



# NEWSLINE

January 2026

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.*

## Kicking off 2026 Together as A New Year of Opportunity Begins



### ***Holiday Business After Hours at [NBT Bank](#)***

A big *THANK YOU* is in order for our friends at NBT Bank in Canajoharie as they hosted a festive holiday Business After Hours at their branch at 20 Mohawk Street. Partners from many of the NBT Bank branches joined the gathering as did business owners and employees from around the region as everyone enjoyed great food and camaraderie. Photo of some of the NBT Bank managers and staff who joined us is at top left, and a snapshot of some of the other revelers networking is below at left.



### ***Ribbon Cutting Event at [Mama's Charcuterie & More](#)***



*Above: Eric Parker (right), Johnstown City Councilman, with owner Amanda Potter.*



*Below: Harry Gibson, Assemblyman Bob Smullen's office, with Amanda Potter.*



*Elected officials and Chamber members joined us in December for a ribbon-cutting event at Mama's Charcuterie & More in Johnstown at 37 W. Main Street. Owner Amanda Potter and her staff offer not only charcuterie boards for every occasion and catering for special events, but also soup and wrap specials, baked goods, gifts and more, available for eat in or take out. Follow them on Facebook for daily specials, call them at (518) 848-3133 or stop at the store during their open hours Monday, Wed, Thurs, Fri 8:30am-3pm, Saturday and Sunday 9am-2pm. Closed on Tuesdays.*



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Terry Swierzowski, *Newsline Editor/Reporter*

Jessica Valachovic, *Membership Outreach Associate*

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](#)



## Message from the Executive Director

### AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: SUPPORTING SMALL BUSINESS IN THE YEAR AHEAD

As we begin a new year, I want to take a moment to speak directly to our small business community, the backbone of our region and the reason this Chamber exists.

For the first time in more than a decade, your Chamber is fully staffed. This milestone is not about internal operations. It is about capacity, service, and impact for our members.

Simply put, we are better equipped than ever to support small businesses in meaningful, practical ways.

As we look ahead to 2026, this means you have a local partner ready to help you navigate the real challenges of running a business. Whether you are a sole proprietor, a family-owned operation, or a growing small employer, our team is here to support you with marketing exposure, strategic promotions, grant writing assistance, workforce and education partnerships, advocacy, and day-to-day business services.

Many small business owners do not have the time, staff, or resources to pursue every opportunity available to them. That is where we come in. If you are looking to increase visibility, access funding opportunities, connect with the right partners, recruit or retain employees, or simply talk through next steps for your business, I encourage you to reach out to us.

Too often, small business owners try to do everything on their own. The Chamber is here to change that. We want you to see us as an extension of your team, one that understands the local landscape and is invested in your success.

As we move through 2026, my commitment to you is simple. Your Chamber will be accessible, responsive, and proactive. If there is a challenge facing your business, bring it to us. If there is an opportunity you want to explore, come talk to us. If you are unsure where to start, that conversation is exactly why we are here.

This year is about stronger connections, better support, and real results for our small business members. We are ready to work alongside you and help your business move forward.

*Marybeth Shults*

Executive Director

# Welcome New Members

December 2025

## Meg's at Muni

158 Upper Van Dyke Avenue, Amsterdam  
(518) 212-2214 | [Facebook](#)

*Casual food and drink at Amsterdam Municipal Golf Course. Good eats, cold drinks and a spot to hang out before or after your round—or anytime! Winter Hours: Tuesday through Saturday 5-9pm; Sunday Brunch served 10am-2pm.*

## DKM Design, LLC

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*We fabricate and build race cars, along with industrial fabrication, CNC machining and welding. We use our engineering backgrounds to quickly adapt and develop the best quality car using computer models to predict stress analysis and fatigue failure. From sheet metal to machined parts, we manufacture each DKM part within our facility.*

## TruePath HR Solutions

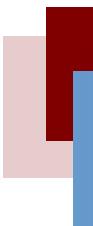
(518) 588-3270 | <https://www.truepathhrsolutions.com>

*At True Path HR Solutions, we meet you where you are. From everyday HR questions to project-based support and executive-level CHRO services, we provide the expertise you need—when you need it. Areas of expertise: Strategic HR Leadership; HR Department Assessment; Talent Acquisition & Workforce Planning; HR Infrastructure & Compliance; Employee Relations & Investigations; Leadership Training & Development; Compensation, Benefits & Payroll Oversight; HR Technology & Systems Implementation; Risk Management & Regulatory Support; Operational and Financial Acumen.*

## Pheasants Forever

3831 State Highway 30, Gloversville  
(802) 282-6642 | <https://pheasantsforever.org>

*Mission is to conserve pheasants, quail and other wildlife through habitat improvement, public access, education, and conservation advocacy. They are a 501(c)(3) charitable organization and part of a nationwide membership organization with more than 750 local chapters throughout 40 US states and parts of Canada.*



## Membership Message

**Jessica Valachovic,**  
**Membership Outreach**  
**Associate**

### Hello Members of the Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber,

My name is Jessica Valachovic, and I'm excited to introduce myself as the Chamber's new Membership Outreach Associate. As a familiar face in our local community, I'm thrilled to step into this role and continue supporting the businesses and organizations that make our region such a great place to live, work and play.

Beyond my professional role, I am also a busy wife, a proud mom to a beautiful little girl who inspires me every day, and a devoted dog mom. My family motivates me to give my very best—both personally and professionally—to the community we call home.

One of my primary goals is to connect with our current members to build strong, meaningful relationships. I look forward to learning more about your business, understanding your goals, and helping you make the most of your Chamber membership. Your success is our success, and I'm here to be a resource and advocate for you.

I'm also eager to meet prospective members and help them learn more about the incredible businesses that make up our Chamber network. By sharing your stories, services, and successes, we can continue to strengthen our local business community together.

