



# NEWSLINE

August 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.*

## JULY SAW OUR REGION ENJOY SUMMER WEATHER, HOST MANY VISITORS AND EVENTS, AND BUILD OUR BUSINESSES



Photos at left: On a beautiful summer day, the Chamber helped celebrate the Grand Opening and Open House of Sunny Hunny Farms, 334 Robb Road, Amsterdam, with a ribbon-cutting. Sunny Hunny Farms is a small-scale farm offering honey, fresh and dried flowers, fruits, and vegetables. Find their products at the Gloversville Farmers Market seasonally or year-round at their farm store in Amsterdam. From wedding florals to u-pick flowers and hands-on classes, owners Tracy and Rob Garrison and Violet Robbins have created something truly special.



Photo at left: On July 19, the Chamber held a ribbon-cutting at the new location of [Powerhouse](#)

[Motor Sports](#) adjacent to Adirondack Harley-Davidson, 106 Bellen Road in Broadalbin. There was a special flag dedication by the Combat Vets Motorcycle Association, live music, food and beverages, raffles and in-store specials. Stop in and check out their new space, gear and rides or check them out on [Facebook](#).



Photo above: 5S Diner, located at 12 Hancock Street, Fort Plain, celebrated its Chamber membership and new renovations, including a new outdoor porch for dining, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony that included staff, Chamber reps and elected officials. 5S Diner serves classic country dishes, made from scratch, focusing on locally-grown foods. Join them for breakfast, lunch, dinner and desserts. Check out their daily specials on [Facebook](#).



## Message from the Executive Director

Dear Chamber Members,

As Executive Director of the Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce, I have the privilege of seeing firsthand the vital role tourism plays in our region's economy and community life. Tourism is not just about vacationers and weekend getaways—it is a key economic driver, a source of local pride, and a catalyst for business growth across Fulton and Montgomery Counties.

Tourism in our region supports jobs, generates tax revenue, and drives foot traffic to our downtowns, small businesses, and cultural institutions. According to the latest data from New York State, visitor spending in the Mohawk Valley region, which includes our counties, contributes hundreds of millions of dollars annually to the local economy. That spending supports restaurants, hotels, gas stations, retail shops, historic sites, events, and outdoor recreation facilities—and, in turn, sustains jobs for thousands of local residents.

Fulton and Montgomery Counties offer a diverse and growing menu of attractions that bring visitors from across the state and beyond. From the scenic trails of the Adirondack foothills to the peaceful waters of the Great Sacandaga Lake and the Erie Canal, our area is rich with natural beauty and recreational opportunity. But tourism here is about more than just the outdoors.

We are home to rich cultural assets like the Arkell Museum in Canajoharie, historic sites such as Johnson Hall in Johnstown, and a growing number of vibrant events and festivals—from the Caroga Lake Music Festival to food truck rallies, farmers markets, and craft fairs that bring our communities to life. These events not only attract visitors but also build a sense of place for our residents.

It's also important to recognize the ripple effects of tourism. A strong visitor economy supports infrastructure improvements, preserves historic and environmental resources, and makes our communities more attractive for both residents and new businesses. When people discover Fulton and Montgomery Counties through a visit, they often return—as repeat visitors, second-homeowners, or even future residents.

As we look to the future, investing in tourism means investing in our region's growth and resilience. Continued support from local governments, business owners, and community members is essential to helping us share the charm, character, and hospitality that define our part of New York State.

Let's continue to welcome visitors with open arms, support our local tourism assets, and take pride in all our region has to offer. Because when tourism thrives, so do Fulton and Montgomery Counties.

### 2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

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

Secretary—Seth Brown, *Brown's Ford*

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Elizabeth Bridge, *Liberty ARC*

Ashley Capobianco, *Townsend Leather Company, Inc.*

Christie Davis, *Fulton-Montgomery Community College*

Ashley Delaney, *The Wesson Group*

Mike DiMezza, *HFM Career & Technical Education*

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*

Matt Ossenfort, *Gallagher*

Mike Schaus, *THNK Tank Media/WENT Radio*

Janet Stanley, *Lee Shops at Wagner Square*

### CHAMBER STAFF

MaryBeth Shults, *Executive Director*

Mark Bolebruch, *Finance*

Jennifer Hammons, *Special Projects Assistant*

Natalie May, *Business & Education Partnership Coordinator*

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](#)
- ♦ [Fulton County Center for Regional Growth](#)
- ♦ [Fulton County Farm Bureau](#)
- ♦ [Montgomery County Farm Bureau](#)
- ♦ [New York State Farm Bureau](#)



## Welcome New Members

July 2025

### BALLOONS & THINGS

247 State Highway 334, Johnstown

(518) 848-0147 | [Facebook](#)

Balloon Art including balloon arches, balloon bouquets for all your party needs. Also offer craft classes.

### ADIRONDACK EXOTICS

25 s. Main Street, Gloversville

(518) 752-6782 | <http://adkexotics.net>

Adirondack Exotics is a Gloversville-based exotic pet shop offering reptiles, tarantulas, and more from trusted breeders. Run by passionate experts, they focus on education, ethical care, and community outreach, helping both beginners and seasoned keepers. They are also a NYS-certified greenhouse and currently specialize in houseplants with rare and unicorn plants at the forefront.



