, despite having no prior experience in orchard farming.

Lakeview Orchard is more than just an apple orchard. It is a thriving family-owned business offering a variety of fresh produce, baked goods, and farm experiences. The orchard is home to an on-site bakery and store, a self-service farmstand on Route 30, and a nature trail. Seasonally, visitors can indulge in the orchard's famous cider donuts, pies, pastries, honey, and maple syrup at the bakery and store. They can also enjoy freshly harvested apples, cider, pumpkins, mums, and more.

Despite the challenges of running a farm, the Amells have poured their hearts into revitalizing the orchard. They have expanded the gardens, and introduced new crops like sweet corn. With help from Cornell Cooperative Extension and fellow farmers like the Rogers family in Johnstown, they have learned the art of orchard management, including proper spraying techniques to maintain healthy trees.

The road to sustaining and improving Lakeview Orchard has not been without hurdles. The Amells had to meet stringent regulations, including drilling a new well, installing a new septic system, and making renovations to meet state health requirements. A new kitchen was built to support Kim's passion for baking, allowing her to craft pies with fresh, homegrown ingredients and her grandmother's cherished pie crust recipe.

Winter operations presented another challenge. Initially, they attempted to keep the store open through the colder months but found the costs of heating and operations unsustainable. As a result, the farmstand and bakery and store now close after Thanksgiving, reopening in mid-June.

Looking ahead, the Amells are eager to continue expanding Lakeview Orchard. Wallace, now retired from his

full-time job, will this year be able to spend more time at the orchard and expand on his love of gardening that will also expand the offerings at Lakeview. Plans include adding peach trees, starting a blueberry patch, increasing sweet corn production, and expanding the gardens. They also hope to construct a high tunnel greenhouse, which would extend the growing season and allow for a more diverse range of crops.

The community has been overwhelmingly supportive of their efforts. Many locals express gratitude that the orchard remains a thriving, family-friendly destination rather than being lost to development. Families come for apple picking, fresh produce, and, of course, their legendary cider donuts and pies.

Lakeview Orchard's success is not measured solely in financial terms but in the joy it brings to the community and the preservation of a cherished legacy. For the Amells, it's a labor of love—one that honors the past while cultivating a bright future for generations to come.

LAKEVIEW ORCHARD | [Facebook](#)

ST. ANDREWS HEATING & COOLING: FAMILY AWARD WINNERS OF 2025

The Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce is proud to honor St. Andrews Heating & Cooling with the 2025 Family Award, recognizing their dedication to the community, exceptional service, and strong family values. St. Andrews Heating & Cooling was established in 2018, but its roots go back much further. Founder Len St. Andrews, a former machinist mate in the U.S. Navy, gained invaluable experience working on massive naval boilers.



After leaving the military in 2001, Len pursued a career in heating and cooling, where he met his wife, Sarah, in 2007. Their journey took them

through various companies, learning the intricacies of the industry and preparing them to launch their own business.

In September 2018, St. Andrews Heating & Cooling was born. What started as Sarah working from their kitchen table with a laptop and Len operating out of their garage soon grew beyond their expectations. They quickly outgrew their humble beginnings, moving into a larger space to better serve their customers. Today, St. Andrews Heating & Cooling offers a full range of HVAC services, including installations, repairs, and maintenance for residential, commercial, and industrial clients.

Family is at the heart of St. Andrews Heating & Cooling. Len and Sarah, married since 2012, have built a business where family members play a vital role. Their son, Duke, worked alongside Len from a young age, riding along on service calls and learning the trade firsthand. Currently serving in the military at Eglin Air Base in Destin, FL, Duke specializes in fuel maintenance, with plans to return to the family business once his service is complete.

The company's Operations Manager, Josh Fancher, is their nephew, bringing valuable management experience and a fresh perspective to the business. Len's sister, Krista Vailey, joined as a sales representative, leveraging her background in retail and sales. Len's father, affectionately known as "Grampy" to all employees, contributes by sorting parts, mowing lawns, and scrapping materials. Over the years, nieces and nephews have interned during the summer, gaining firsthand experience in the industry. St. Andrews Heating & Cooling treats all employees like family, fostering a positive and supportive work environment. "When we brought family into the business, we all shared the same goal—to serve the community and ensure our success," says Sarah. "That family spirit extends to every employee, making it a joy to come to work every day."