Over the coming weeks, I'll be reaching out to introduce myself and check in. Please don't hesitate to say hello, ask questions, or share ideas—I'd love to hear from you.

I look forward to connecting with you soon and working together to support and grow our Chamber community.

Warm regards,  
*Jessica Valachovic*



## MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

December 2025

Thank you for your continued support!



### 31 – 40 YEARS

- Gloversville Sewing Center—35
- Greater Amsterdam Volunteer Ambulance Corps., Inc. (GAVAC) - 32

### 21 – 30 YEARS

- Key Bank—Market Street, Amsterdam—27
- Liberty ARC—27
- Knight's Inn—26
- Miller's Grandview Marina—21

### 11 – 20 YEARS

- Goderie's Tree Farm—20
- OneDigital—20
- Ron Jones Excavation—19
- Horace J. Inman Senior Center—19
- Fort Plain Animal Hospital—19
- Sandy Maceyka, Community Member—19
- italyMONDO!, LLC—19
- FAGE USA Dairy Industry, Inc. —17
- Fulton County Office For Aging/ Youth Bureau—17
- Recovery Sports Grill—16
- Affordable Sheet Metal—14
- Capstone Center for Rehabilitation and Nursing—12

### 1 – 10 YEARS

- Post Mark Ship & Print, Inc.—10
- Sunmark Credit Union—19
- Caroga Historical Association & Museum—8
- Go For It Fitness and Personal Training Studio—7
- DeGiulio Brothers Flooring—7
- Van Meter & Van Meter, LLC—6
- SFCU—Sidney Federal Credit Union—4
- THNK Tank Media Inc.—3
- Devine Contra ting Excavation and Site Work, LLC—3
- Daneli Partners, LLC—1
- The Shaggy Moose Barbershop—1



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*"We are dedicated to enhancing the life of our residents."*  
If you are a team player, compassionate and reliable,  
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## WELCOME TO OUR NEW STAFF MEMBERS!



**ALIXANDRIA SHROME** is the Chamber's new **Programs & Communications Coordinator**. You may recognize her from the bio she did when she served as our intern—we are so glad to welcome her to staff member status! She just graduated from FM with her Associate Degree in Computer Information Systems,

which she loved studying because it exposed her to such a wide-ranging field. In this new role, Alixandria will be helping members to build websites, build banner ads for the Chamber's website, and graphic design works for our ad programs and more. She will be working both in the Gloversville office and remotely. She can be reached at [communications@fultonmontgomeryny.org](mailto:communications@fultonmontgomeryny.org).



**JESSICA VALACHOVIC** is the Chamber's new **Membership Outreach Associate**. You may have already read her first Membership Message column on page 3 of this issue. She is proud to be born and raised in Gloversville and to have graduated from Gloversville schools.

Prior to the Chamber, she was a 20-year bartender at the Johnstown Applebee's, and was also a Dental Assistant at Gloversville Family Dentistry. As she states in her column, she is looking forward to meeting members—current and prospective. She is a local, friendly face and she would love it if you reached out and asked her to pay you a visit—call the Chamber or email [membership@fultonmontgomeryny.org](mailto:membership@fultonmontgomeryny.org). She is excited to take on this new role, and to meet all of our businesses across the region!

## BUSINESS COUNCIL OF NY STATE HOSTS 2026 LEGISLATORS' RECEPTION

This event will take place on Tuesday, January 20 from 6pm to 7:30pm. It is the premier networking event and the biggest of its kind in Albany. All are welcome to attend and mingle with members of the New York State Legislature and top New York State government officials. The event will follow meetings of the Business Council's Board of Directors, Government Affairs Council / President's Council and other Committee Meetings. The event will take place in the Albany Capital Center, 55 Eagle Street, Albany. There is parking information that can be found [here](#). THERE IS NO FEE TO ATTEND but registration is required. Please register by Monday, January 12 at this [link](#).

## HEALTH INSURANCE REMINDER: OPTIONS AVAILABLE FOR BUSINESSES YEAR-ROUND WITH GALLAGHER

Eric Kane, Area Vice President of Gallagher Benefit Services (Arthur J. Gallagher & Co.) is the Chamber's contact for all health insurance matters. Eric has worked as an insurance broker for the last 17+ years in NYS Capital District market. Eric is currently endorsed by several associations across NYS, delivering unique and innovative solutions that we feel will benefit our membership.

### Insurance Services for Chamber Members

As Chamber members, Gallagher tailored insurance solutions exclusive to the Chamber and its businesses. Through Gallagher's national partnerships with all the major insurance carriers, you will have access to a wide range of coverage options designed to meet your specific needs.

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If you are a business owner looking for coverage options for you or your employees, there are solutions all year round through Gallagher... **Please contact Eric at 518-724-6741** or by email **Eric\_Kane@ajg.com** to discuss coverage options.



## CHAMBER MEMBERS WORK TOGETHER TO MAKE SURE DISADVANTAGED FAMILIES HAVE A GREAT HOLIDAY!

For nearly two decades, the team at [Walmart Distribution Center #6096](#) in Johnstown has been quietly creating Christmas magic for the children and families that The Family Counseling Center serves - and this year is no exception.

Since 2006, their employees have adopted an incredible 1,099 Christmas Angels, often going above and beyond with extra gifts year after year. Each October, DC staff reaches out to [The Family Counseling Center](#) to make sure their families are included, and from there, the care and coordination unfolds - Angels are submitted, displayed for adoption, thoughtfully shopped for, and lovingly returned, all by Walmart DC employees who choose to give from the heart.

The Family Counseling Center is so grateful to Walmart DC #6096 and every employee who has chosen to be an Angel over the years. Your generosity has made the holidays brighter for hundreds of children and reminded the families supported by the agency that this community truly cares.