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**We're here for all your care needs.**

**THE WOMEN'S HEALTH TEAM**



### THE CHAMBER IS LOOKING FOR A COMMUNITY OUTREACH & MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

The Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce is seeking an energetic, people-focused Community Outreach & Membership Director to grow and engage our business community.

In this role, you'll build relationships with local businesses, promote Chamber events and programs, and help create a strong, connected business environment. You'll also be a key player in member recruitment, retention, sponsorship outreach, and event support.

For a full job description, please visit [this link](#).



## MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

July 2025

*Thank you for your continued support!*



### 41+ YEARS

- United Way of the Greater Capital Region—49
- Greater Amsterdam School District—44

### 31 – 40 YEARS

- HFM BOCES: Hamilton-Fulton-Montgomery Board of Cooperative Educational Services—35
- Ricmar Design & Print Shop—31

### 21 – 30 YEARS

- Park Marine Base, Inc.—30
- Gordon's Lakeside Marine—29
- Sarah Jane Sanford Adult Home—29
- Power and Composite Technologies, LLC (The Gund Company) - 25
- State Farm Insurance-Scott K. Beatty Agency—25
- Brown's Ford of Amsterdam and Johnstown—Collision and Coachworks—25
- Egelston Energy Company—25
- Mangino Chevrolet—24
- Town of Amsterdam—24

### 11 – 20 YEARS

- Gehring Tricot Corp., DBA Helmont Mills—15
- Jim's Odd Jobs and Jim's Bait Shop—14

### 1 – 10 YEARS

- Hometown Health Centers—10
- The ShoeLeather Express—10
- Paul Nigra Center for Creative Arts/Transitions—19
- Craftsman Auto Glass & Detailing—9
- G. Jeremiah Ryan—8
- Fonda Fairgrounds—8
- Glove City Graphics N More, LLC—5
- Great Point Publishing LLC—5
- Lakeside Motel—3

- Leatherstocking Region Federal Credit Union—3
- James Chevrolet—3
- T-Mobile—2
- ZenBusiness—2
- Leslie Farrell Travel Agency—2
- EnergyNext, Inc.—2
- Capital City Coffee Roasters—1
- Milepost Hobbies—1
- U.S. Light Energy—1
- Candid's with Emily Rose—1
- Lippert—1
- Second Act Spirits—1
- WellNow Urgent Care—1
- Viscosi Photography—1



**RIVER RIDGE LIVING CENTER**  
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*At River Ridge Living Center*  
*We offer a comprehensive array of clinical Services*

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*In our Rehabilitation Department our goal is to help you regain your strength to get you back home as soon as possible.*



*"We are dedicated to enhancing the life of our residents."*  
*If you are a team player, compassionate and reliable,  
a career at River Ridge Living Center is for you!*



## LEXINGTON FOUNDATION RECEIVES DONATION OF HISTORIC JOHNSTOWN BUILDING TO EXPAND HOUSING AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEURO-DIVERSE YOUNG ADULTS

The Arc Lexington Foundation is proud to announce that it has received a donation of the historic Willing Helper's Home in Johnstown, NY. This 10,000-square-foot landmark will be transformed into modern, supportive housing for students enrolled in the nationally recognized Transitions program, which serves young adults with autism and learning differences.

This extraordinary gift was made possible by the Willing Helpers Home Board of Directors, with generous support from the James H. Knox Foundation.

"We are so grateful to the Willing Helpers and the Knox Foundation for this incredible act of generosity and vision," said Shaloni Winston, CEO of The Arc Lexington. "Together, we are preserving a piece of Johnstown's history while creating life-changing opportunities for young people in our community."

"The decision to close Willing Helpers' was a very difficult and painful decision for our Board of Managers, given its 114-year history of providing a home for elderly women in need and the positive impact this had on our local community. A major objective of our Board, in its search, for a suitable charitable organization, to receive Willing Helpers' assets was to find an organization that would use the property as a residency, maintain and improve the property and continue to honor that history and the accomplishments of Willing Helpers' philanthropist founder, Rose Knox," said Deborah Buck, President, Willing Helpers Board of Managers.

Buck said the Willing Helpers Board chose The Lexington Foundation because they knew The Arc Lexington, who was already assisting people in need in the community would honor the Willing Helpers objectives.

"I want to thank Shaloni Winston, CEO, Jamie Petrin, CFO, and especially Penny Rivenburg, Division Director of Transitions, for all of their support, assistance and perseverance, through this process. A special thank you to Wally Hart, who I worked with, from May 2023, for his assistance, diligence and encouragement, through this transition," Buck said.

Repurposing the historic Willing Helpers building also benefits the greater Johnstown area by giving a new purpose to a beloved structure and reaffirming the city's commitment to inclusion, revitalization, and opportunity.

Renovations are expected to begin in February, with students projected to move in late 2026. The Lexington Foundation is pursuing additional funding opportunities to support the renovation effort and ensure the building meets all modern accessibility and safety standards.

