



NEWSLINE

July/August 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.

New Chapter for Chamber and Regional Businesses with Hiring of New Chamber Executive Director *Jennifer Laubenstein from Mayfield Begins on July 6*

The Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce the appointment of Jennifer Laubenstein as its new Executive Director, effective July 6, 2026.

Laubenstein brings more than a decade of experience in leadership, strategic planning, communications, marketing, project management, and stakeholder engagement. Most recently serving as Marketing Manager at ADG Promo Products, she has successfully led organization-wide initiatives, managed large-scale events and communications strategies, and developed strong partnerships that support organizational growth and community engagement.

"We are thrilled to welcome Jennifer to the Chamber team," said Jeffrey M. Methven, Chair of the Chamber's Board of Directors. "Her leadership experience, strategic mindset, and passion for community engagement make her an outstanding choice to lead the Chamber into its next chapter."

"On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would also like to extend our sincere gratitude to Nicole Walrath-VanAlstyne for her dedicated service as Interim Executive Director. Nicole provided steady leadership, guidance, and commitment during this transitional period."

Laubenstein holds a Bachelor of Science in Market-



ing and Communications from Champlain College and has earned certifications in project management, leadership management, and content marketing. Throughout her career, she has been recognized for strengthening organizational visibility, building collaborative partnerships, and leading initiatives that drive meaningful results.

"I am honored to join the Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce as Executive Director," said Jennifer Laubenstein. "The Chamber plays a vital role in supporting businesses, fostering economic growth, and strengthening the communities of Fulton and Montgomery Counties. I look forward to working alongside our members,

Board of Directors, elected officials, community partners, and dedicated staff to build upon the Chamber's strong foundation and create new opportunities for connection, collaboration, and success throughout the region."

There will be many opportunities to meet and connect with Jennifer at upcoming events, including at the July 22 ribbon-cutting and open house at St. Andrews Heating and Cooling (see page 20 for details). Please participate in any of myriad happenings we have on tap for the next few months and help us welcome Jennifer to our business community!

The Chamber and Our Businesses Offer Many Opportunities for Connection, Collaboration and Celebration! Join Us! See additional photos on page 19.

[Valer Law PLLC](#), located at 3748 St. Hwy. 30, Amsterdam specializes in comprehensive real estate law with personalized service for buyers, sellers, investors, realtors and lenders. Call (518) 557-1359.



[Handy Ups N' Downs Thrift Store](#), a division of the [Mental Health Association](#), celebrated their new location at 212 Forest Avenue in Amsterdam. The thrift store offers gently used clothing, household items and much more! Read more on page 14



[Timeline Diesel](#), a Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business, specializes in the remanufacturing of mechanical diesel fuel injection. Local supplier of electronic diesel component exchange and installation kits. Solutions for all diesel systems with a focus on Agriculture, Industrial and performance. 310 Bleecker Street, Gloversville, (315) 237-7760

[Second Act Spirits](#) opened a new distillery room in the Amsterdam Clocktower, the same building that houses their tasting room at 37 Prospect Street. As a farm distillery, they are committed to sourcing NYS ingredients. Stop by to try their grain-to-glass spirits!





REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

2 N. Main Street, Gloversville, NY 12078

(518) 725-0641 | fultonmontgomeryny.org

2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

Vice Chair—Seth Brown, *Brown's Ford*

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Ashley Capobianco, *Townsend Leather Company, Inc.*

Christie Davis, *Fulton-Montgomery Community College*

Ashley Delaney, *Nathan Littauer Hospital & Nursing Home*

Mike DiMezza, *HFM Career & Technical Education*

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

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Janet Stanley, *Lee Shops at Wagner Square*

CHAMBER STAFF

Jennifer Laubenstein, Executive Director

Alexis Beman, *Business & Education Partnership Coordinator*

Mark Bolebruch, *Financial Representative*

Jennifer Hammons, *Special Projects Associate*

Alixandria Shrome, *Programs & Communications Coordinator*

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](#)

A Q&A with Jennifer Laubenstein, New Chamber Executive Director

• *What attracted you to the Chamber and this role?*
The Chamber stood out because it gives me the chance to support local businesses in a meaningful way, helping them grow, stay visible, and navigate challenges with a partner they can rely on. I want my work to have a more direct impact on the community I live in. Being able to use my marketing skills and experience to help the businesses right here in my community is what attracted me to this role.

• *What excites you most about serving our business community?*

What excites me most about stepping into this role is the chance to partner with local businesses, support their needs, and help generate growth for our area. I'm looking forward to meeting business owners, hearing their stories, and learning how the Chamber can best support them. Most of all, I'm looking forward to collaborating with our business community to create solutions that help generate growth for our region.

• *What are your top priorities during your first year?*

My top priorities during the first year in this role are to listen closely to our business community, understand their needs, and build strategic plans that genuinely support their success. I'm focused on creating clear action and execution steps, identifying quick wins, and establishing a strong communication loop that keeps businesses informed, engaged, and connected.

• *How would you describe your leadership style?*

My leadership style is focused on collaboration, communication, trust, empathy, and steady growth. I put my team's needs first and work alongside them to support our shared goals. I'm always willing to step in where needed, and I believe in solving challenges together. When we stay aligned and support one another, we're able to move forward as a strong, effective team.

• *Tell us a little about yourself and your family.*

I've lived in this community for most of my life. I went to high school in Mayfield, and my husband and I raised our family here. We've been married for over 30 years and have two grown children who are now off on their own adventures. My family is at the center of everything I do. I am an advocate of continuous learning and I'm a planner at heart. I really enjoy collaborating, brainstorming solutions, and helping others succeed. Professionally, I come from a marketing and communications background and have experience in tradeshow and event management, content strategy, and strategic planning. In 2020, I went back to college to earn my bachelor's degree in marketing and communications, with a focus on project management and content strategy.

• *What do you enjoy doing outside of work?*

Outside of work I enjoy spending time at the lake with family and friends, hanging out at home reading a good book, and doing antique shopping with my husband. I also enjoy history and going to museums and helping in our community with volunteer work.

You can reach Jennifer via email at executivedirector@fultonmontgomeryny.org or by calling (518) 725-0641.

Welcome New Members

May—June 2026

BPI Mechanical Service

(518) 218-8371 | <http://bpimechanicalservice.com>

5 Hemlock Street, Latham

Offer Preventive and Predictive HVAC/Refrigeration/Plumbing Maintenance Services for commercial businesses that reduce emergencies, optimize efficiencies, control costs and extend the life of your equipment with a large staff of technicians who are trained, certified and continuously updated on industry best practices. They offer responsive service, consistency and relationships built on accountability, transparency and trust. BPI can also provide Equipment Replacement and Design Build Services.

C.H. Hill Excavation

(518) 705-2434 | <http://www.chhillexcavation.com>

1 Walnut Ave, Johnstown

C.H. Hill Excavation is a small excavation company specializing in residential work. They do excavation, drive-ways, septs, concrete work, land clearing and grading. They also specialize in demolition from small sheds to multifamily houses.

Mason Memorial Home

(838) 234-0445 | <http://www.masonmemorial.com>

13 Belmont Place, Amsterdam

Family-owned and operated funeral home, under the direction of licensed funeral director Michael Mason. He has had almost two decades of experience serving the Capital District, with 14 years serving Schenectady County. Mason Memorial Home looks forward to serving Montgomery and Fulton Counties with affordable, compassionate and personalized care.

City of Amsterdam

(518) 841-4300 | <https://www.amsterdamny.gov/>

61 Church St., Amsterdam

Me-Ma's 2.0 LLC

(518) 224-9903

5266 State Hwy 10, Fort Plain

Country convenience store with grocery staples, deli with fresh made subs and salads, coffee bar, breakfast sandwiches, soups, chili, pizza, hotdog, and hamburgers, and soft ice cream.