*Members of the WMDC #6096 team deliver gifts to The Family Counseling Center for their Christmas Angel program.*

## AMSTERDAM ROTARY SCHEDULES SILVER SCREEN SOIREE

Amsterdam Rotary has added a new event to its calendar—[Silver Screen Soiree, an Adult Prom Fundraiser](#), scheduled for Thursday, February 5 at 6pm at Lyon Street Bar & Grill, 72 Lyon Street in Amsterdam. Step into the spotlight and relive the magic of prom night—this time with a glamorous Hollywood twist! This dazzling event raises funds for the After-Prom programs at Amsterdam, Fonda-Fultonville, Canajoharie and Fort Plain High Schools. These programs play a vital role in keeping our area teens safe while celebrating one of the most memorable nights of their lives. There will be live



entertainment, free photo booth, delicious food and drink, dancing, crowning of a Prom King and Queen, and much more. Tickets are \$75 per person/\$125 per couple and can be purchased from any Rotarian after January 1.

## SAVE THE DATES FOR NEW 2026 EVENTS FOR MOUNTAIN VALLEY HOSPICE & PALLIATIVE CARE

On Saturday, February 28, join MVHPC and friends at a **Cabin Fever Cornhole Tournament** at the Johnstown Moose Lodge, 109 S. Comrie Avenue in Johnstown. The event starts at noon, cost is \$25 per player with prizes and raffles available. Sponsorship opportunities are available for this fun event.



Bet on a great cause at **Casino Royale: High Stakes for Hospice** which will take place on Friday, April 17 at the Lyon Street Bar & Grill, 72

Lyon Street in Amsterdam. This 007-inspired casino night will feature professional casino games with professional dealers (blackjack, roulette and craps) and Texas Hold 'Em Tickets are \$125 which includes blackjack, roulette and craps, 100 casino chips and food all night long. The Texas Hold 'Em game seats are limited to 30 people, and your \$200 Texas Hold 'Em tickets include a seat at one of these poker tables, 200 casino chips, all casino games and food all night long. The Texas Hold 'Em tables can win cash prizes; there will be large prizes for those who win the most chips at the casino games. There are sponsorship levels for individuals or businesses who want to gain exposure for this event to the 200 people in attendance as well as on social media, event promotion materials and more. For larger sponsorship levels there are free tickets available, among other amenities.

For event details, please visit Mountain Valley Hospice & Palliative Care on their Facebook page or website, or call (518) 725-4545. For sponsorship opportunities please contact Brigitte Rose at the phone number indicated or via email at [brigitte.rose@mvhcares.org](mailto:brigitte.rose@mvhcares.org). Tickets for Casino Royale: \$125 tickets are available online at Eventbrite [here](#), or at MVHPC located at 108 Steele Avenue in Gloversville. Tickets for the Texas Hold 'Em tables are only available by contacting MVHPC. Registration for the Cabin Fever Cornhole Tournament coming soon or contact MVHPC for details.



## TRUST YOUR GUT PRODUCTIONS TO PRESENT WINTER SEASON OF NEW STAGE WORKS IN DOWNTOWN GLOVERSVILLE AND BEYOND



Professional Gloversville-based production company, [Trust Your Gut Productions](#), is presenting a winter season of new works including murder mysteries, cabarets, and new musicals at Downtown Gloversville's Shoeleather Express "ED Center" (31 Spring Street, Gloversville) and beyond.

From January through March, TYGP will be headquartered at [Shoeleather Express' ED Center](#) (31 Spring Street, Gloversville). Elaine Mikenas and Dennis Viscanti, professional square-dance callers and owners of the building, generously offered their space to the production company during their off-site program in Florida in an effort to keep the building alive during the winter months. Their renovated building, a former church, features a beautiful dance hall/performance space, spacious lobby, and warm common room as well as artist dorms for overnighters. TYGP and SE are very excited to test the space out in new ways and expand both organizations' clientele.

This winter, TYGP will use the space to present six original works. January will see two murder mysteries come to life; a revival of *The Carbonara Wedding Murder* (TYGP's hit Italian-American wedding comedy) with reconceived staging for this former-church venue, and the World-Premiere of *Finals, Girls!*, a 1980's girls' sleep-over murder mystery that will make use of "The Big Comfy Couch", which, after a 14 year run on children's television, has found a permanent home at Shoeleather Express. *Finals, Girls!* will also feature a rotating cast of local celebrities in the role of "Grandpa" in an effort to unite the community through laughter, theatre, and mystery.

February will bring two original cabarets to the community; a revised, Vegas-style Valentine's cabaret, *Love All-Ways*, which features popular love songs from all eras, replete with TYGP's unique brand of complex vocal harmonies. *Love...* will also be presented as a fundraiser at the Johnstown Moose Lodge and for Valentine's date night at the Kingsboro Golf Club. Closing out February, TYGP is launching *Songs By Us*, a cabaret/showcase of original songs from original works by members of TYGP. The setlist will include original songs by Michael Maricondi, Alyssa Rizzo, Ryan Spilken, Frank "deVer" Pullen, Sonny Duross, Raphael Cohen, Lillian Nevins, and more, with live band.

March will bring two brand new, original musicals to the stage: *The Ledge*, a new musical by Raphael Cohen, which tells the stories of Roy and Aurora, two young adults who must deal with the demons of their pasts to move on. Featuring a rich, studied score and book that moves effortlessly from side-splitting comedy to heartfelt

drama and pathos, *The Ledge* will be presented in a script-in-hand workshop production. The demo cast recording featuring several songs from the score is also available on TYGP'S YouTube and SoundCloud channels. Closing out their winter season, TYGP is presenting a revised "version 2.0 workshop" of *Picture of David*, which was first produced by TYGP at The Glove Theatre in 2023. This new-and-improved version of ...*David* includes revised book and lyrics by Alyssa Rizzo and Michael Maricondi with an expanded score by Rizzo. TYGP hopes that these two musicals will find long lives in the capital region and beyond through their careful development and support.