The renovated residence will provide safe, comfortable, and accessible apartments for Transitions students, many of whom are preparing to live independently and pursue meaningful careers. The project comes as The Arc Lexington looks to expand its Transitions program. With a



\$977,000 Mohawk Valley Empowers Program grant received earlier this year, The Arc Lexington expects to serve an additional 45 students in Fulton and Schoharie counties.

"Safe and supportive housing is foundational to personal growth," Winston said. "This new residence will help our students build life skills, confidence, and stability – all of which are essential as they transition into adulthood and become valuable members of the workforce. We are preparing them not just to live independently, but to be great employees and community contributors."

About the Lexington Foundation: The Lexington Foundation supports and promotes the mission of The Arc Lexington by soliciting and receiving gifts and providing exemplary stewardship. It is our social responsibility to help make a difference in the lives of others. We do this by building an economic structure and a friend network to enhance the existing operations and functions at Lexington. For more information visit [www.thearclexingtonfoundation.org](http://www.thearclexingtonfoundation.org).

## CASTIGLIONE GEM JEWELERS CLOSING AFTER 96 YEARS OF SERVICE TO OUR REGION

After nearly a century of serving Gloversville and our region Castiglione Gem Jewelers, at 25 N. Main Street in Gloversville, is closing its doors. After 15 years of dedicated service, Michael McCabe is retiring and Andrew

Castiglione has made the heartfelt decision to step away and begin a new chapter focused on personal passions and family.

Repairs are still available for pick up during regular business hours. Watch for special sales within the next few weeks.

In a Facebook post about the closing, the store posted, "Due to a small team and high demand, we're fully focused on serving our Customers these final days and unable to have detailed discussions about our decisions at this time."

We truly thank you for your support over the last 96 years."

Visit them online at their website, <https://gemjewelers.com/>, or on [Facebook](#).

Congratulations to Andy and team on serving our region for 96 years and good luck on your next adventures!



## ST. MARY'S HEALTHCARE TAPS PHYSICIAN LEADER DR. BRIAN MCDERMOTT AS VICE PRESIDENT, MEDICAL AFFAIRS, AND CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER



Dr. Brian McDermott, an infectious disease expert and physician leader, has joined St. Mary's Healthcare as vice president of medical affairs and chief medical officer.

Dr. McDermott was chosen for his clinical expertise, emphasis on safety and quality, and leadership in helping physicians and organizations adapt to an ever-changing healthcare environment. During

his 16 years in the Capital Region, Dr. McDermott has earned a reputation for building consensus and improving coordination of care and patient outcomes. He also played an essential role in shaping regional hospitals' response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Dr. McDermott has led some of the region's most effective infection prevention and antimicrobial stewardship initiatives and, as a result, has had a powerful, positive impact on patient care," said Jeff Methven, president and CEO of St. Mary's Healthcare. "His deep understanding of patient, provider and organizational perspectives and needs, coupled with his collaborative leadership approach, will prove invaluable as St. Mary's continues to evolve to best serve our community."

Dr. McDermott comes to St. Mary's from Saratoga Hospital, where he was the division chief for infectious disease and medical director for infection prevention and antimicrobial stewardship. Previously, he was on the medical team at Glens Falls Hospital, where he rose from physician advisor to associate chief medical officer to senior vice

president for clinical integration. He also served as an infectious disease physician and medical director at Hudson Headwaters Health Network in Queensbury.

A graduate of Columbia University in New York City, Dr. McDermott earned a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine from New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine on Long Island. He completed a residency in internal medicine and fellowship in infectious disease, both at Winthrop of University Hospital, also on Long Island. In addition, he has a Master of Business Administration in healthcare management from the University of Scranton in Pennsylvania.

Dr. McDermott is board certified in internal medicine and infectious disease. He is a member of the Infectious Disease Society of America, American College of Physicians and American College of Healthcare Executives.

For more information, visit St. Mary's Healthcare online at [smha.org](http://smha.org) or on Facebook, or call (518) 842-1400.

## ST. MARY'S HEALTHCARE EVENTS

### 49TH ANNUAL GALA: AN ALOHA AFFAIR

Thursday, August 14; 6pm-10pm

Sanford Stud Farm, Amsterdam

Island-inspired cuisine, live music by Grand Central Station, auctions, raffles and more...all in support of emergency and urgent care services at St. Mary's Healthcare.

Find more info here: <https://www.smha.org/gala>

### GOLF CLASSIC

October 2, 11:30am

Amsterdam Municipal Golf Course

Proceeds benefit associates working to advance their careers and education. More info here: <https://www.smha.org/foundation/golf/>



## New Look New Company Same Great Service!





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## THE FAMILY COUNSELING CENTER LAUNCHES AS CERTIFIED COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CLINIC (CCBHC)

On July 1, The Family Counseling Center officially launched as a Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC), a transformative step in advancing comprehensive, person-centered behavioral health care in Fulton County and the surrounding region.

As a CCBHC, The Family Counseling Center is now providing a broad array of integrated services — including mental health care, substance use treatment, crisis response, and support for individuals with co-occurring disorders. The model emphasizes whole-person care, ensuring that individuals and families receive timely, coordinated, and effective support that meets their unique needs.

Michael Countryman, The Family Counseling Center's CEO, said of the new designation:

"At The Family Counseling Center, we are committed to creating an inclusive, accessible culture of care that best meets the diverse needs of our community, staff, and stakeholders.