Membership Message

Jessica Valachovic,
Membership Outreach
Associate

As your Membership Outreach Associate, I truly feel fortunate to be part of such an amazing business community. I've had the opportunity to celebrate so many milestones alongside our members through ribbon cuttings, grand openings, business after hours, networking events, community partnerships, and special celebrations. Each event has been a reminder of the passion, dedication, and pride that make Fulton and Montgomery Counties such a special place to do business.

One of the most rewarding parts of my role has been watching businesses genuinely support one another. Seeing members collaborate, refer customers, celebrate each other's successes, supporting each other, attending their events and building lasting partnerships. This has shown me just how strong and connected our Chamber community truly is.

Whether I'm visiting businesses, welcoming new members, or helping connect people with Chamber resources, it's been wonderful getting to know so many of you and seeing our business community thrive.

If you've been considering Chamber membership or would like to learn more about how we can support your business, I'd love to chat. Please don't hesitate to reach out. I'm always happy to answer your questions, share the benefits of membership, and help you discover how the Chamber can support your business.

CANDIDS WITH EMILY ROSE NAMED SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

In a community built on connection, creativity, and resilience, few businesses embody those values as authentically as Candid's With Emily Rose. Owned and operated by Emily Munson, the heart and talent behind the lens, this thriving photography studio has been named the Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce's Small Business of the Year. For Emily, the recognition is both humbling and deeply affirming.

Growing up in a large family as a quadruplet, entrepreneurship was not something Emily was surrounded by. Yet today, she stands as a testament to what passion, perseverance, and purpose can build. "This gives me reassurance that I'm truly meant to be doing what I'm doing," she shared. "It tells me I'm doing something right." Beyond her photography studio, Emily has launched multiple ventures that support and uplift other businesses, reinforcing her commitment to helping others grow alongside her. Emily's journey into photography began with a natural love for capturing memories. A self-described sentimental person, she always had a camera in hand. It was while working as a second shooter for another photographer that everything clicked. "I realized this is something I could really do," she said. "It's something I loved, and I had a talent for it." That realization sparked the creation of Candid's With Emily Rose, a business rooted in authenticity and emotion.

Her signature style focuses on natural, unposed moments. While she guides clients when needed, Emily thrives in creating an environment where laughter, movement, and genuine connection take center stage. "I want to capture the real moments," she explained. "The ones where people are just being themselves." This approach has resonated deeply with clients, allowing her to build lasting relationships and a loyal following.

As a proud mother of twins, Emily brings a unique perspective to her work. Motherhood has strengthened her patience and deepened her appreciation for life's fleeting milestones. "If you don't have kids, you might not realize how important those little moments are," she said. Her children often accompany her to the studio, witnessing firsthand her dedication and creativity. "It's full circle. They see me as a role model, and that keeps me motivated."

Like many entrepreneurs, Emily faced challenges in the early stages of building her business. From securing materials to gaining visibility, the process required persistence and a strong mindset. "You have to start somewhere," she noted. "It's about continuing to push forward, always improving, always evolving." That mindset remains central to her success today.

Emily's work spans a variety of photography niches, but maternity and newborn sessions hold a special place in her heart. These sessions allow her to blend creativity with emotion, capturing moments that families will treasure for a lifetime. Her genuine care and passion shine through in every image.

Beyond her studio, Emily is deeply embedded in the local community. Based in Johnstown, she has received unwavering support from fellow businesses and residents alike. From referrals through CW Hair Design to collaborations with local organizations and nonprofits, her network continues to grow. She has donated her time and talent to community events, offered free sessions to organizations in need, and consistently looks for ways to give back. "At the base of everything is my genuine heart," she said. "I just want to help people and see them smile."

What truly sets Candid's With Emily Rose apart is Emily herself. Her approachable personality, flexibility, and commitment to her clients go beyond expectations. She does not limit sessions by strict timelines, ensuring she captures "the" photo rather than just "a" photo. She offers affordable pricing, works around busy schedules, and creates a welcoming, judgment-free space for everyone. "I want people to feel comfortable, no matter who they are or what they've been through," she said.

Community members echo this sentiment. Nominations highlighted her ability to make clients feel at ease, her generosity in offering affordable services, and her unwavering positivity. Many described her as a light in the community, someone who not only captures memories but creates meaningful experiences.

Looking ahead, Emily has ambitious goals. She envisions purchasing property to build a larger, multi-purpose studio with creative spaces designed to inspire both clients and collaborators. She also hopes to expand into travel and motivational speaking, blending her entrepreneurial journey with her passion for photography.

For aspiring entrepreneurs, Emily offers simple but powerful advice: choose something meaningful and take the leap. "Don't let fear hold you back," she said. "Find what works for you and go after it."

At its core, Candid's With Emily Rose is more than a photography business. It is a space where stories are told, memories are preserved, and people are celebrated for exactly who they are. That mission, paired with Emily's unwavering dedication, makes her not only a deserving Small Business of the Year recipient, but a true community champion.



CANDIDS WITH EMILY ROSE

32 W. Main Street, Johnstown | candidswithemilyrose.com | (518) 448-2961



MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

May-June 2026

Thank you for your continued support!



40+ YEARS

- Canada Lake Store and Marine – 49
- Noble ACE Hardware – 48
- Nathan Littauer Hospital & Nursing Home – 46
- Jankowski Agency – 43
- House of Pizza – 42
- Century Linen & Uniform – 42
- Dunham's Spring Shop, Inc. – 41
- Lapland Lake Nordic Vacation Center – 41
- Rooney Sign Company – 41

31 – 40 YEARS

- Main Motorcar Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram – 40
- Correll Contracting Corporation – 39
- Patti's Greenhouses – 39
- Arkell Hall Foundation, Inc. – 35
- Benjamin Moore & Co., Inc. – 35
- Kinowski Agency Inc./Johnstown Office – 35
- Mayfield Central School District – 34
- Walmart-Gloversville – 34
- Epimed International, Inc. – 32
- Town of Johnstown – 32

21 – 30 YEARS

- Gloversville Public Library – 30
- Sunset Bay Vacation Resort-RV Park & Marina – 30
- Amsterdam Pathology Associates – 27
- A. G. Cole Funeral Home, Inc. – 23
- Loyal Order of the Moose Lodge 1185 – 22
- NBT Bank – Hannaford Plaza – 21
- Ferguson & Foss, PC – 21

11 – 20 YEARS

- Bosco's Family Restaurant – 20
- ADK Realty – 20
- Steet Toyota of Johnstown-Gloversville – 19
- Curtin-Herbert Machines – 17
- Cioffi, Slezak, Wildgrube PC – 15
- Dunkin' Donuts (Amsterdam) – 15
- McMurray's – 14
- Route 30 Wine & Liquor Depot – 14

- First National Bank of Scotia – 12
- Lakeside Tavern & Marina – 12
- Gloversville Senior Center – 12
- Versatile Wood Fabrication – 12
- New Process Cleaners – 12
- Palatine Nursing Home and Rehabilitation Center – 11
- The Century Club of Amsterdam – 11

1 – 10 YEARS

- Gloversville Housing Authority – 10
- Schenectady Community Action Program, Inc. – 10
- New York State Restaurant Association – 10
- MVP Health Care – 9
- The Sentinel of Amsterdam – An Assisted Living Community – 9
- MCJ Construction – 8 (continued on page 6)

RIVER RIDGE LIVING CENTER
Rehabilitation & Long Term Care

100 Sandy Drive, Amsterdam, NY 12010
518.843.3503 • RiverRidgeLC.com

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN PEOPLE'S LIVES
At River Ridge Living Center
We offer a comprehensive array of clinical Services

Our Therapeutic Recreation Program provides a variety of stimulating activities to fully engage our residents - fostering new friendships and enhancing well-being and happiness.
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!



MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

May-June 2026

Thank you for your continued support!



(continued from page 5)

1 – 10 YEARS

- Hummel's Office Plus – 7
- Brittany's Diner and Grocery Store – 7
- Blueberry Hill – 6
- Out of the Blue Berry Farm – 5
- Winsman & Hellert Wealth Management Group of Wells Fargo – 5
- CDL Associates Insurance Agency LLC – Johnstown – 5
- Brownell Lumber & Hardware LLC – 4
- Coldwell Banker Prime Properties – 4
- Fulton County YMCA – 3
- On the Mark Accounting – 3
- Helio Health – 2
- Together For Youth – 2
- Executive Elecgric LLC – 2
- Antlers Country Club – 2
- Annie D's Grill – 2
- Varin Enterprises LLC – 2
- Meg's at Muni – 1
- Weldon Beauty – 1
- NuCloud Technologies – 1
- Avanti Control Systems – 1
- Timeline Diesel - 1



BOOST YOUR BUSINESS' ONLINE PRESENCE WITH THE CHAMBER

Are you taking full advantage of the Chamber's online marketing opportunities? Chamber members are invited to schedule a complimentary virtual consultation with Internet Marketing Consultant Jason Moengen to learn how Chamber website advertising and digital marketing tools can help increase visibility for your business.



Consultations are available throughout July and are tailored to your business's goals and marketing needs.

To schedule your consultation, visit: <https://form.jotform.com/241725821141146> For additional information, contact Jason Moengen at jason@chamberws.com.



Working together to build your business.

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

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A+ MOWING AND TRIMMING RECEIVES RAVE REVIEWS FROM CUSTOMERS

A+Mowing and Trimming, 115 Jackie Court, Amsterdam, has received stellar reviews from new and current customers. They include:

"I am very pleased with the quality of your work mowing my lawn and snow removal the last 2 years! I'm happy you are so reliable, meticulous, and flexible. Thanks so much for taking care of my property. I am a loyal customer." - Liz G.

"Great lawn service! They showed up on time, cut the grass evenly, and cleaned up afterwards. My yard looks neat and well maintained and professional. Highly recommend!" - Jason N.

"Craig has been doing my lawn care and snow blowing for the past couple of years. He does a fantastic job at both. I am very satisfied with his work and his reasonable rates." - Bill R.

"Craig, owner of A+ Mowing and Trimming, is by far the best mowing and snow blowing company I have ever hired. He is meticulous in his work with everything left neat and clean in the summer or winter. He is reliable and I never worry about him showing up. I am very happy with his work ethic. He certainly exceeds my expectations." - Gail G.

Since 2011, Owner Craig Baumes and his team has been dedicated to every property as if it were their own, ensuring that every homeowner feels satisfied and happy with our work. They strive to exceed your expectations every step of the way. us take care of your property while you enjoy the benefits! Schedule a free estimate today by calling (518) 224-1216, visit their website at <https://www.aplusmowingandtrimming.com/>, email aplusmowingandtrimming@outlook.com or visit them on [Facebook](#).

NATHAN LITTAUER HOSPITAL & NURSING HOME NEWS

Birthing Center Offers New Pain Management Option

Nathan Littauer Hospital & Nursing Home announces the addition of nitrous oxide as a labor pain management option for its patients delivering at the [Nathan Littauer Birthing Center](#).

Often referred to as "laughing gas," nitrous oxide is a safe, fast-acting blend of nitrous oxide and oxygen that can help laboring mothers feel more relaxed and in control during childbirth. The option provides temporary pain relief and anxiety reduction while allowing patients to remain awake, alert, and actively involved in their birth experience.

Nitrous oxide is self-administered through a mask held by the patient. It begins working within seconds and wears off quickly once use is stopped, giving patients flexibility and control throughout labor.

Nitrous oxide does not eliminate all labor pain like an epidural; however, it can help take the edge off contractions, reduce anxiety, and improve comfort during labor. Because patients control when they use the mask, they can start and stop treatment as needed and may choose to transition to other pain management options at any time.

Benefits of nitrous oxide include:

- Fast-acting relief
- Use during all stages of labor
- Patient-controlled administration
- Non-invasive pain management
- Rapid recovery once discontinued

While nitrous oxide is considered safe for most patients, it may not be appropriate for everyone. Patients are encouraged to discuss their medical history and labor pain management preferences with their healthcare provider to determine whether nitrous oxide is the right choice for them.

The [Nathan Littauer Birthing Center](#) provides comprehensive maternity care in a supportive, family-centered environment. The introduction of nitrous oxide further enhances Littauer's Birthing Center's commitment to offering modern, evidence-based options that empower patients throughout their childbirth journey.

For more information about labor and delivery services at Nathan Littauer Hospital's Birthing Center, please call (518) 773-5710.

Cesar Del Aguila, MD Joins Cardiology Staff

Nathan Littauer Hospital & Nursing Home is pleased to welcome Cesar Del Aguila, MD, to its Cardiology practice, further expanding access to specialized cardiovascular care for patients throughout the Fulton-Montgomery Counties region.

Dr. Del Aguila joins Nathan Littauer's growing Cardiology team alongside Syed Iqbal, MD, who joined the organization in 2024, as well as Alexandra Mazzariello, PA. Together, they provide comprehensive cardiac services to Littauer patients, helping address the increasing need for specialized heart care throughout Fulton and surrounding counties.

Board-certified in Cardiovascular Disease by the American Board of Internal Medicine and certified by the American Board of Nuclear Cardiology, Dr. Del Aguila brings extensive training and experience in the diagnosis, treatment, and management of cardiovascular conditions. Dr. Del Aguila completed his residency in Internal Medicine at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, Michigan, followed by a fellowship in Cardiology at Wayne State University in Detroit. He earned his medical degree from Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia in Lima, Peru.

Nathan Littauer's Cardiology practice offers patients access to comprehensive cardiac evaluations, diagnostic testing, treatment planning, and ongoing management of heart conditions, all in a convenient local setting.

Dr. Del Aguila is accepting patients with a physician referral at:

Nathan Littauer Cardiology | 99 East State Street, Suite 106, Gloversville, NY 12078

To schedule an appointment, please call (518) 773-5393.

To learn more about Nathan Littauer Hospital & Nursing Home, please visit them online at <https://nlh.org>



NEWS FROM SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF FULTON AND MONTGOMERY COUNTIES

Congratulations to the Club's 2026 Soroptimist Ruby Award recipient, Ashley Delaney! Ashley is a passionate leader, dedicated volunteer, and successful businesswoman whose commitment to serving others has made a lasting impact throughout our community. Whether mentoring, supporting veterans, leading local organizations, or helping businesses grow, Ashley consistently uses her talents, time, and heart to make a difference. We are proud to recognize her as an inspiring example of service, leadership, and community spirit.



*Pictured left to right:
Soroptimist members
Eileen Rovito, Ashley
Delaney, Lana Ruggiero*

Soroptimist is also pleased to announce their 2026 Youth and Scholarship Award recipients and Live Your Dream Award recipient

Congratulations to:

* Mila Valachovic – Mayfield

* Kyla McRedmond – Fonda-Fultonville

* Kaylee Heroth – Oppenheim-Ephrata-St. Johnsville

* Soria Hock – Johnstown

* Erin Charities Sacdalan – Gloversville

* Bailey Pierce – Gloversville

* Adriana Toma – SUNY Plattsburgh

The Youth scholarships were awarded to outstanding young women from Fulton or Montgomery Counties who are pursuing higher education post-high school graduation.

The Live Your Dream award is given to a woman from Fulton or Montgomery Counties who is currently enrolled in an accredited institution while also caring for dependents.

The Club was incredibly proud to recognize these inspiring students at their annual scholarship dinner, pictured below.