March will also see enrollment open for TYGP'S 6th annual Summer Academy, a FREE four week-long conservatory-style arts day camp which offers students (lovingly referred to as "Rising Stars") professional-level training in acting, singing, dancing, playwriting, music composition, technical theatre, stage management, costume and set design, audition preparedness, and more as they endeavor to create, produce, and perform their own, original adaptation of a piece of world literature. 2026's Academy iteration will see the Rising Stars adapt *The Velveteen Rabbit*, for presentation in Gloversville's Trail Station Park. The on-going program is a collaboration between TYGP, the Gloversville Recreation Commission, and the Gloversville Public Library.

TYGP's 2025 season featured sold-out performances of four original comedic murder mysteries (*Pageant Peril*, *The Carbonara Wedding Murder*, *Murder at the Biergarten*, and *Murder Under the Mistletoe*), original cabarets (*Radio Rewind* and *Stardust: Celebrating the Great American Songbook*), as well as youth-centric programming including their 6th annual Summer Academy (*All That Glitters*) and their third *Prevention in Action*, a collaboration with the Glove City Youth Coalition. "We are so proud of our collective achievements this past year," said Co-Founder and Creative Director, Michael Maricondi, "to go from such uncertainty of our future at the beginning of 2025 to being welcomed with open arms by the community, making true and lasting partnerships with so many arts, cultural, and community organizations, to being invited to have a *home* for the winter (a pipe dream for many theatre companies)—we are truly 'booked and blessed'!" Maricondi and the entire TYGP Family invite you all to become "A Part of the Art" this winter—and beyond!

For more information on Trust Your Gut Productions, visit [www.trustyourgutproductions.org](http://www.trustyourgutproductions.org). For more in-depth show information and to purchase tickets, visit <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/cu/ffS2XgQ/tygpboxoffice>. Visit The Shoeleather Express at their Facebook page [here](#).



## HOLIDAY INN JOHNSTOWN— GLOVERSVILLE INVESTS IN ITS FACILITIES—AND IN OUR COMMUNITY

*A Conversation with General Manager Jim Landrio*



For nearly six decades, the Holiday Inn Johnstown—Gloversville has been a cornerstone of hospitality in our region. Since opening its doors in January of 1967, the hotel has welcomed generations of travelers, families, business leaders, and event guests—while quietly evolving to meet the changing needs of its customers. Today, that evolution is more visible than ever.

As a globally recognized IHG property, the Holiday Inn Johnstown—Gloversville brings the strength and consistency of an internationally respected brand—while remaining proudly locally owned and operated. It is also the only hotel in our two-county region to offer a full-service restaurant, bar, and banquet facilities capable of hosting everything from intimate gatherings to large-scale events of up to 300 guests.

According to Owner and General Manager Jim Landrio, reinvesting in the property has always been a priority. “Over the years, we’ve invested millions of dollars into this hotel and into the local economy,” he said. “This is our community, and we believe strongly in keeping this property competitive, welcoming, and modern.”

As part of IHG’s Property Improvement Plan (PIP), the Holiday Inn was asked to upgrade the lighting in its banquet facilities. Rather than viewing this as a simple compliance project, management saw it as an opportunity to reimagine the space entirely—bringing long-held ideas to life.

Banquet room renovations began in April 2025 with the installation of new windows, a transformative first phase that immediately changed the feel of the rooms. Additional enhancements included new wallpaper, elegant wood wall treatments, contemporary lighting fixtures, and updated window treatments, with renovations completed in October 2025. The results have been striking.

“The response has been overwhelmingly positive,” Landrio shared. “The new windows really set the room apart and completely changed the atmosphere. Guests are consistently impressed.”

At the same time, the Holiday Inn embarked on one of its most significant projects to date: a complete renovation of all 99 guest rooms and hotel hallways. Beginning in May 2025, the first floor has already been completed, revealing fully modernized rooms where virtually nothing has gone untouched. Bathrooms, flooring,

beds, furniture, and finishes have all been upgraded to create attractive, comfortable, and contemporary spaces for guests.

Renovations to the second and third floors are slated for completion by the summer of 2026, ensuring the entire hotel reflects today’s hospitality standards while preserving the warmth and familiarity guests have come to expect.

Enhancements extend beyond guest rooms as well. The front desk area is also being refreshed and will soon feature a brand-new Marketplace, scheduled to open in Spring 2026. This convenient amenity will offer travelers a wide selection of items, including snacks, beverages, sundries, and even frozen meals that can be prepared in in-room microwaves—perfect for guests arriving late or seeking a quick option during their stay.

Equally important is how these renovations are being completed. The Holiday Inn has made a conscious effort to utilize local contractors whenever possible, further reinforcing its commitment to the community. Work has been completed by Quality Painting and Decorating of Broadalbin/Amsterdam, Capital District Flooring and Installation of Broadalbin, and a millwork and counter-top company based in the Scotia/Glenville area, among others.

As renovations continue, the Holiday Inn Johnstown—Gloversville looks forward to celebrating the finished project with a public Open House near its completion. Community members are encouraged to watch for details and experience firsthand how this long-standing local landmark continues to invest—in its facilities, its guests, and the region it proudly calls home.