St. Andrews Heating & Cooling is deeply invested in the local community. They provide discounts for seniors, military members, first responders, and nurses, recognizing the sacrifices these individuals and their families make. They have also supported local sports programs, sponsoring Johnstown Little League, Johnstown Lacrosse, and Fonda Fultonville Little League teams.

When Johnstown High School's athletic program was at risk due to budget constraints, St. Andrews stepped up to help with fundraising efforts, reinforcing their belief in supporting local initiatives. Their partnership with Community Bank in Johnstown offers low-interest home improvement loans, making HVAC upgrades more accessible to homeowners.

Education is another pillar of their community engagement. St. Andrews partners with Howard Hanna Real Estate to educate agents on HVAC systems, helping them understand how heating and cooling affect property values. These sessions empower realtors while also leading to valuable referrals.

St. Andrews Heating & Cooling has built a reputation for honest and upfront service. They continue to emphasize personal connections with their customers, still hand-writing thank-you notes for every new installation. Their commitment to treating customers like family is reflected in glowing reviews:

Laurie D. shares, "Saint Andrews just installed my new furnace this morning. They were prompt, professional, and knowledgeable. Friendly and polite. I have told many friends about their A+ service."

Paul S. echoes similar sentiments: "This is a fantastic company—honest, reliable, and professional. They arrived on time for the estimate and the job. Everyone was courteous and friendly. Pricing was fair, and the work was done quickly and efficiently. I highly recommend St. Andrews!"

As St. Andrews Heating & Cooling continues to grow, they remain steadfast in their commitment to family, community, and quality service. With the next generation preparing to step into leadership roles, they look forward to continuing their mission of providing top-tier HVAC services while maintaining their strong family values.

The Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce congratulates St. Andrews Heating & Cooling on being the well-deserved recipient of the 2025 Family Award. Their dedication to their customers, their employees, and their community sets a shining example of what a family business can achieve.

ST. ANDREWS HEATING & COOLING |
www.standrewshvac.com

IDEAL K9 TRAINING AND IDEAL PEST MANAGEMENT: SMALL BUSINESSES OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce is proud to recognize two outstanding local businesses for their dedication to excellence, community service, and customer satisfaction. Ideal K9 Training and Ideal Pest Management, led by Nikki Liccardi and Corey Powell, respectively, have been awarded the Small Business of the Year Award for their commitment to providing premium services while fostering meaningful relationships within the community.

Ideal K9 Training

Ideal K9 Training LLC was founded in May 2023 by Nikki Liccardi, a professional dog trainer with over 20 years of experience in the industry. Prior to launching her own business, Nikki worked for various pet stores and franchises, refining her skills and developing her unique, hands-on approach to training. With the support of her partner, Corey Powell, she turned her passion into a thriving business dedicated to helping dog owners build stronger bonds with their furry companions.

Ideal K9 Training specializes in positive reinforcement techniques tailored to each dog's individual needs. The business offers a range of services, including behavioral correction, obedience training, and boarding programs that span two to four weeks, depending on the severity of the dog's behaviors. Many of Nikki's clients turn to her as a last resort, and she takes great pride in providing customized, compassionate care. Her dedication doesn't stop once the training ends—Ideal K9 remains available to clients, ensuring they continue to see progress and improvement in their pets.

Ideal K9 Training's reputation for excellence was recently recognized when it won the Best of the Capital Region – Training Award from Saratoga Magazine in 2024 and received a nomination for America's Best by Showmark. These accolades underscore Nikki's commitment to quality and her ability to transform even the most challenging canine behaviors.

Ideal Pest Management

Corey Powell, owner of Ideal Pest Management LLC, grew up in Montgomery County, where he was inspired by his father's dedication to quality craftsmanship through his construction business. Carrying forward the Ideal legacy, Corey ventured into pest control with the mission of providing affordable, high-quality services to the community.