Soroptimist wishes each of these remarkable young women nothing but success as they continue their education, pursue their dreams, and make a positive impact on the world.

Soroptimist would also like to thank their community by continuing to support Soroptimist International of Fulton and Montgomery Counties. The generous support of events they host helps make these scholarships possible.



SIDNEY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION DONATES \$20,000 TO SUPPORT IPH'S DANIELLE'S HOUSE THROUGH "WHY SFCU? 1 MILLION REASONS" INITIATIVE

SFCU is proud to announce a \$20,000 donation to IPH in support of Danielle's House, as part of its *Why SFCU? 1 Million Reasons* \$1M Community Support Initiative focused on advancing housing stability and strengthening local communities.

Located in Montgomery County, Danielle's House is the only program of its kind in the area, offering a combination of emergency shelter, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing for individuals experiencing homelessness. The program provides critical, year-round support to individuals working toward stability and independence.

SFCU's donation will fund key improvements at Danielle's House, including updated furnishings, new flooring, and the creation of an additional third-floor room — expanding the program's capacity to serve another individual in need.

With a branch in Amsterdam, NY, SFCU is deeply connected to the Montgomery County community and committed to supporting initiatives that directly impact local residents. This investment reflects the credit union's ongoing dedication to strengthening the neighborhoods where its members live and work.

SFCU team members recently visited Danielle's House to present the donation and meet with Shelter Manager, Angel Windham, and Program Director, Jennifer Salamo, who shared insights into the program's impact and the importance of creating safe, supportive environments.

"This support will make a tangible difference in the lives of the individuals we serve," said Jennifer Salamo, IPH Program Director. "Investments like this allow us to not only improve our space but also expand our ability to provide safe, stable housing."

For more information about SFCU's community initiatives and how to get involved, visit sfcuonline.org/1millionreasons or follow @sidneyfcu on social media.

A video compilation of the \$20,000 donation can be found here: <https://youtu.be/E-J3KGGSHZ8>



ST. MARY'S HEALTHCARE NEWS

St. Mary's Healthcare Recognized as Top Workplace—Again | *Only Capital Region acute care hospital ever to earn this distinction*

[St. Mary's Healthcare](#) has earned a place among the Capital Region's "Top Workplaces" for the second year in a row.

The independent community hospital is a Times Union Top Workplace 2026. St. Mary's is the only acute care hospital in the Capital Region to make the list in the 15 years the Times Union has been recognizing the region's top employers.

"We've made it a priority to build a culture of collaboration, innovation and inclusion—one that's committed to the growth of all who work here. This award affirms that we're succeeding," St. Mary's Healthcare President and CEO Jeff Methven said.

"Our team is extraordinary in their commitment to our mission, our community and each other," he added, "and that is instrumental in making St. Mary's a Top Workplace."

The annual Top Workplaces list is based solely on employee feedback, via a confidential survey on work-related measures such as feeling respected and supported, enabled to grow and empowered to execute. The survey is conducted by Energage, a workplace culture research firm.

St. Mary's is in the midst of a strategic turnaround plan that includes investing in much-needed services, compensation, benefits, recognition programs, and professional and career development. The local community hospital also emphasizes transparency and communication and has increased employee involvement in decision-making.

St. Mary's Healthcare Earns an "A" for Patient Safety

Fewer than one-third of N.Y. hospitals received Leapfrog Group's highest grade

St. Mary's Healthcare earned an "A" Hospital Safety Grade from The Leapfrog Group, an independent national nonprofit watchdog focused on patient safety. Just 28.2% of New York state hospitals—including two in the Capital Region—received Leapfrog's highest grade.

Leapfrog assigns an "A," "B," "C," "D," or "F" grade to general hospitals across the country using evidence-based measures of patient safety focused exclusively on errors, accidents, injuries and infections. Grades are updated twice a year, in the spring and fall.



In the past two years, St. Mary's has added 90+ providers and 130+ associates, reopened shuttered offices, introduced much-needed medical specialties, increased investments in equipment and employees, and more..

The goal is to help secure St. Mary's financial future by differentiating the community hospital on quality, safety, compassion and employee engagement.

St. Mary's Healthcare Recognized as National Safe Sleep Hospital

Earns highest certification from National Cribs for Kids infant sleep initiative

St. Mary's Healthcare has earned gold certification—the highest level of recognition—as a Cribs for Kids® National Safe Sleep Hospital.

This designation is reserved for hospitals that demonstrate adherence to all Cribs for Kids guidelines for promoting safe infant sleep. Guidelines cover staff, patient and other caregiver education and training, community outreach, quality improvement efforts, and other safe sleep practices recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Sleep-related deaths are a leading cause of U.S. infant mortality, claiming the lives of about 3,500 babies each year. The national Cribs for Kids initiative is dedicated to preventing these deaths by educating parents and caregivers about safe-sleep practices. Hospitals like St. Mary's play a key role in this life-saving program.

Earning the certification required a comprehensive, coordinated effort, within and beyond the St. Mary's organization. Rorick cited support from the hospital's nursing, maternity, education and other teams, OB/GYN practices, urgent care centers, and community organizations that promoted—and continue to promote—the safe-sleeping initiative.

The Cribs for Kids certification is the latest example of St. Mary's commitment to best practices that help ensure the highest levels of quality and safety. The hospital is recognized by Excellus BlueCross BlueShield as a Blue Distinction Center for Maternity Care. St. Mary's also has an "A" Hospital Safety Grade from the Leapfrog Group, making St. Mary's one of the Capital Region's safest hospitals.

More information on the Cribs for Kids® National Safe Sleep Hospital Certification Program is available at www.cribsforkids.org/hospitalcertification

About St. Mary's Healthcare: [St. Mary's Healthcare](#) has been providing high-quality, compassionate healthcare to the people of Montgomery and Fulton counties since 1903. At St. Mary's Hospital, the Rao Outpatient Pavilion and other locations, the local, independent healthcare organization offers the comprehensive, critical services its community needs and deserves. For more information: www.smha.org or www.facebook.com/smha.org, or call (518) 842-1900.

CHAMBER CHAMPION FEATURE— NBT BANK

NBT BANK – A Chamber, and Neighborhood, Champion



NBT Bank

balances good, old-fashioned business sense with forward thinking. They know their communities and the

people in them. They understand that local businesses are the lifeblood of their communities. That is why they work with businesses of all sizes to develop individualized plans that help foster their success.

NBT Bank is an independent, community bank based in Norwich, NY. They trace their roots back to 1856 when a group of business leaders in Norwich saw a need for additional banking resources in the community and came together to form a bank. They have a proud heritage of building long-term financial relationships with individuals, businesses and organizations, agricultural operations and local governments. The bank celebrates the 170th anniversary of its founding this year.

NBT Bank offers personal banking, commercial banking and wealth management services through digital channels and over 170 banking locations in New York, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine and Connecticut. In Fulton County, there are full-service NBT Bank branches in Johnstown, Gloversville, Vail Mills, and Northville. In Montgomery County, there are branches in Canajoharie, Amsterdam, Fonda, Fort Plain, and St. Johnsville. There are also dozens of additional stand-alone ATMs throughout the region, such as at SUNY FM and at the Holiday Inn Johnstown-Gloversville. Also under its umbrella are EPIC Retirement Plan Services, a national benefits administration firm based in Rochester, and NBT Insurance Agency, LLC, a full-service insurance agency also based in Norwich.

Since opening their doors 170 years ago, they have remained committed to providing their customers with superior banking services and helping to make the communities they serve better places in which to live and work. They also believe that their greatest competitive advantage remains in their people. Through their dedication, NBT is able to enhance their employees' ability to serve customers through relationship building, personalized banking solu-

tions, local decision making and commitment to community initiatives.