Receiving the CCBHC designation provides us with the resources and ability to create partnerships throughout our community to ensure that our clients get the care and support they need and deserve.

Our clients will experience better outcomes as a result of our designation. Our services, in conjunction with our community partners, will allow our clients to have fewer emergency room visits, fewer crisis calls, and a decrease in recidivism. Ultimately, we believe that our clients will lead healthier, longer lives that will allow them to be the parents, children, loved ones, and members of society they desire to be."

Through the CCBHC model, The Family Counseling Center is positioned to:

- **Expand access to care:** Reduce wait times and ensure individuals receive services when they need them most.
- **Enhance crisis response capabilities:** Strengthen 24/7 crisis intervention services to better address urgent behavioral health needs.
- **Integrate care:** Coordinate mental health, physical health, and social services to provide holistic support.
- **Support underserved populations:** Reach individuals and families facing barriers to care, including those in rural areas, low-income households, and people with complex or co-occurring needs.

Peter Lawrence, Chief Operating Officer, added: "We've worked closely with our partners to identify the ways in which we can work together to provide our clients and our community with resources that give them the opportunity to pursue their healthiest lives. This is an exciting opportunity to not only provide much-needed services, but to connect our clients with services in a way that will reduce the need to seek these services on their own, separately from the supports they receive."

The Family Counseling Center has partnered with several community and state organizations to bring additional services on-site, including **Veteran Services, Employment Services, Psychiatric Rehabilitation, and Nursing Services**. These partnerships are essential in addressing the broad and diverse needs of local residents.

This designation also aligns with New York State's commitment to improving behavioral health outcomes and addressing the growing demand for accessible, coordinated care. It reflects The Family Counseling Center's ongoing dedication to its mission of empowering individuals and families through compassionate, effective care.

New, expanded hours for The Family Counseling Center are Monday-Friday 8am to 7pm; Friday 8am to 5pm; Saturday 9am to 1pm.

Visit The Family Counseling Center online at its website at [thefamilycounselingcenter.org](http://thefamilycounselingcenter.org) or on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/thefamilycounselingcenter).



## ST. ANDREWS HEATING & COOLING TO CELEBRATE 2ND CUSTOMER APPRECIATION DAY WITH OPEN HOUSE

Join St. Andrews Heating & Cooling for their 2nd Annual Customer Appreciation Day on Wednesday, August 20 from 2-5:30pm at their location at 212 Stoner Trail Road in Johnstown. Meet the team and enjoy food, games, music and drinks. An event not to be missed! Please RSVP to St. Andrews at (518) 256-4028. Visit online at their [website](http://www.standrewsheatandcool.com) or on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/standrewsheatandcool).



## THE SHAGGY MOOSE BARBER SHOP: A FRESH START WITH SMALL-TOWN HEART

300 N. Comrie Avenue (Route 29A side),  
Johnstown, NY  
(315) 520-8241 | [moosethebarber369@gmail.com](mailto:moosethebarber369@gmail.com)

When Marcus Failing decided to open The Shaggy Moose Barber Shop in Johnstown, it was more than just the start of a business—it was the start of a new chapter.

Failing's journey to becoming a barber wasn't a traditional one. For years, he worked as a supervisor at Remington Firearms near Utica. But when the company shut down its local operations in 2024 and relocated to Georgia, Failing and his family faced an uncertain future. "It was a tough time," Failing recalls, "but a positive came from it."

Through a retraining program, Failing was able to attend barber school—a decision that would set him on a new path. After seven months of training, he graduated in September 2024, earned his license, and began working at a salon in Fort Plain. When the space at 300 N. Comrie Avenue became available, Failing seized the opportunity and opened The Shaggy Moose Barber Shop shortly after.

### A Family Legacy of Hard Work

Owning his own business was something Failing had always dreamed about, though he admits it was overwhelming at first. "Not a lot of people know what goes into running a business—it's definitely a lot," he says. Still, entrepreneurship runs in his blood. His uncle was a barber, another uncle is a chiropractor, and his aunt and uncle run a pizza restaurant. His father is a management consultant, so Failing grew up with strong examples of hard work and determination.

Today, Failing is proud to have built something that's his own—a business that not only provides for his family but also might one day be passed down to his young daughter. "I feel blessed and thankful," he says. "It's important to earn what you have."

### A Shop with Heart and Community Spirit

The Shaggy Moose is more than a place to get a haircut—it's a welcoming, small-town shop where conversation is just as important as the cut. "Small talk is huge in this business," Failing says. "You can't just go through the motions. You have to wake up every day and work hard." Failing's dedication to community shines through in the shop's special touches. He offers \$5 off services for veterans and first responders as a way to give back. For children getting their very first haircut, Failing provides the cut for free, along with a certificate and a lock of hair as a keepsake.

"I love getting to know young people in the community—whether they're coming in for prom, a wedding, or just to talk. That's what makes this work special," Failing says.