## NOMINATE YOURSELF OR A FELLOW CHAMBER MEMBER FOR THE 2026 CHAMBER AWARDS!

PLEASE take the time to nominate yourself or a fellow Chamber member for one or more of these prestigious awards which will be presented at the Business Expo/ Annual Awards Celebration at Amsterdam Municipal Golf Course/Meg's at Muni on April 1! **The nomination form is online [here](#)**. Voting deadline is Friday, January 30! Help us celebrate and honor the best of the businesses in our amazing business community! The award criteria are as follows:

**BARBARA V. SPRAKER TOURISM AWARD:** The Barbara V. Spraker Tourism Partner Award is given to a Chamber member who has excelled in the past year at bringing visitors to our region while promoting the positive aspects of our community. The award honors Barbara V. Spraker for her innumerable efforts in support of area tourism including spearheading initiatives such as the Canajoharie Information Booth, the bicycle path, and having served as commissioner for the Mohawk Valley Heritage Corridor Commission.

**SMALL BUSINESS AWARD** (10 employees or less): Given to a Chamber member who has shown a dedicated investment in the Chamber and/or community, as well as extraordinary participation in Chamber programs.

**FAMILY AWARD:** Given to a family whose members own, operate, or are employees of a Chamber member business and have shown extraordinary support and participation in Chamber programs.

**THOMAS B. CONSTANTINO ENTREPRENEURIAL AWARD:** The Thomas B. Constantino Entrepreneurial Award is given to a Chamber member that embodies the entrepreneurial spirit by organizing, managing and assuming the risks of building a business then persevering to see these efforts come to fruition. In memory of Thomas B. Constantino, founder of The Noteworthy Company in Amsterdam, who exhibited exemplary leadership skills, determination, creativity and vision.

**CENTENNIAL AWARD:** Given to a Chamber member who is an active participant in Chamber programs and has been in business in our region for 100+ years.

**AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS AWARD:** The Agricultural Business of the Year Award is given to an agricultural Chamber member business or event (or related) that has made a positive contribution to the economic growth and well-being of our region.

**YOUNG PROFESSIONAL AWARD:** The Young Professional of the Year Award is given to a young professional Chamber member under the age of 40 whose commitment, enthusiasm and positive energy have contributed to the betterment of our region.

**EDWARD L. WILKINSON INDUSTRY OF THE YEAR:** The Edward L. Wilkinson Industry of the Year Award is given to a Chamber member business or industry that has made a positive contribution to the economic growth and well-being of our region as well as extraordinary support and/or participation of Chamber programs. In memory of Edward L. Wilkinson, a prominent attorney and economic development leader, who was a strong believer in the potential of our region.

**AMBASSADOR OF THE YEAR:** The Ambassador of the Year Award is presented to a person who participates in the Fulton Montgomery Chamber's Ambassador Program who exemplifies volunteerism, attends Chamber functions such as ribbon-cutting events, Business After Hours, Grand Openings, Open Houses, seminars, and more, volunteers for Chamber activities such as the annual Golf Tournament, and is willing to help with any activities for which we may need assistance. This person helps us carry out our mission, promoting a thriving business climate in the region and supporting the well-being of our members.

**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. Herbert T. Singer and his brothers were pioneers and expert practitioners in the field of direct mail, and were the founders of the former Amsterdam Printing & Litho. He was also very involved in the Amsterdam community, serving on the school board, was one of the founders of the Amsterdam Community Chest, a precursor to the United Way, helped the Greater Amsterdam Volunteer Ambulance Corps get started and was the third Amsterdamian in history to achieve the highest degree of Masonry.

If you have any questions about these awards, including a list of the past winners, please contact Jennifer Hammons the Chamber at [projects@fultonmontgomeryny.org](mailto:projects@fultonmontgomeryny.org).



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## CENSUS BUREAU RELEASES NEW BUSINESS DATA PRODUCTS

The [U.S. Census Bureau](#) released in December new data products from the [Business Trends and Outlook Survey](#) (BTOS), a survey that measures business conditions and projections on an ongoing basis. The BTOS includes data for multiunit/multilocation businesses. BTOS will continue to collect data complementary to key items found on other economic surveys, such as revenues, employees, hours, and inventories.

BTOS data are representative of all employer businesses in the U.S. economy, excluding farms. BTOS provides insight into the state of the economy by providing continuous, timely data for key economic measures every two weeks. By providing continuous data with geographic and subsector detail, BTOS captures the impact of events like natural disasters and economic crises and assists in monitoring recovery efforts.

The BTOS sample consists of approximately 1.2 million businesses with biweekly data collection. Selected businesses are split into six panels (approximately 200,000 cases per panel) that will be asked to report every 12 weeks for a year. The Census Bureau estimates it takes the average respondent approximately nine minutes to complete the survey, including the time for reviewing the instructions and answers.

[Data](#) will be released biweekly and available by sector, state and the 25 most populous metropolitan statistical areas. New questions on artificial intelligence were added November 17 and will be released in 2026. Survey results give local, state and federal officials essential, real-time data to aid in policymaking and decision-making. In addition, the information aids businesses in making economic decisions. You can subscribe to the BTOS biweekly updates at the “Data” link above.

## GOVERNOR HOCHUL ANNOUNCES \$10 MILLION IN FUNDING AVAILABLE THROUGH MUNICIPAL PARKS AND RECREATION GRANT PROGRAM

Grant Program Complements Governor’s Unplug and Play Initiative To Encourage Kids To Get Outside and Off of Their Phones; Grant Applications Available Beginning December 31, 2025

NYS Governor Kathy Hochul announced \$10 million will be made available for the second round of the Municipal Parks and Recreation (MPR) Grant Program to fund the development and improvement of municipal parks and recreation sites statewide for the public to enjoy. Funding for this program is provided by the Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act. The MPR grant funding is available for the construction of recreational facilities and other improvements to municipally owned recreational sites and parks. Examples include playgrounds, courts, playing fields, and facilities for swimming, biking, boating, picnicking, hiking, fishing, camping, or other recre-

ational activities. Program guidelines, including how to apply, were available beginning December 31, 2025, on the [State Parks website](#). The first round of the MPR grant program [awarded](#) \$10 million to 17 projects across the state.