Throughout the bank's history, they have supported numerous organizations and causes. In addition to financial support, NBT Bank employees contribute time and expertise to many local communities and boards. Community involvement is a core value for NBT Bank and their staff. Employees are encouraged and empowered to volunteer and be a resource to their community. If something is important to the community, you'll likely find the people of NBT Bank involved in and supporting the effort through time, money or resources.

Deb Hall who is an NBT Bank employee and Manager of the Fremont Street, Gloversville branch, serves an important role on the Chamber's Ambassador Committee going above and beyond to help us welcome new members to the Chamber, as well as help celebrate businesses at ribbon-cuttings and other events. Hall was named the Chamber's Ambassador of the Year in 2024.

Assistant Vice President, Retail Market Manager Amanda Manganelli said of the bank's collaboration with the Chamber, "At NBT Bank, our connection to the Chamber reflects our broader commitment to the communities we serve. We recognize that strong local economies are built through collaboration, and the Chamber plays a vital role in bringing businesses, leaders, and resources together. By supporting and engaging with the Chamber, we're not only investing in local businesses but also empowering our employees to be active partners in community growth. This connection strengthens relationships, fosters opportunity, and helps ensure that our neighborhoods remain vibrant places to live and work."



Chamber Champions are businesses that have chosen to take their involvement with the Chamber and the community to the next level, creating a significant impact on the Chamber's initiatives and events.

The contributions made by our Chamber Champions provide essential funding for the programs and initiatives that

help drive economic development, advocacy, and community engagement throughout our region. This sponsorship level was designed to recognize and celebrate members who make such a meaningful difference in our community, while also providing them with year-round visibility and benefits.

For more information on how to become a Chamber Champion, please contact Nicole Walrath-VanAlstyne at (518) 725-0641 or nicolew@fultonmontgomeryny.org.

CHAMBER PRESENTS FIVE \$1,000 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS IN JUNE

The Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce proudly recognized five outstanding students this morning during its annual Scholarship Awards Presentation, continuing a tradition that has supported local students pursuing higher education for four decades.

Established in 1986, the Chamber's Scholarship Program was created to provide financial assistance and encouragement to students from Fulton and Montgomery Counties as they continue their academic journeys. Over the past 40 years, the program has awarded more than \$130,000 in scholarships to deserving students throughout the region.

This year's scholarship awards included four \$1,000 Chamber scholarships funded through proceeds from the Chamber's Annual Golf Tournament, as well as the Daryl Baldwin Memorial Scholarship, generously underwritten by Susan and Gary Furman in memory of their friend, former Town of Johnstown Councilperson and local businessman Daryl Baldwin.

Scholarship recipients were selected by the Chamber's Scholarship Committee based on scholastic achievement, community involvement, participation in school activities, leadership, and demonstrated economic need. Committee members included Chairman Jack Scott, former owner and broadcaster of WENT-AM 1340; Fulton County Sheriff Richard Giardino; David Jankowski of 3D Chess Politics, LLC; and Christie Davis of SUNY Fulton-Montgomery Community College.

The 2026 Chamber Scholarship recipients are:

- Victoria Forte, Amsterdam High School
- Alexandra Forte, Amsterdam High School
- Ayla Naselli, Johnstown High School
- Bailey Pierce, Gloversville High School

Daryl Baldwin Memorial Scholarship Recipient:

- Kaylee Heroth, Oppenheim-Ephratah-St. Johnsville High School

The Chamber also recognized the exceptional accomplishments of each recipient, whose achievements span academics, leadership, community service, athletics, music, drama, student government, and numerous extracurricular activities.

"These students represent the very best of our region's future," said the Chamber's Interim Executive Director Nicole Walrath-VanAlstyne. "Their dedication to academic excellence, leadership, community service, and personal growth demonstrates the tremendous potential that exists within Fulton and Montgomery Counties. We are proud to support their educational pursuits and look forward to seeing the positive impact they will have on their communities and professions."

The Chamber extends its congratulations to all scholarship recipients and gratitude to the businesses, golfers, sponsors, and supporters whose participation in the Annual Golf Tournament makes these scholarships possible.

For additional information about the Chamber Scholarship Program, contact Jennifer Hammons at (518) 725-0641 or projects@fultonmontgomeryny.com.

To read the scholarship presentations about each of these students, visit this [link](#).



FM Chamber Scholarship Award recipients pose with members of the Chamber's Scholarship Committee in front of SUNY FM's iconic clocktower. From left Scholarship Chairman Jack Scott; Scholarship Committee member Christie Davis; Chamber Project Associate Jennifer Hammons; Scholarship Award recipients Alexandra Forte and Victoria Forte of Amsterdam High School; Bailey Pierce, Gloversville High School; Ayla Naselli, Johnstown High School; Gary Furman, presenter of the Daryl Baldwin Scholarship; and Scholarship Committee members Sheriff Richard Giardino and David Jankowski. Missing from photo is Kaylee Heroth, recipient of the Daryl Baldwin Memorial Scholarship.



CHAMBER GOLF CLASSIC— THANK YOU TO THOSE ALREADY SIGNED UP TO PARTICIPATE!

Spend a great day on one of our region's best golf courses, enjoy a great round of golf, great camaraderie with 100+ Chamber members, great food and beverages, contests, prizes and more at one of the biggest best events of the year! The most important part is that it benefits the Chamber's Scholarship Program, which each year awards five \$1,000 scholarships to deserving high school seniors in Fulton and Montgomery Counties, or those who graduated from these schools, and are furthering their education at an accredited two- or four-year college or university. Read about this year's award winners on page 11.

Treat your clients and vendors, your employees, or yourself to a great day for a great cause! Sponsorship opportunities for this event are available with many levels of participation. Watch the Chamber's weekly e-mail blasts, website, and social media in the coming weeks for additional details...and sign up TODAY to participate! Call the

Chamber at (518) 725-0641.

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FULTON MONTGOMERY CHAMBER CELEBRATES FULTON COUNTY STUDENT-ATHLETES AT ITS 39TH ANNUAL SPORTS AWARD BANQUET

Madison Case and Daniel Brown Named Athletes of the Year at the Event

The Chamber honored the region's top high school student-athletes during its 39th Annual Sports Award Banquet on June 3 at the Holiday Inn Johnstown-Gloversville. The annual event brought together athletes, coaches, athletic directors, family members, and community supporters to celebrate athletic achievement, leadership, sportsmanship, and dedication both on and off the field.

Representing six Fulton County school districts, 36 outstanding senior athletes were recognized during the evening for their accomplishments throughout the 2025-2026 school year. The Chamber also honored individual champions and championship teams before announcing the recipients of its highest athletic honors.

The 2026 Female Athlete of the Year Award was presented to Madison Case of Mayfield High School, while the Male Athlete of the Year Award was presented to Daniel Brown of Johnstown High School. Both student-athletes were recognized for their exceptional athletic performances, leadership qualities, and contributions to their respective school communities.

A highlight of the evening was a keynote address by Greg Sheeler, a 1998 graduate of Gloversville High School and the longtime head football coach at Shaker High School. Sheeler shared insights from his athletic and coaching career, encouraging the student-athletes to continue pursuing excellence through hard work, perseverance, and leadership.

Under Sheeler's leadership, Shaker's football program has become one of the most successful in Section II, earning two sectional championships and seven sectional final appearances. He currently holds the distinction of being the winningest football coach in school history.

Athletes recognized at the banquet represented Broadalbin-Perth, Gloversville, Johnstown, Mayfield, Northville, and Oppenheim-Ephratah/St. Johnsville school districts. The Chamber welcomed the athletes along with their coaches, athletic directors, families, and supporters for an evening dedicated to celebrating the impact of high school athletics throughout Fulton County.

"The Sports Award Banquet continues to be one of the Chamber's most meaningful traditions," said Jim Landrio, the Sports Award Committee Chairman. "Each year we have the opportunity to recognize not only athletic success, but also the character, commitment, and leadership

these young people demonstrate in their schools and communities. We congratulate all of this year's honorees and wish them continued success in their future endeavors."