### Professional and Family-Friendly

Failing has worked hard to establish The Shaggy Moose as a safe, professional, and dependable shop. He leads by example, instilling strong morals and work ethics in his team. "There's no vulgar language, no crazy music—we

keep it a place everyone feels comfortable in," he explains. One of his teammates, Trent Anderson, is a perfect example of this culture. A PTECH graduate, Anderson spent a year in Arizona learning to cut hair before returning to the area. He re-apprenticed at The Shaggy Moose and has become an important part of the team.

### Services for Everyone

The Shaggy Moose Barber Shop offers a wide range of services for all ages. Walk-ins are welcome, but customers can also book appointments easily online through [Booksy.com](https://booksy.com). The shop is active on Instagram and Facebook, where clients can keep up with specials and updates.

### Hours of Operation:

- Tuesday – Friday: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- Saturday: 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Closed Sunday and Monday to catch up on business and spend time with family.

Failing firmly believes that when a business is built on strong community connections, people will come—and return. His goal is simple: to create a place where every customer feels valued and leaves with a great cut and a smile.



*At left: Marcus Failing poses with Johnstown Mayor Amy Praught during a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the business in early 2025. Below is a photo of the ribbon-cutting where members of Failing's family, teammates and more helped him celebrate his new business.*





## **“OUTLANDER IN THE MOHAWK VALLEY” SERIES KICKS OFF AT THE FULTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Join the [Fulton County Historical Society](#) on Wednesday, August 6 at 7pm for “A Tale of Two Frasers: Scottish Immigration to Colonial New York.” This is the first program in their new series, “*Outlander* in the Mohawk Valley,” exploring the connections between Diana Gabaldon’s best-selling books and our own local history!

In the years leading up to the Revolution, Scottish Highlanders made their way to the colonies, settling heavily in Nova Scotia, North Carolina, and New York. In the Mohawk Valley, these new, predominantly Catholic settlers were distrusted by their neighbors, mostly Palatine Germans who were gearing up to fight for liberty. Just a few decades after their defeat Culloden, these new settlers found themselves amid war once again. What side would they choose - and why?

Through the experiences of the fictional Jamie Fraser and historic figures like Sir William Johnson, they will discuss the Scottish settlement in Tryon County and the decisions they made during this divisive time in American history.

The Fulton County Historical Society is located at 237 Kingsboro Ave. in Gloversville.

This program is made possible with support from the Fulton County Board of Supervisors and the Fulton County Historian’s Office. Visit the link above for the organization’s website, or visit their [Facebook page](#) for more information.



**FULTON COUNTY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

## **MUSIC & ART ARE IN FULL SWING IN AUGUST FOR MANY CHAMBER MEMBERS!**

Check out the full calendars of performances for these Chamber members in August and don’t miss an opportunity to enjoy summer arts and culture in our region!:

[Caroga Arts Collective](#)

[Sacandaga Valley Arts Network](#)

[Paul Nigra Center for Creative Arts](#)

[Arkell Museum/Canajoharie Library](#)

[City of Johnstown Midsummer Concert Series](#)

[Glove Theatre](#)

[Colonial Little Theatre](#)

[Trust Your Gut Productions](#)

[Saratoga Arts](#)

Don’t forget to check out [www.44lakes.com](http://www.44lakes.com) and [www.visitmontgomerycountyny.com](http://www.visitmontgomerycountyny.com) for a full list of what is going on in our region!

## **TOWNSEND LEATHER IS OFFICIALLY IN THE RUNNING FOR THE COOLEST THING MADE IN NEW YORK!**

Townsend Leather has entered their Classic Cowhide into this exciting statewide contest, and they need YOUR help to bring the title home!

Classic Cowhide is the coolest leather, from one of the coolest companies, crafted by the coolest people – Townsend Leather.

⇒ Voting is OPEN NOW!

⇒ Vote once per day, EVERY DAY — every single vote counts.

Go to <https://madeinny.org/2025-popular-vote-contestants> and click on the blue VOTE HERE button. Then scroll down until you see Classic Cowhide.

Cast your vote and show your support for Townsend Leather, proudly made right here in New York in OUR region. The competition runs through multiple rounds in the weeks ahead, so keep voting daily and cheering on Townsend Leather as they go for the top spot!

Find out more about Townsend Leather on their website, or on [Facebook](#).



THANK YOU to the following Chamber members who have committed to sponsoring our golf tournament this year! It's not too late to sponsor the September 12 event or sign up to golf—call (518) 725-0641 for details or to register:

**PRESENTING SPONSOR**



**COCKTAIL HOUR SPONSORS**



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DRINK HOLE SPONSOR**

**SPECIALTY DRINK HOLE SPONSORS**



**SOFT DRINK SPONSOR**



**BEVERAGE/SNACK CARTS SPONSORS**



**HOLE SPONSOR**



**Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber Golf Classic**

**Friday, September 12, 2025**

**HALES MILLS COUNTRY CLUB**

**146 STEELE ROAD, JOHNSTOWN**

**SHOTGUN START: 10:00 AM**

**ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT CHAMBER'S MISSION  
AND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

**DON'T MISS THE CRAFT BREW & MARGARITA HOLES!**

**FANTASTIC PRIZES AND GIVEAWAYS!**

**PRESENTING SPONSOR:**



**CALL TO REGISTER, VOLUNTEER OR SPONSOR: (518)-725-0641**



# RAFFLE DONATIONS NEEDED



## HELP MAKE OUR TOURNAMENT A HOLE-IN-ONE!

We're asking our chamber members to consider donating a raffle item valued at \$10 or more to help raise funds for our Chamber Scholarship programs that support Fulton and Montgomery County High School students, and programming that directly benefits our members.