Eligible applicants include counties, cities, towns and villages within New York State that own the property where the proposed project will take place. Grants will primarily fund construction costs. Preconstruction activities, such as developing plans and design specifications, may be included in the project budget, but the grant cannot fund projects that are solely for planning and design without a construction component.

To maximize accessibility to funding, the MPR grant opportunity can fund up to 90 percent of the total eligible project costs, with a matching share requirement of 10 percent. The maximum grant award is \$900,000. Grants are administered on a reimbursement basis.

The application period will open on December 31, 2025 and applications must be submitted by February 9, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. Awards are expected to be announced no earlier than May 22, 2026.

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Acting Commissioner Kathy Moser said, “Our agency is proud to support Governor Hochul’s priority initiative to expand affordable recreational opportunities throughout New York State. Through this continued grant funding, we are helping more New Yorkers get outside to enjoy community-based parks and outdoor spaces year-round, while making it easier to engage in healthy activities that enhance overall quality of life.

The MPR grant program complements Governor Hochul’s [Unplug and Play](#) initiative to promote kids’ mental and physical health by continuing to rebuild the state’s social infrastructure and help steer children away from the harms of social media and toward positive activities like youth sports, arts programs, civic engagement, and community building. Unplug and Play includes three grant programs that invest in swimming infrastructure, playground construction and renovation, and the building and renovation of community centers.

## New York’s Clean Water, Clean Air and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act

On November 8, 2022, New York voters overwhelmingly approved the \$4.2 billion Environmental Bond Act. State agencies, local governments, and partners will be able to access funding to protect water quality, help communities adapt to climate change, improve resiliency, and create green jobs. Bond Act funding will support new and expanded projects across the state to safeguard drinking water sources, reduce pollution, and protect communities and natural resources from climate change. Progress on implementing funding continues, with New York State

awarding approximately \$1.25 billion, or 25 percent, of Bond Act funds to date. For [more information and to sign up for progress updates](#), go to the Environmental Bond Act webpage.



New York State  
Parks, Recreation and  
Historic Preservation

The Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce Presents:



# Legislative Breakfast



Join us for a regional conversation with our New York State elected officials about key issues that impact our communities.

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2026

**HOLIDAY INN JOHNSTOWN-GLOVERSVILLE  
308 NORTH COMRIE AVENUE, JOHNSTOWN**

7:30 AM: Registration

8:00 AM: Buffet Breakfast

8:30 AM - 10:00 AM: Panel Discussion

\$25 per person

**SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER**

**FOLLOW OUR WEBSITE AND SOCIAL  
MEDIA FOR UPCOMING  
ANNOUNCEMENTS ON ATTENDING  
ELECTED OFFICIALS.**



**QUESTIONS:**

**FULTONMONTGOMERYNY@GMAIL.COM**  
**(518) 725-0641**

**SO MUCH going on in our region! For event details, please reference the event calendars on [44lakes.com](http://44lakes.com) or [visitmontgomerycountyny.com](http://visitmontgomerycountyny.com)**

## JANUARY EVENTS

### Sunday, January 11

#### **Murder Mystery Dinner & Show to benefit the MCSPCA—Unhappy Homecoming: Rescue from Milligan's Island**

Amsterdam Municipal Golf Course, 158 Upper Van Dyke Avenue, Amsterdam  
3-4pm—Cocktails; Dinner at 4pm; Show starts at 5pm. \$50 per person. Tickets can be purchased at the MCSPCA or by calling (518) 842-8050.

### Saturday, January 17—12pm to 5pm

#### **Amsterdam's SoupFest at Citywide restaurants and bars Sponsored by Bethany Schumann-McGhee, Attorney at Law**

The City of Amsterdam is opening its bars and restaurants to the public to taste some great soups, hear live entertainment, and vote for your favorite soup—\$1 for 3 oz. soup samples. Pick up a Soup Guide at any location with a list of all soups, entertainment, specials and a map of participating locations. Facebook event page [here](#).

### Sunday, January 25, 9am-12pm

#### **Pancake Breakfast by Town of Florida Snowmobile Club,**

Town Hall, 167 Fort Hunter Road  
All you can eat, Silent Auctions, money raffle tickets and quality food await! Adults \$10, Under 12 \$5, Under 5 Free! Facebook event page [here](#).

### Sunday, January 25 1pm-3pm

#### **Felted Snowman Class at Second Act Spirits**

37 Prospect Street, Amsterdam  
Create your own unique felted snowman. All instructions and supplies are included in this class. Cocktails and Mocktails are available for purchase in the Second Act Spirits Tasting Room. More information and registration at the Facebook events page [here](#).

**January is about embracing the winter weather or warming up in great spaces in Fulton County!**

Visit [www.44lakes.com](http://www.44lakes.com) for the latest and most updated adventure opportunities and events! Here is just a sample of the many activities – for the complete listing and more details, visit the calendar at [www.44lakes.com](http://www.44lakes.com).