2026 Sports Award Banquet Honorees

Broadalbin-Perth High School: Aubrey Fisher, Garrett Jackowski, Maddox Nichani, Zachary Rattray, Olivia Rogers, Chase Tyler

Gloversville High School: Katelyn Boger, Angelina Christman, Rowan Halloran, Ryan Konakov, Isabella Lomanto, Derek Robbins

Johnstown High School: Daniel Brown, Braeden Fennessey, Ayla Naselli, Noah Stock, Travis Tallon, Elijah Wager

Mayfield High School: Madison Case, Aubrey Byrns, Briana Iannuzzi, Ayden Horn, Marcus Leo, Collin Roth

Northville Central School: Bradyn Bovee, Landon Frasier, Salvatore Pagano, Sophia Edwards, Keira Mackey, Leah Valovic

Oppenheim-Ephratah/St. Johnsville Central School: Brooke Arduini, Lily Arduini, Tyler Barnes, Kali Hazard, Logan Snell, Brooke Trumble

Athletes of the Year Award Recipients

Female Athlete of the Year: Madison Case, Mayfield High School

Male Athlete of the Year: Daniel Brown, Johnstown High School



From left: Female Athlete of the Year Madison Case (Mayfield); Male Athlete of the Year Daniel Brown (Johnstown) and Keynote Speaker Greg Sheeler.

MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION CELEBRATES ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY THIS YEAR WITH AN OCTOBER 2 EVENT

The [Mental Health Association in Fulton and Montgomery Counties](#), a trusted leader in mental health and community support services, proudly celebrates its 50th anniversary this year, marking five decades of compassionate care, advocacy, and empowerment for individuals and families throughout the community.

Founded in 1976, MHA began with a simple but powerful mission: to provide hope, dignity, and opportunity to individuals facing mental health challenges and other life obstacles. Over the past 50 years, the organization has grown into a comprehensive network of services that includes residential programs, after-school programs, community-based support services, Child Advocacy Centers, and the Handy Ups N' Downs thrift stores.

"For 50 years, our organization has remained committed to helping individuals live healthier, more independent, and more fulfilling lives," said Janine Dykeman, Executive Director of the Mental Health Association in Fulton and Montgomery Counties. "This anniversary is not only a celebration of our history, but also a tribute to the staff, families, volunteers, donors, and community partners who have made our mission possible."

Today, MHA serves hundreds of individuals annually through programs designed to promote stability, personal growth, and long-term wellness. Its residential services provide safe and supportive living environments, while community-based programs help individuals access critical resources, develop life skills, and maintain independence. The organization's after-school programs create safe, enriching spaces where young people can learn, grow, and thrive.

In addition, the organization's thrift stores have become valued community resources, offering affordable shopping options while also supporting community members with free clothing and household items during critical times related to domestic violence, homelessness, and other life-altering events.

To commemorate the milestone, MHA will host a Gala at The Adelphi in Saratoga on Friday, October 2, 2026, bringing together community members, supporters, staff,

and other community partners to celebrate the organization's enduring legacy and future vision.

As mental health needs continue to grow nationwide, MHA remains focused on expanding access to quality care and strengthening the communities it serves.

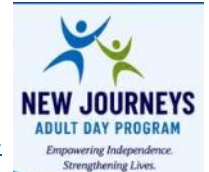
"Our work is far from finished," said Dykeman. "As we look ahead to the next 50 years, we remain dedicated to building a stronger, more inclusive community where every person has the opportunity to succeed."

For more information about the 50th anniversary celebration or the services provided by MHA, visit www.mentalhealthassociation.org or contact: Melissa Geier, Associate Executive Director (518)762-5332 | mgeier@mhafm.org



NEWS FROM KEE TO INDEPENDENT GROWTH

Have you heard that [Kee to Independent Growth, Inc. - New Journeys Structured Day Program](#) has a new location with an Adult Day Program, New Journeys?



The program is tailored for providing aid to seniors, including those diagnosed with Alzheimer's, dementia, or who need extra assistance with daily activities. Some of the main goals for the program are helping the participants with social skills, abilities, interests, community, and enhancing quality of life all while in a safe and supportive atmosphere.

Kee to Independent Growth is a community-based agency committed to the strengthening of individuals through support, counseling, education, outreach & advocacy. Services are provided to individuals with ongoing disabilities including traumatic brain injury (TBI), disabilities, progressive medical conditions, mental health & substance abuse (CORE) as well as veterans and qualified seniors. They provide services for qualifying residents of Albany, Columbia, Greene, Fulton, Montgomery, Rensselaer, Saratoga Counties.

The new location address: 1673 US Route 9, Door "A", Suite #2, Clifton Park. Hours are Monday-Friday from 9am-3pm. Call to schedule a tour today! Find out more by contacting them at (518)309-3557, visit online at <https://keetoindependentgrowth.com/> or email ariannav@kigiservices.com



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Interested in learning more about how the Business Services Team can help provide customized training to you and your employees? Email Gwen Ossenkop at: gossenkop@fmcc.edu

04.



TOURIS^{MA} NEWS & UPDATES

SO MUCH going on in our region! For event details, please reference the event calendars on 44lakes.com or visitmontgomerycountyny.com

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Montgomery County Kayak-a-Thon is back on August 22!

Early registration is available until July 22 at noon:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/montgomery-kayak-a-thon-2026-tickets-1990518279758?aff=oddtcreator>

Celebrate summer on the Mohawk River during the 2026 Montgomery County Kayak-a-Thon, part of the America 250 commemoration. We encourage you to wear red, white, and blue to celebrate this anniversary. Wear fun hats, face paint, or whatever will get you into the spirit. Let's see a wave of red, white, and blue along the Mohawk!

Kayaks, canoes, and stand-up paddle boards are invited to launch from Riverfront Park in Canajoharie and paddle east to the Village of Fonda. Participants will travel approximately 13 miles along the Mohawk River, passing through Mohawk River Lock E13 before concluding at Fonda Park.

Following the lock, paddlers will have the option to take a brief stop at the Mohawk Valley Welcome Center, a Taste NY location. Free water and snacks will be provided. Vending machines with more options will be available inside, along with restrooms and regional information.

Stopping is optional; however, participants who choose to stop are asked to limit their visit to 30 minutes to help maintain the event schedule and spacing between paddlers.

Limited kayak rentals available at:

<https://fareharbor.com/embeds/book/upstatekayakrentals/items/482021/calendar/2026/08/?flow=1393257&full-items=yes>

Event link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/montgomery-kayak-a-thon-2026-tickets-1990518279758?aff=oddtcreator>

Find a full list of Montgomery County events and happenings this summer at <http://visitmontgomerycountyny.com/>

Create your own unique summer journey in Fulton County! Fulton County is home adventure with 44 lakes and 74,832 acres of wild forest, with a rich, American and Adirondack history and is recognized with arts and culture. Take the Fulton County 5 Hiking Challenge -picturesque hikes thorough lakes, mountains, trails, marshes and ponds. Visit the 100-year-old Kane Mountain Fire Tower, or begin the trek on the Northville Placid Trail. Wheelerville Trails is one of the premier downhill mountain biking parks in the northeast. Newly created kids park with extending and new trails keeps novice to expert riders on new and exciting adventures.

Boat, paddle and fish our crystal-clear lakes and rivers. The Great Sacandaga Lake holds the claim of the world record pike caught, while there is ample fishing access to all anglers on Caroga, Canada and Peck Lakes. The arts flourish here with local artists and galleries. The Caroga Arts Collective brings world-class music to the Southern Adirondacks. The Sacandaga Valley Arts Network enriches the arts throughout the county. The Glove Theatre in Gloversville provides entertainment, music, films and shows all year long while and Colonial Little Theatre in Johnstown offers great community theater.