Ideal Pest Management distinguishes itself by using all-organic, eco-friendly products made with essential oils and natural ingredients—ensuring safety for families, pets, and the environment. Corey's approach is rooted in transparency; customers are educated about the products used and the treatment plans implemented. Having previously developed products and services for a large pest control company, Corey saw an opportunity to create a business that prioritizes honesty, safety, and customer satisfaction.

In just a year, Ideal Pest Management has earned impressive recognition, including the People's Choice



From left: Corey Powell, Nikki Liccardi and Corey's Dad Dave Winnie

Awards and nominations from the National Pest Management Association and the New York Pest Management Association. These accolades reflect Corey's dedication to offering top-tier service while maintaining strong community ties.

Both Nikki and Corey strongly believe in the power of collaboration. Ideal Pest Management partners with Advanced Cleaning & Restoration Services to provide a holistic solution for homes affected by severe infestations, such as bed bugs and roaches. Through partnerships with Putnam Pest Control in Oneonta, Corey is working to expand services into Oneida and Delaware counties.

Meanwhile, Ideal K9 Training works closely with other trainers and businesses to enhance services and provide networking opportunities. Their commitment to community involvement is evident in their sponsorship of various local initiatives, including for local organizations and groups like Johnstown Cheerleading, race car sponsorships at Fonda Speedway, and the Convoy for a Cause event at the Fonda Fair.

Giving back is a fundamental part of both businesses. They actively participate in local fundraisers, including Pastels for Pets and Pins for Pets, and support youth programs to make a lasting difference in the community.

For Nikki and Corey, the past few years have been a whirlwind of growth and success, but they wouldn't have it any other way. Their passion for helping others—whether through dog training or pest management—fuels their commitment to excellence and customer satisfaction.

IDEAL K9 TRAINING | idealk9trainingllc.com
IDEAL PEST MANAGEMENT | idealpests.com

BOWMAN'S MARKET: CENTENNIAL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR AWARD

For 100 years, Bowman's Market has been a staple in the Gloversville community and our region, offering high-quality meats, store-made salads, fresh frozen seafood, and personalized service. Located on Pine Street since its inception, the market has built a reputation for excellence that has been passed down through generations.

Bowman's Market began in 1925 under the ownership of the Bowman family. In 1950, Jim Franco purchased the market from Steve Bowman,

ushering in a new era of dedication and family commitment that continues today. Jim's son, John Franco, started working at the store at the age of 14 in 1964, never leaving its service. His dedication led him to purchase the market from his parents in the late 1990s, continuing the family tradition of quality and customer care.

The Franco family's commitment to Bowman's Market extends beyond just ownership. John Franco's mother, Lucy, kept the books for the business until she was 90 years old, and Jim Franco remained involved long after selling the store. The family presence continues with Ed Franco, John's son, who became a partner in 2008 after working there since childhood. Today, Ed runs the busi-



ness alongside his aunts, Annie and Nancy, preserving the store's traditional ways while adapting to the evolving needs of its loyal customers.

Despite the rise of digital technology, Bowman's Market has maintained its old-fashioned approach to business. There is no website, no social media presence and they pride themselves on the 90-year-old cash register still in operation. The market has reduced its hours since the pandemic but remains steadfast in its commitment to quality and service. While they reluctantly introduced a credit card machine, they continue to rely on word-of-mouth marketing and personalized customer service.

Ed Franco expresses deep gratitude for the market's generational customers, many of whom have been shopping at Bowman's Market for decades. He prides himself on providing products customers need, even going out of his way to source hard-to-find items. The market's free delivery service in Johnstown and Gloversville remains a testament to its commitment to convenience and personal care.

Ed particularly enjoys welcoming new customers, especially young people who are amazed to see meat cut and prepared in front of them—a stark contrast to the pre-packaged meat found in supermarkets. This hands-on approach reinforces the value of traditional butchery and the importance of knowing where food comes from.

Like many businesses, Bowman's Market faced difficulties during the pandemic but survived thanks to loyal customers and dedicated staff. Ed acknowledges the hard work and resilience of the community, expressing immense appreciation for those who continued to support the store through uncertain times.