**Monday evenings 4:30 to 5:30pm—Open Studio Art Classes with Jake Willwerth, Paul Nigra Center for Creative Arts, 2736 State Highway 30, Gloversville**

*Take part in group projects or work independently on your own projects. Jake is available to help you learn to work with new art materials and give advice and guidance if needed, but you are also welcome to use the time to enjoy the studio space and use its resources to pursue your own art.*

**Wednesdays, 6-6:30pm—Sonny's Snoozy Story Time** at Gloversville Public Library, 58 E. Fulton Street

*Join us for soothing tales filled with gentle adventures, delightful characters, and dreamy settings that will make your little ones feel relaxed and ready to drift off to sleep.*

**January 9, 6pm-9pm—Live Music: Alex Riddell at the Great Sacandaga Brewing Company, 3647 NY-30, Broadalbin**

**January 10, 6pm-9pm—Live Music: Kevin Shea, The Sheaman—Great Sacandaga Brewing Co.**

**January 10, 7pm-11pm—A Man Named Cash Live at The Glove Theatre, 42 N. Main Street**

*Recognized by fans as one of the most honest and true representations of Johnny Cash live in concert, Eric Hofman's deeply resonant voice and profound embodiment of Cash's spirit will leave you captivated. He is joined onstage by Megan House in the role of June Carter.*

**January 24—Adirondack Series—Royal Mountain—Rail Jam #5**

Royal Mountain hosts The Adirondack Series, celebrating their 10th season. There will be 9 competitive, fun, fair events for freeriders and freeskiers of all ages in Rail Jam, Slope-Style and Boardercourses.

**January 30, January 31 and February 1—Second Annual Caroga Winter Carnival**

The 3-day Caroga Winter Carnival is back. The event kicks off Friday evening with a Winter Tournament series of events featuring sleigh races, a Cornhole Tournament, Closest to the Pin contest and highlighted by a four-man/woman teamed tug-of-war competition at the new Royal View Pub and Campground, 2533 State Highway 10 with live music, food and beverages.

Friday will also host a lighted snowmobile rave parade at West Caroga Lake at dusk followed by a fireworks display. Outhouse Races will take place on West Caroga Lake on Sunday. There are also plans for kids ice fishing contest, pancake breakfast, chili cook off, snow volleyball tournament and nightly music at Vrooman's, and the Caroga Arts Collective will host lights, skating and more at Sherman's. More info [here](#)

**January 31—Johnstown Winter Carnival at the city's Recreation Park, Briggs Street**

Break up those mid-winter blues and join us at the ultimate winter event that is sure to blend nostalgic winter play with modern experiences and family fun. Snow sculpture contest, ice skating, Spirits & Spoonfuls tasting event there will be lots to do! More information [here](#).

## WALLEYE CHALLENGE DEADLINE EXTENDED

Walleye Challenge registration is extended! This ice fishing tournament on the Great Sacandaga Lake, scheduled for Saturday, February 14 is one of largest tourism draws in our region. Pick up your form at [Fuel-n-Food](#), 3006 State Highway 30 in Gloversville, at the Chamber, 2 N. Main Street in Gloversville, or click [HERE](#) for a form. Ice (we hope!) or no ice, your entry includes the chance to win hourly cash prizes and the big prizes up for grabs: (1) side by side and (2) 4-wheelers! Ice or no ice, cash prize and raffle drawings will take place at Lanzi's on the Lake in Mayfield. If there is no ice, drawings will start at noon on 2/14; if we are ice fishing, after 3pm. The Walleye Challenge organizers would like to thank the sponsors of the event: [Frank's Gun Shop](#), [Frank & Sons Body Works](#), Saratoga Eagle, and Wiggly Worm Bait Supply.

## 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 40 years ago, the Chamber's scholarship program has provided over \$130,000 in scholarships to deserving regional school students. This year's program will consist of five \$1,000 scholarships, made possible by the proceeds of last year's Chamber Golf Tournament.

Eligible applicants must be high school seniors graduating from a Fulton or Montgomery County high school in June 2026 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 2026. Academic winners will be chosen by the Chamber's

## 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)

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/>, at [this link](#), or by contacting your high school guidance office. The application and all accompanying materials must be received by the Chamber by 4:00 PM on Friday, March 20, 2026 by mail, 2 N. Main Street, Gloversville, NY, 12078, email [fultonmontgomeryny@gmail.com](mailto:fultonmontgomeryny@gmail.com) or fax (518)725-0643. Questions can be directed to Jennifer Hammons at (518) 725-0641 or [projects@fultonmontgomeryny.org](mailto:projects@fultonmontgomeryny.org).

**NATHAN LITTAUER**  
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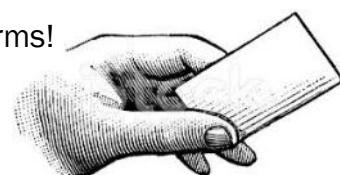
**PERTH**  
8:00 AM - 4:30 PM  
Monday - Friday  
**(518) 883-8620**

**AMSTERDAM**  
8:00 AM - 8:00 PM  
7 days a week  
**(518) 212-6070**

**SPECULATOR**  
8:00 AM - 4:30 PM  
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FULTON MONTGOMERY CHAMBER'S

## **BUSINESS EXPO and ANNUAL AWARDS PRESENTATION**

### **Thursday, April 2, 2026**

4:00pm—6:30pm Business Expo | 6:45pm Awards Presentation

Amsterdam Municipal Golf Course | Meg's at Muni | 158 Upper Van Dyke Avenue

#### **BUSINESS EXPO**

- Promote Your Business to hundreds of potential clients as a Vendor
- Network with other Chamber members
- Explore other regional businesses
- Learn about the Chamber and how it supports your business
- *Vendor table fee only \$50 (includes 8-foot table, chairs and lite fare)*



#### **ANNUAL AWARDS PRESENTATION**

Enjoy light refreshments while we celebrate and honor the winners in the following award categories:

- Tourism
- Small Business
- Family
- Entrepreneur
- Centennial
- Agricultural
- Young Professional
- Industry
- Ambassador
- Community Service



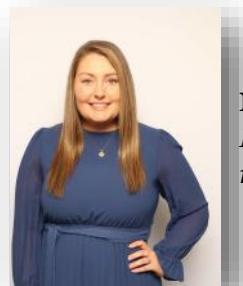
To nominate yourself or a fellow Chamber member for any of these awards, follow [this link](#).