Visit 44lakes.com for a complete and updated schedule of events throughout the summer! Here are a few of the events:

- July 11 – 5th Annual Forever Wild Tavern Kayak Poker Run
- July 16 - Rice Homestead annual Ice Cream Social, Mayfield
- July 16/17/18 – St Joseph's Summer Festival, Broadalbin
- July 18 – Caroga Arts Collective Gala
- July 17/18/19 – Northville Rotary Woodworking & Fine Arts
- July 21 – BK Historic Society Ice Cream Social, Broadalbin
- July 22 – Stratford/America 250 – Lionel Ward Elvis Tribute at Community Center
- July 24/25 - Little League AAA Finals – Parkhurst Field
- Aug. 1, 8, 15 – PFF NYS Baseball Hall of Fame Tournaments, Parkhurst Field
- Aug. 8 – Gloversville Railfest, Trail Station Park
- Aug 9 – Caroga Music Fest & Ice Cream Social, Caroga Historical Assoc. Museum
- Aug. 13/14/15 – Bannertown Fair, Mayfield
- Aug. 15 – Jet Fest, Pluchino's Marina, Great Sacandaga Lake
- Aug 20 - Stratford/America 250 – "Empty Pockets" Concert at Community Center
- Aug. 21/22/23 - Wheelerville Trails Mountain Bike Festival
- Aug 22/23 – Native American Festival Pow Wow, Supply Wagon, Johnstown
- Sept. 12 – FCRSPCA's 14th annual Woofstock, Caroga Arts Collective
- Sept. 25/26 – Royal Palooza II – Leatherstocking Honor Flight Event/Salute to Veterans

Visit 44lakes.com for the latest events including concerts and art exhibits!

FULTON COUNTY

NEWS FROM THE U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Celebrating America's 250th Anniversary

For 250 years, small businesses have powered innovation, created opportunity, and strengthened local communities. Main Street Builds America – and through Freedom 250, the Small Business Administration (SBA) is honoring that legacy while investing in the next generation of builders, makers, and job creators.

Throughout 2026, SBA will launch a series of national initiatives to recognize American ingenuity, elevate small businesses, and reaffirm the role of Main Street in building America's future. Keep up to date on these initiatives at www.sba.gov.

Take the Small Business Pledge

Freedom 250 Small Business Pledge

Join thousands of small businesses across the country in celebrating America's 250th anniversary.

By signing the Freedom 250 Small Business Pledge, businesses commit to:

- Building and growing in America
 - Creating opportunity for American workers
 - Advancing a strong, competitive U.S. economy
 - Innovating and investing in the future
 - Upholding America's entrepreneurial spirit
- Main Street Builds America – today, tomorrow, and for the next 250 years. Register your business for the Small Business Pledge [here](#) and get a free certificate.

SBA Loans

Get \$500 to \$5.5 million to fund your business

How SBA helps small businesses get loans

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) helps small businesses get funding by setting guidelines for loans and reducing lender risk. These SBA-backed loans make it easier for small businesses to get the funding they need.

To get an SBA-backed loan:

- Log on to <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans> to see what types of loans are available
- Enter basic information about what you're looking for on [Lender Match](#)
- Create an account to start talking to interested lenders

- Lenders will approve and help you manage your loan
- SBA only makes direct loans in the case of businesses and homeowners recovering from a declared disaster.

Loans guaranteed by SBA range from small to large and can be used for most business purposes, including long-term fixed assets and operating capital. Some loan programs set restrictions on how you can use the funds, so check with an SBA-approved lender when requesting a loan. Your lender can match you with the right loan for your business needs.

Benefits of SBA-guaranteed loans

- **Competitive terms:** SBA-guaranteed loans generally have rates and fees that are comparable to non-guaranteed loans.
- **Counseling and education:** Some loans come with continued support to help you start and run your business.
- **Unique benefits:** Lower down payments, flexible overhead requirements, and no collateral needed for some loans.

Loans guaranteed by SBA range from small to large and can be used for most business purposes, including long-term fixed assets and operating capital. Some loan programs set restrictions on how you can use the funds, so check with an SBA-approved lender when requesting a loan. Your lender can match you with the right loan for your business needs.

Eligibility Requirements:

Lenders and loan programs have unique eligibility requirements. In general, eligibility is based on what a business does to receive its income, the character of its ownership, and where the business operates. Normally, businesses must meet SBA [size standards](#), be able to repay, and have a sound business purpose. Even those with bad credit may qualify for startup funding. The lender will provide you with a full list of eligibility requirements for your loan.

- Be a for-profit business—officially registered and operating legally
- Do business in the U.S.—physically located and operating in the U.S. or its territories
- Be creditworthy—credit must be sound enough to assure loan repayment.
- Exhaust financing options—requested loan is unavailable on reasonable terms from non-government resources.

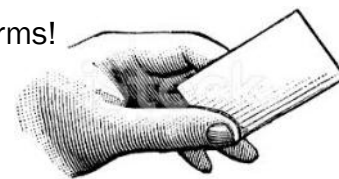
To find more information or start the loan process visit <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans>.

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 projects@fultonmontgomeryny.org

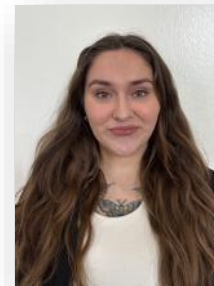
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Contact
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Nicole Walrath VanAlstyne,
Director of Workforce Development
nicolew@fultonmontgomeryny.org

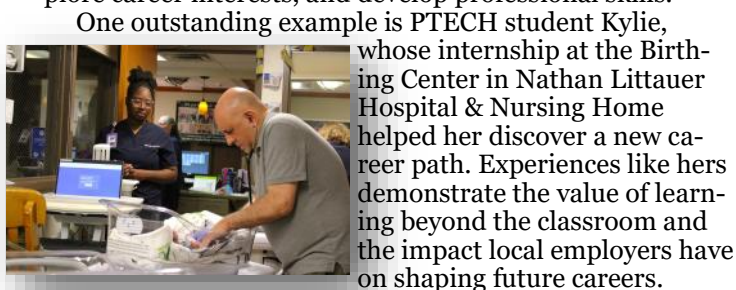


Alexis Beman,
Business & Education Partnership Coordinator
bepcoordinator@fultonmontgomeryny.org

Connecting Students with Opportunity

The Chamber's Business Education Partnership (BEP) is proud to connect local employers with high school students through meaningful internship experiences that benefit both students and businesses.

This year, Chamber members and regional businesses hosted juniors from HFM PTECH for internships, giving them the opportunity to gain hands-on experience, explore career interests, and develop professional skills.



One outstanding example is PTECH student Kylie, whose internship at the Birthing Center in Nathan Littauer Hospital & Nursing Home helped her discover a new career path. Experiences like hers demonstrate the value of learning beyond the classroom and the impact local employers have on shaping future careers.

Thank you to every business that partnered with our BEP this year! Your mentorship and willingness to invest in our students are helping build a stronger workforce for Fulton and Montgomery Counties. We look forward to creating even more opportunities together.

If your business is interested in hosting a student intern or learning more about the Chamber's Business Education Partnership, please contact Nicole Walrath-VanAlstyne at nicolew@fultonmontgomeryny.org or visit fultonmontgomeryny.org/business-education-partnership/.

Career Con 2026: Help Inspire Our Future Workforce

As a new school year begins, one of our region's most exciting workforce development events returns. On Thursday, October 1, 2026, the Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce and HFM BOCES Career & Technical Education will host the second annual Career Con presented by GlobalFoundries at SUNY Fulton-Montgomery Community College located at 2805 State Highway 67, Johnstown.