As Bowman's Market celebrates a century of service, Ed Franco remains committed to the principles that have sustained the business: quality products, excellent customer service, and a dedication to community. When asked about advice for aspiring entrepreneurs, he emphasizes perseverance: "Stick with it and never stop working at it. It will never go away even if you do."

With a rich history and a bright future, Bowman's Market stands as a testament to the power of family, tradition, and unwavering dedication to excellence. It remains a proud symbol of small business success and the backbone of the local economy.



HONORABLE MENTION TO THESE OTHER BUSINESSES THAT ARE ALSO 100+ YEARS OLD

BOWMAN'S MARKET, 50 E. Pine Street, Gloversville
Dunham's Spring Shop | [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/dunhamspringshop)
Gloversville Palace Diner, 62 S. Main St., Gloversville
Pickett Memorial Co., 158 E. Fulton St., Gloversville
Main Motor Car Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram | mainmotorcar.com

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE FOR FULTON MONTGOMERY CHAMBER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Chamber's Scholarship Program was established in 1986 to provide financial assistance and incentives for students interested in pursuing a course of college study. Since its inception 34 years ago, the Chamber's scholarship program has provided over \$125,000 in scholarships to deserving regional school students. This year's program will consist of four, one-time, \$1,000 awards.

Eligible applicants must be a high school senior graduating from a Fulton or Montgomery County high school in June 2025 or have previously graduated from a Fulton or Montgomery County high school. Applicants must be entering or attending a two- or four-year accredited college or university as of September 2025.

Academic winners will be chosen by the Chamber's Scholarship Committee, whose members will review applicants' qualifications in scholastic achievement, community involvement, school activities, and economic need.

Scholarship applications can be found at <https://www.fultonmontgomeryny.org/scholarship/> or by contacting your high school guidance office. **The application and all accompanying materials must be received by the Chamber by 4:30 PM on Wednesday, April 30, 2025** by mail, 2 N. Main Street, Gloversville, NY, 12078, email, info@fultonmontgomeryny.org or fax (518)725-0643. Questions can be directed to Anne Boles at (518) 725-0641 or info@fultonmontgomeryny.org.



NYATEP RELEASES STATE OF THE WORKFORCE REPORT

The New York Association for Training and Employment Professionals have released a *State of the Workforce Report: 2024 Labor Market Snapshot of New York*.

Key findings include :

- New York's economy is performing roughly as well as the national economy, though disparities remain across different groups
- Human services sectors and jobs continue to dominate New York's economic landscape
- New York could be facing a demographics-driven worker shortage within key industries
- New York's talent development systems are producing mixed results

Access the full report [here](#).

NFIB RELEASES FEBRUARY JOBS REPORT

The National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) released its monthly jobs report, which found that 38% (seasonally adjusted) of small business own-

ers reported job openings they could not fill in February, up three points from January and the highest reading since August 2024. A seasonally adjusted net 15% of owners plan to create new jobs in the next three months, down three points from January.

NFIB New York State Director Ashley Ranslow says the report reflects what's happening in the Empire State: "Many of our small business members tell us they are still struggling to hire and retain workers. These labor challenges, on top of rising costs and the steep tax and regulatory burdens in New York, make it harder for Main Street businesses to grow and succeed. Our small business members are concerned about the proposals being considered in Albany that will ultimately exacerbate their hiring difficulties. This report underscores the need for lawmakers to take action to improve New York's affordability and competitiveness, not worsen it."

Overall, 53% of small business owners nationwide reported hiring or trying to hire in February, up one point from January. Forty-eight percent (89% of those hiring or trying to hire) of owners reported few or no qualified applicants for the positions they were trying to fill. Twenty-seven percent of owners reported few qualified applicants for their open positions and 21% reported none.

Job openings were the highest in the retail, construction, and manufacturing sectors, and the lowest in the agriculture and finance sectors. Job openings in construction were up one point from last month, but down seven points from the prior year.

Thirty-one percent have openings for skilled workers (up two points) and 13% have openings for unskilled labor (up three points).