*Chamber members, their employees, and guests FREE to attend both the Expo and Awards Presentations*

To register to be a vendor, or to find out about sponsorship opportunities, please download application [HERE](#).

Questions? Please call (518) 725-0641 or email [fultonmontgomeryny@gmail.com](mailto:fultonmontgomeryny@gmail.com).





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

## WORKFORCE SUMMIT LAUNCHES CAREER SUPPORT SERIES WITH FOCUS ON SKILLS, COLLABORATION, AND FUTURE READINESS

The December Workforce Summit marked a strong launch of the Career Support Series, bringing together more than 150 industry partners, workforce and economic development leaders, educators, and students. The event sparked meaningful dialogue focused on preparing the next generation for a rapidly evolving workforce, with an emphasis on soft skills, real-world learning, and stronger collaboration between education and industry.

Throughout the sessions, participants identified shared priorities for shaping the workforce of tomorrow. There was strong consensus around the importance of communication, adaptability, teamwork, and professionalism, paired with hands-on experiences such as internships, mentorships, and job shadowing. Financial literacy, conflict resolution, and fostering supportive workplace environments were also highlighted as essential components of long-term career success.

### Session Highlights

#### **Building the Ideal Future Workforce**

Participants agreed that professional skills, hands-on learning, and collaboration between educational institutions and industry partners are critical. Conversations emphasized integrating career exploration into curricula, addressing gaps in digital literacy, and promoting positive workplace culture.

#### **The Skills That Matter Most After Graduation**

Industry leaders stressed the importance of punctu-

ality, problem-solving, and the ability to receive constructive feedback. Many noted a disconnect between state requirements and employer needs, reinforcing the value of real-world application in education. Financial literacy and essential life skills were also identified as key areas for improvement.

#### **Education and Career Alignment and the Role of Industry Partners**

Strong partnerships between schools, employers, and communities emerged as a central theme. Participants emphasized that direct engagement through internships, mentorships, and career exposure opportunities is vital to bridging the gap between education and employment. Clearer communication around career pathways was identified as an important role for industry.

#### **Looking Ahead: Your Business in the Next 10 Years**

Discussions explored the growing impact of emerging technologies, including AI, on the workforce. While participants acknowledged concerns about job displacement, the conversation focused on adaptability, lifelong learning, and recognizing diverse credentials beyond traditional degrees as strategies for future success.

The energy and engagement throughout the morning reaffirmed a shared commitment to removing barriers and ensuring every student in our region has the skills, support, and opportunities needed to thrive. The Workforce Summit set a clear tone for the Career Support Series, with collaboration, real-world learning, and future-focused preparation at its core.

The next Career Support Series event will be the annual **Women in the Workforce Event on March 12, 2026, at HFM BOCES**.

This event will highlight women breaking barriers in non-traditional careers and connect them with female students from HFM component school districts, providing inspiration, mentorship, and hands-on learning opportunities for the next generation of leaders.

For more information, visit <https://forms.gle/SvdZ2BFfayJ4CKxL9> or email Nicole Walrath-VanAlstyne at [nicolew@fultonmontgomeryny.org](mailto:nicolew@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).*

**Wednesday, January 21, 7:30am**  
**CHAMBER'S LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST**  
**Holiday Inn Johnstown-Gloversville, 308 N. Comrie Avenue, Johnstown**  
One of our most popular annual events! Registration at 7:30am; Breakfast Buffet at 8:00am. Presentations begin at 8:30am

Your local and NYS elected officials will be answering your questions and discussing pertinent issues pertaining to our businesses and our region. \$25 per person for breakfast buffet.

**Thursday, January 29, 5pm-7pm**  
**BUSINESS AFTER HOURS AT THE FULTON COUNTY REGIONAL SPCA'S NEW BUILDING**  
**356 S. Kingsboro Avenue, Gloversville**  
Network with our local business community, share their space and talk with staff and volunteers about the organization's mission, impact, and future plans. A FREE event for Chamber members and their employees; RSVP requested please see information above.

**Thursday, March 12**  
**WOMEN IN THE WORKFORCE**  
**HFM BOCES, 2755 State Highway 67, Johnstown | East Entrance**  
This event was created to highlight women breaking barriers in non-traditional roles and to expose students to the opportunities they have right in their communities. We want our female students to have the chance to network and hear from women professionals in our region. Attendees will include select students from HFM component high schools. The day will begin with a panel discussion followed by personalized conversations held in a roundtable forum. If you work in a nontraditional role and would like to be a participant, or if you have any questions, please contact Nicole WalrathVanAlstyne at [nwalrath@hfmboces.org](mailto:nwalrath@hfmboces.org) Watch this newsletter and our email blasts for details.

**Thursday, April 2—4pm to 7:30pm**  
**CHAMBER'S BUSINESS EXPO AND AWARDS PRESENTATION**  
**Amsterdam Municipal Golf Course | Meg's at Muni, Golf Course Road**  
See pages 9 and 14 in this issue for details on the events and how to nominate yourself or a fellow Chamber member for these prestigious Chamber awards! There are opportunities for sponsorship, for

tabling to display/talk about all your business has to offer, and to attend to see the Chamber Award winners and presentation, and to network with dozens of fellow members. Watch your email blasts for information as it becomes available. Application for Chamber member businesses to display at the event and sponsorship information can be found [here](#).

**JOB FAIR AT SUNY FM— April 22, 2026**  
**CAREER CON AT SUNY FM— April 23, 2026**  
**2805 State Highway 67, Johnstown**

Employers are encouraged to participate in both days. April 22 focuses on immediate hiring and employment opportunities. April 23's Career Con provides an interactive, hands-on experience designed to build early career awareness for 8th-grade students across our region. Contact Nicole VanAlstyne at [nicolew@fultonmontgomeryny.org](mailto:nicolew@fultonmontgomeryny.org).



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