### Your donation will:

- Promote your business to players and other Chamber members
- Help support local workforce development and education partnerships
- Contribute to a fun and exciting day for all!

### Popular donation ideas include:

- Gift cards
- Branded Merchandise
- Product Samples
- Baskets
- Promotional Items
- Unique Experiences!

**ALL DONORS WILL BE RECOGNIZED AT THE EVENT AND IN OUR EVENT PROGRAM.**

### To donate or learn more, contact:

**Natalie May @ (518) 725-0641 or  
fultonmontgomeryny@gmail.com**

**Deadline for Donations: 9/1/2025**



**Scan the code for  
more information  
about our Golf  
Tournament!  
(9/12 at Hales Mills  
Country Club)**

Our golf tournament is fast approaching (see above information)! There are many ways to promote your business through this popular event. Use it as a day to thank customers, or key employees by having them golf and spend the day on the course with fellow Chamber members. Or you and/or your team can volunteer on the day of the tournament. There are also sponsorship opportunities available at many different levels.

For a golf registration form, or information about how your business can sponsor the event, please access the form [here](#). If you have any questions or need additional information please call the Chamber!

# TOURISM

## NEWS & UPDATES

**SO MUCH going on in our region! Follow links for details or reference the event calendars on [44lakes.com](http://44lakes.com) or [visitmontgomerycounty.com](http://visitmontgomerycounty.com)**

### MONTGOMERY COUNTY

#### **MONTGOMERY KAYAK-A-THON/ BICENTENNIAL BASH IS AUGUST 23! JOIN US AS WE EXPLORE ANOTHER PORTION OF THE MOHAWK!**

Kayaks, canoes, and stand-up paddle boards are all invited to launch from Fonda and travel east along the Mohawk River, through Locks 12 and 11, and conclude their paddle at the Port Jackson Boat Launch in Amsterdam. It is an approximately 9-mile paddle.

Check-in will begin at 8am at the Fonda Park at 40 Park St, Fonda, NY 12068. We will launch at 9:30AM.

Participants can drop their kayaks, canoes, and paddle boards, and then park. Event parking will be available at the parking lot at 1 Port Jackson Square, Amsterdam, NY 12010 or the parking lot on 63 Bridge Street, Amsterdam, NY 12010, with shuttle service provided back to the boat launch. A post-event lunch will be available for registered participants at the South Side Veterans Memorial Park on Bridge Street (directly across the street from 63 Bridge Street).

#### **Kayak Rentals Available**

A limited number of kayak rentals will be available from [Upstate Kayak Rentals](#) at the link.

This year marks a once-in-a-lifetime milestone — the 200th Anniversary of the Erie Canal — and we're making it one to remember! After paddling the scenic Mohawk River during the Montgomery County Kayak-a-Thon, we invite you to stay the night and keep the celebration going at our Bicentennial Bash at Riverlink Park in Amsterdam.

#### **Bash Schedule**

- 3:30 PM – Food Trucks & DJ
- 3:30 PM – Family Fun & Games
- 5:00 – 6:00 PM – Waterski Show on the Mohawk
- 7:00 PM – Gridley Paige's AM Gold Yacht Party: *Experience on the River*
- 9:00 PM – Fireworks over the water

To make your experience even more memorable, consider booking a night locally:

**Stay at the Amsterdam Castle** – a unique and historic experience just steps from the park! [Learn more](#)  
**Microtel Inn & Suites by Wyndham** – modern, comfortable, and close by! [Book now](#)

**BONUS:** The first 100 people to register are guaranteed an event t-shirt!

Let's paddle, party, and honor two centuries of history together. We'd love for you to stay and celebrate with us!

### FULTON COUNTY

#### **ACTION AT THE WHEELERVILLE TRAILS IN CAROGA LAKE IN AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER**

#### **4TH ANNUAL WHEELERVILLE BIKE FESTIVAL!**

The 4th Annual Wheelerville Trails Mountain Bike Festival is taking place on August 23 and 24.

This is billed as a "wild weekend of two-wheeled fun in the southern Adirondacks!" New this year are Jump Jam Cash Prizes. Watch for registration information and more at <https://www.wheelervilletrails.com/mtb-festival-2025>



The MAXXIS Downhill Race will take place on August 23 as part of the Wheelerville Trails Bike Festival. "Leave your dual crowns at home though, as this course is designed for single crown action and you will need to peddle your

way to the top and the start gate!"

#### **THE WHEELERVILLE ENDURO—SEPTEMBER 14**

Join us for the third season of enduro racing at Wheelerville. Presented by OllieJack and Maxxis, riders will compete on their favorite downhill trails at Wheelerville. Enduro categories: Men's and Women's Open, E-Bike, U15 and a two-lap U12 category.