Following the incredible success of the inaugural event, we're expanding Career Con to welcome approximately 2,000 eighth and ninth grade students from across Fulton and Montgomery Counties for a day of hands-on career exploration.

Career Con introduces students to the many opportunities available right here in our region. Rather than simply talking about careers, employers bring their industries to life through interactive demonstrations and hands-on activities. Whether students try a tool, solve a challenge, build something, or experience a simulation, these memorable experiences spark curiosity and inspire future possibilities.

We're inviting local employers and organizations to showcase what makes their business unique by participating in Career Con.

This is a unique opportunity to:

- Inspire nearly 2,000 eighth and ninth grade students as they begin exploring future careers
- Showcase your business and industry through a fun, hands-on activity
- Help students discover the many career pathways available right here in Fulton and Montgomery Counties. Help build the skilled workforce our region will rely on for years to come

Whether you're in manufacturing, healthcare, construction, finance, hospitality, public safety, agriculture, technology, retail, or skilled trades, every business has something exciting to share. You don't need a large display. Some of the most memorable booths feature simple, interactive activities that allow students to experience what your industry is all about.

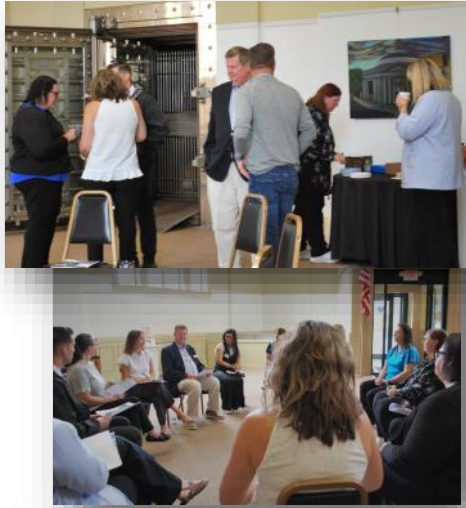
Interested in participating? **Register for your FREE booth and learn more here:** <https://forms.gle/PnZty3RAm6oy28bS8>

One conversation. One hands-on experience. One spark of inspiration. That's all it takes to help shape a student's future and strengthen the workforce of tomorrow. We hope you'll join us for Career Con 2026.

Want to make an even greater impact? Become a Career Con sponsor and demonstrate your commitment to developing our future workforce while receiving valuable recognition through event promotions, signage, social media, and marketing materials. Sponsorship opportunities are available at multiple levels to fit your organization's goals.

For more information or sponsorship opportunities, please contact Nicole Walrath-VanAlstyne at nicolew@fultonmontgomeryny.org.





[The United Way of the Greater Capital Region](#) hosted a Weave Mixer at the Chamber office to tell their story of a new grant program, the Weaver Awards, for community groups and individuals bringing about positive change in their communities. Learn more at <https://www.unitedwaygcr.org/weavers>



[First Choice Financial Federal Credit Union](#) celebrated an exciting new Little Free Library program at its Groversville location, providing a way to encourage literacy, learning, and connection by allowing visitors to take a book, leave a book, and share the joy of reading with others. Literacy has always been part of the FCFFCU's roots, and they were excited to celebrate their birthday (6/9/1972) by giving back to the community in a meaningful way.



Thank you to [River Ridge Living Center](#) for hosting a great Business After Hours, not only to promote their beautiful campus and services, but to help bring Chamber members together with their staff, elected officials and more for a great networking opportunity!



An incredible evening of Art in the Heart of Groversville Downtown Art Walk took place in May. Put together by the Chamber in collaboration with downtown Chamber member businesses, the event brought dozens of art lovers and community members to view art, enjoy food and beverages and all that downtown Groversville has to offer. The

Chamber thanks all the participating locations for showcasing the amazing talent throughout the community, and attendees for supporting businesses, local artists and the downtown community!

[Meg's at Muni](#) held a Grand Opening of their beautiful patio overlooking the great Amsterdam Municipal Golf Course! Located at 158 Upper Van Dyke Avenue, Meg's offers breakfast, lunch and dinner 7 days a week whether you're stopping by before or after a round, or just wanting to enjoy great food in a beautiful atmosphere, everyone is Meeting at Meg's!



[LPG Bar and Grill](#), 226 W. Main Street, Amsterdam, celebrated the grand opening of their beautifully-landscaped and appointed outdoor pavilion! Any event you can think of can be held either in the restaurant or this outdoor facility, including watching the World Cup with specials all month! Check them out on [Facebook](#), stop by or call for details at (518) 212-2600. Where everyone is familia!



details at (518) 212-2600. Where everyone is familia!



Above: Chamber members, the Northville community, and friends turned out on a beautiful Friday evening for a ribbon-cutting and grand opening celebration of [Chad Majewski Real Estate's](#) new Northville office. Located at 109 Second Street, this office joins Chad's locations in Groversville, Amsterdam and Fonda for all your residential, commercial, land, investment or lake property needs!

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.

Wednesday, July 22—3pm **RIBBON CUTTING AT ST. ANDREWS** **HEATING & COOLING**

212 Stoner Trail Road, Johnstown

Join the Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce as we celebrate the Ribbon Cutting and expansion of St. Andrews Heating & Cooling as they proudly introduce their new Plumbing Services to the community! This special event will be combined with their Summer Customer Appreciation Day, featuring fun for the whole family, including:

Cook-Out | Live Music | Dunk Tank | Face Painting Games & Activities

Plus, enter for your chance to win a FREE Kitchen Faucet in their special raffle drawing!

Come celebrate this exciting new chapter for St. Andrews Heating & Cooling, connect with fellow community members, meet the new Chamber Executive Director Jennifer Laubenstein, and enjoy an afternoon of food, fun, and festivities. We look forward to seeing you there!

Thursday, September 17 5:30pm-7:30pm **BUSINESS AFTER HOURS AT CHAD** **MAJEWSKI REAL ESTATE'S** **AMSTERDAM OFFICE**

59 Lyon Street, Amsterdam

Join us for this great networking event and enjoy great refreshments while learning about this real estate firm that has offices throughout Fulton and Montgomery Counties! RSVP appreciated—see information above.

Friday, September 18—Mark Your Calendars!

CHAMBER'S GOLF TOURNAMENT **PRESENTED BY MIRACLE-EAR**

Amsterdam Municipal Golf Course

Mark your calendar for a great day of camaraderie, golf and more at the Chamber's

Annual Golf Tournament

where proceeds benefit the

Chamber's Scholarship program, awarding \$1K to graduating students in our region's high schools!



Thursday, September 24—5pm-7pm **BUSINESS AFTER HOURS AT JOHNSON** **HALL STATE HISTORIC SITE**

139 Hall Avenue, Johnstown

Network and enjoy refreshments and get an overview of the historical importance of Johnson Hall 250 years ago,

with rooms mimicking the ransacking of the site during the early American Revolution. There will also be an 18th-Century cooking demonstration on-site! Join us!

Thursday, October 1 **CAREER CON**

SUNY FMCC

2805 State Highway 67, Johnstown
BUSINESSES WANTED!

Career Con Presented by Global-Foundries is coming to SUNY FMCC on October 1, 2026, and we're looking for businesses and organizations to participate! Connect with approximately 2,000 local 8th and 9th grade students, showcase your business and industry, and help inspire the future workforce.

FREE exhibitor booth; Sponsorship opportunities available | Hands-on and interactive displays encouraged!

Register today: forms.gle/Qy375DCeefXB6DBm8.

WE ARE HIGHLIGHTING THE LAST OF THIS YEAR'S CHAMBER AWARD WINNERS IN THIS ISSUE—READ MORE ABOUT THE SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR IN THIS NEWSLETTER!

NATHAN LITTAUER
Hospital & Nursing Home

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

SPECULATOR
8:00 AM - 4:30 PM
Saturdays & Sundays
*July & August
(518) 548-8155