The percent of small business owners reporting labor quality as their top operating problem rose one point from January to 19%. Labor costs reported as the single most important problem for business owners rose three points from January to 12%, only one point below the highest reading of 13% reached in December 2021. The last time labor costs were ranked this high was February 2023.

Seasonally adjusted, a net 33% of small business owners reported raising compensation in February, unchanged from January. A net 18% (seasonally adjusted) plan to raise compensation in the next three months, down two points from January.

Read the entire Jobs Report [here](#).

ART SHOW SCHEDULED IN CHAMBER'S ROTUNDA GALLERY

The Chamber is excited to have an art show return to our rotunda gallery at our offices at 2 N. Main Street, Gloversville. A special show incorporating art created by students at Gloversville High School with a project they did with the Fulton County Regional SPCA will be on display from May 19 through June 6, when a closing reception will be held from 6pm-7pm in the gallery with refreshments and will be open to all! Watch for more details in our email blasts and in this newsletter and make sure to stop by and admire the works by our local students!

GET INVOLVED WITH **YOUR** CHAMBER

All events offer *FREE* admission for Chamber members and their employees.

Unless otherwise indicated (highlighted), please RSVP to (518) 725-0641 or email fultonmontgomeryny@gmail.com.

Thursday, April 3 4pm-6:30pm
BUSINESS EXPO AND CHAMBER
AWARDS PRESENTATION, Johnstown
Moose Club #1185, 109 S. Comrie Avenue,
Johnstown

There are opportunities for sponsorship, and to attend to see the Chamber Award winners and presentation, and to network with dozens of fellow members. Vendor spaces for the Expo are sold out. Watch your email blasts for information as it becomes available, or email anneb@fultonmontgomeryny.org for sponsorship opportunities. Application for sponsorship can be found [here](#).

Friday, April 4 2:30pm
RIBBON-CUTTING EVENT FOR THE
BOHO DINOSAUR'S GREENERY
86 Briggs Street, Suite 3, Johnstown

Join fellow Chamber members, elected officials, and Chamber staff at this new business in Johnstown. The Boho Dinosaur's Greenery is a retail store offering houseplants, accessories, and customized plant care help. Educational classes, and in-home plant care help are also available. RSVP for this *FREE* event to the Chamber or contact the Chamber for details.

Wednesday, April 23 12-3pm
COMMUNITY JOB FAIR
SUNY FM, 2805 State Highway 67, John-
stown

Represent your business or organization and recruit new talent ready to enter the workforce. There is no cost to participate and complimentary lunch is provided. Questions or to register email FMpartner@fmcc.edu. This event is a collaboration between the Chamber, SUNY FM, and FMS Workforce Solutions

Friday, May 2, 3pm
OPEN HOUSE AND RIBBON-CUTTING
CEREMONY AT SCHINE MEMORIAL
HALL


26-40 N. Main Street, Gloversville
Help celebrate the completion of the third floor renovations to this historic building in downtown Gloversville. Beginning at 3pm with a ribbon cutting and at 4pm ending with a champagne toast. Tours of the historic spaces will be offered. Anyone interested in joining the festivities should RSVP to the Chamber at (518) 725-0641 or email fultonmontgomeryny@gmail.com Deadline for RSVPs is Friday, April 25.


Friday, June 6, 6pm
CLOSING RECEPTION FOR CHAMBER
ART SHOW FEATURING STUDENTS
FROM GLOVERSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL
2 N. Main Street, Gloversville

The closing reception for an Art Show in the Chamber's Rotunda Gallery which will feature art created by Gloversville High School students from a project with the Fulton County Regional SPCA. The show will open on May 19 and can be viewed Monday through Friday from 9am -4pm unless Chamber is closed for an event. Please join us for the closing reception, with free admission and open to all. Light refreshments will be served.

Friday, June 27, 11:30am-12:30pm
VIRTUAL LUNCH & LEARN WITH THE
NYS WORKERS' COMPENSATION
BOARD

A *FREE* webinar hosted by the NYS Workers' Compensation Board. Watch future Newsline issues and Chamber email blasts for further details. Register online [here](#)

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