For more information, visit

<https://www.wheelervilletrails.com/> or contact Tourism Coordinator Carla Kolbe at [ckolbe@fultoncountyny.gov](mailto:ckolbe@fultoncountyny.gov)



## SOROPTIMIST CLUB SUPPORTS PROJECT FOR CANCER PATIENTS

Members of Soroptimist International of Fulton and Montgomery Counties recently came together for a meaningful cause — assembling care bags for cancer patients undergoing treatment in our local community. Each bag was thoughtfully packed with comfort items, personal care essentials, and heartfelt messages of encouragement, all designed to bring a bit of relief, warmth, and hope to those facing the challenges of cancer.

Projects like this are made possible through the generous support of our community. Every ticket purchased at their basket raffles, every booth rental at their craft fair — these contributions directly fund their outreach efforts and service projects. Your continued support allows club members to show up for those who need it most, turning compassion into action.

Soroptimist International of Fulton and Montgomery Counties is a local chapter of a global volunteer organization dedicated to improving the lives of women and girls through programs focused on social and economic empowerment, particularly through education. This club actively engages in community service projects and fund-raising events to support its mission.

Together, we are making a difference — one bag, one event, one act of kindness at a time. Thank you for supporting Soroptimist so they can support the community! To learn more about Soroptimist, visit them online: [soroptimist.org](http://soroptimist.org) or [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/soroptimist.org)



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## VINTAGE CAFÉ TO HOST CLASSIC CAR SHOW ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 15

Enjoy downtown Johnstown at the Vintage Café Classic Car Show, scheduled for Friday,

August 15, 6pm-9pm. Vintage Café will serve dinner plus a BBQ outside the café. Parade lineup is at 5pm; trophies will be awarded in five categories at 8pm in front of the Café. For more information, contact Vintage Café at (518) 762-0030.



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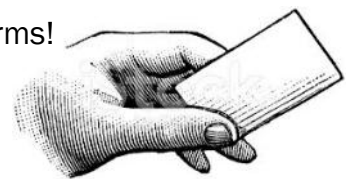
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**YOU'RE INVITED!**

Fulton Montgomery REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE **HFM PTECH BUSINESS PARTNERS** Fulton Montgomery REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**SUMMER BRIDGE BUSINESS PARTNER MEET AND GREET!**

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 8TH, 2025 AT 9:40AM**

**@ SUNY FMCC (SPECIFIC LOCATION TO FOLLOW!)**

ENGAGE WITH STUDENTS DURING A FUN AND INTERACTIVE ICE BREAKER ACTIVITY!

A PANEL DISCUSSION WITH OUR INCOMING FRESHMEN STUDENTS!

HELP OUR STUDENTS PRACTICE THEIR PROFESSIONAL SKILLS LEARNED DURING THEIR SUMMER BRIDGE CLASSES!

ANSWER STUDENT LED QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR BUSINESS, YOUR ROLE, YOUR CAREER PATH AND MORE!

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING, SCAN THIS CODE TO SIGN UP!



WITH ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT:

Nicole Walrath-VanAlstyne (518)774-2274  
[nicolew@fultonmontgomeryny.org](mailto:nicolew@fultonmontgomeryny.org)

Natalie May (518)774-0627  
[nataliem@fultonmontgomeryny.org](mailto:nataliem@fultonmontgomeryny.org)



**JOIN US AT THIS GREAT  
BUSINESS AFTER HOURS  
IN AUGUST!**

The Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce Invites You To:

**BUSINESS AFTER HOURS**

RIVER RIDGE LIVING CENTER  
*Rehabilitation & Long-Term Care*

**August 12th, 2025 @ 5:00 PM**

**100 Sandy Drive, Amsterdam, NY 12010**

Enjoy delicious refreshments, take a tour of the facility and network with fellow Chamber Members!



Scan code to RSVP!  
Call: (518)725-0641 or email:  
[fultonmontgomeryny@gmail.com](mailto:fultonmontgomeryny@gmail.com)  
with any questions.

**CHAMBER HAS A COOL NEW SPONSORSHIP  
OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR GOLF TOURNEY TO HELP  
PROMOTE YOUR BUSINESS!**

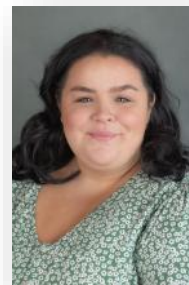
One of the gifts for the golfers at our tourney will be an 18-24 can cooler pictured here. The Chamber's logo will be included on the cooler, and we are looking for a sponsor for this gift and YOUR logo can go on the cooler top or front cover. These gifts will be given to every golfer and volunteer that day, with a few for your business, and your logo will be seen when they use them! For this sponsorship of \$2500, your company will also be promoted on social media, in this newsletter, in signage day of tourney, and more! Interested?

Contact the Chamber as soon as possible at (518) 725-0641.





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



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

## BUILDING TOMORROW'S WORKFORCE: A LOOK AT THE BUSINESS EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP

*Celebrating 10 Years of Impact Across Fulton and Montgomery Counties*



The Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce is proud to celebrate over a decade of collaboration with HFM BOCES through the Business Education Partnership (BEP)—a groundbreaking initiative connecting local students

with hands-on career exploration while supporting the region's workforce pipeline.

Launched in 2013, the BEP was the first of its kind in New York State, linking a Chamber of Commerce with a BOCES to support student achievement and business needs. Since then, the program has grown to include over 100 regional business partners and hundreds of student participants each year.

### Programs That Make a Difference

The BEP supports three core programs designed to prepare students for real-world success:

- **Pathways in Technology Early College High School (PTECH):** A six-year program where students earn both a high school diploma and an associate degree while gaining career readiness skills through mentorship, workplace challenges, and internships.
- **Career and Technical Education (CTE):** Offering 17 career-aligned pathways, CTE provides juniors and seniors with technical training and real-world experience through classroom instruction and workplace experiences, guest speakers, and internships.
- **Pathway Programs:** Offered in select districts, Pathways introduces students to career opportunities through job shadowing, skill-building workshops, and professional development experiences.



### Why It Matters

Through resume-building, mock interviews, digital portfolios, and leadership training, the BEP equips students with the tools they need to succeed in today's workforce. In recent years, regional support for all districts has been strengthened through the Career Support Series. Programs like Career Con, Healthcare Conversations, and Women in the Workforce bring classroom learning to life while fostering connections between students and local professionals.



### The Results

- 1 in 4 local high school students attend CTE
- 200+ students have earned associate degrees through HFM PTECH
- 100+ business partners are involved in hosting tours, speaking in classrooms, and offering internships



The BEP helps businesses build their talent pipeline, give back to the community, and connect with the next generation of professionals.

### Get Involved

The success of the BEP depends on strong partnerships with local employers. Whether you're able to host a student for a job shadow, speak at a school, or offer a tour of your workplace, your involvement makes a difference.

To learn more about the BEP visit <https://www.fultonmontgomeryny.org/business-education-partnership/> or contact:

**Nicole Walrath-VanAlstyne**  
 Director of Workforce Development  
[nicolew@fultonmontgomeryny.org](mailto:nicolew@fultonmontgomeryny.org)

**Natalie May**  
 Business and Education Partnership Coordinator  
[nataliem@fultonmontgomeryny.org](mailto:nataliem@fultonmontgomeryny.org)

## 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](mailto:fultonmontgomeryny@gmail.com).

### **Friday, August 8, 9:40am**

#### **HFM PTECH SUMMER BRIDGE BUSINESS PARTNER MEET & GREET**

**SUNY Fulton-Montgomery Community College, 2805 State Highway 67, Johnstown**

Connect with incoming freshmen through a fun ice breaker, a student panel discussion, and interactive activities to help them practice the professional skills they've learned this summer. You'll also have the chance to answer student-led questions about your career, your role, and your business. See details at right.

### **Tuesday, August 12, 5pm-7pm**

#### **BUSINESS AFTER HOURS AT RIVER RIDGE LIVING CENTER**

**100 Sandy Drive, Amsterdam**

Join us for Business After Hours at River Ridge Living Center! Connect with fellow Chamber members, enjoy delicious refreshments, and take a tour of this beautiful facility.

### **Wednesday, August 13, 12-1pm**

#### **VIRTUAL RIBBON-CUTTING AND LIVE DEMO FOR MY LIFE-THIS TIME AROUND**

Join us Wednesday, August 13 at 12 PM as we welcome new Chamber member My Life – This Time Around with a virtual ribbon cutting and live demo!

Founder Charity Pagano will give a brief training on the use of video/reels with the Growth-Nurture-Sales strategy to get more leads and clients using content!

Before the event, we encourage you to share your biggest social media challenges and complete this short survey: <https://forms.gle/XX8ChznoU92Q63WM7>

Chamber members who attend this event get a free guide: "5 Posts to Help You Get Seen This Week," perfect for small businesses looking to boost their online presence. RSVP to the Chamber and you will get a link to the ribbon-cutting and demo.

### **Thursday, August 21, 3pm-5pm—**

#### **Ribbon Cutting at 4pm**

#### **RIBBON CUTTING AND OPEN HOUSE FOR PURPLE GLASS HEALING ARTS**

**64 E. Fulton Street, Gloversville**

Join us as we welcome Purple Glass Healing Arts to the community with an official Ribbon Cutting & Open House! Tour the space, meet the team, enjoy a champagne toast, and sample lite fare and refreshments.

### **Saturday, August 23, 12-1pm**

#### **RIBBON CUTTING FOR 518 RENOVATIONS**

**117 Van Road, Gloversville**

Come celebrate the Grand Opening of a new storefront for 518 Renovations. There will be refreshments and WENT will be broadcasting live from the location. Please join us!

### **Thursday, August 28, 3pm**

#### **BALLOONS & THINGS**

**Chamber office, 2 N. Main Street, Gloversville**

Balloons & Things is a new member and we are helping promote them with a ribbon cutting at the Chamber. Please join us and welcome them to Chamber membership!

### **Friday, September 12**

#### **CHAMBER GOLF CLASSIC**

**Hales Mills Country Club, 146 Steele Road, Johnstown**

See pages 10, 11 for details and sign up for this event that supports the Chamber's 2026 Scholarship program, as well as Chamber events and programs. Join Presenting Sponsor **Miracle-Ear** and support our region's students!

### **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 [marybeth@fultonmontgomeryny.org](mailto:marybeth@fultonmontgomeryny.org)