



NEWSLINE

March 2025

A Publication of the Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce

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

2025 WALLEYE CHALLENGE A SUCCESS FOR ALL



Left: Lou Stutzke, Owner of [Fuel-N-Food](#) and Walleye Challenge Founder, makes announcements at the 16th annual event on Saturday, 2/15 on the Great Sacandaga Lake. We finally had a winter that allowed ice fishing! The awards ceremony took place at [Lanzi's on the Lake](#). Below: a pic of just part of the large crowd at the sold-out event, with 1500 fishing enthusiasts, family and friends, many of whom were hand for the awards ceremony.



Left: the side-by-side, and children's- and adult's four-wheelers that were raffled for those who bought tickets to participate.

Raffle winners:

Side-by-Side: Anthony Mullarkey

Four-Wheeler 1: Andrew Koch, Sr.

Four-Wheeler 2: Devin Dwyer

Kid Four-Wheeler: Giuliana Manzer



Right: from left—Lou Stutzke, Assemblyman Robert Smullen, the Chamber's Anne Boles, and Fulton County Treasurer Heather Scribner at the event. Left: Another great pic of the awesome crowd at Lanzi's on the Lake.



THANK YOU TO OUR 2025 WALLEYE CHALLENGE SPONSORS! (see complete list on page 14)





Message from the Executive Director

Dear Chamber Members,

As we continue through the winter months, we cannot ignore the political uncertainty surrounding us at both the state and federal levels. With debates around economic policy, regulatory changes, and rising concerns about inflation and market stability, the climate for small businesses is more unpredictable than ever.

At the Chamber, we understand that navigating these turbulent times can be challenging for businesses. We are committed to stand with you and offer resources, guidance, and a strong network of support to help you succeed. Whether it's understanding new regulations, finding financial relief programs, or connecting with policy makers to ensure your voices are heard, we are here for you.

Our advocacy efforts in Albany and Washington, D.C., are all designed to keep you informed and empowered. By sharing your stories and challenges, we can work together to build a unified front, advocating for the policy changes that will benefit our local economy. If you are interested in a lobby day at Albany, please let me know.

In addition to addressing the political landscape, we are also focusing on fostering collaboration within our community. The strength of our Chamber lies in the resistance of our members, and we encourage you to connect with other businesses for mutual support and potential opportunities for growth.

Thank you for your ongoing dedication to the success of our community. Together, we will continue to thrive. Please email or call me if you have any questions and concerns YOU want to raise!

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Jennifer Hammons, *Special Projects Assistant*

Natalie May, *Business & Education Partnership Coordinator*

MaryBeth Shults, *Membership Director*

Terry Swierzowski, *Newsline Editor/Reporter*

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Welcome New Members

February 2025

MEMBERSHIP MESSAGE

Anne Boles

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Dear Members,



We are excited to announce the newest addition to our team, MaryBeth Shults, who will be joining us as the Membership Director at the Chamber!

MaryBeth brings a wealth of experience in community engagement, agritourism, and a deep passion for supporting local families and businesses. We are thrilled to have her on board, and confident that her expertise will be invaluable as we continue to grow and strengthen our membership.

MaryBeth will be your go-to resource for membership inquiries, benefits, and engagement opportunities. She will work closely with each of you to ensure you are receiving the full value of your Chamber membership, and also will also be focused on expanding our network, bringing more businesses into the fold, and fostering stronger relationships within our community.

Born and raised in Montgomery County, MaryBeth's roots run deep in the Mohawk Valley, where her family has farmed for generations. Growing up immersed in agriculture, she developed a strong appreciation for hard work, sustainability, and the importance of community.

Now, alongside her own family, she continues to uphold these traditions while also embracing new opportunities to support the region's agricultural and economic growth.

MaryBeth holds an associate's degree in Dairy Production and a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Business from SUNY Cobleskill. As mom of three, she balances the demands of family life with her commitment to supporting small farmers and strengthening regional food networks.

Now joining the team at the Fulton Montgomery Chamber, MaryBeth is eager to apply her expertise to fostering agricultural and economic growth in the region. Her focus is on outreach, business development, and creating opportunities for local businesses to thrive and succeed!

Please join us in welcoming MaryBeth to the team! Email her at membership@fultonmontgomeryny.org, or call (518) 725-0641 to schedule a time to meet.



MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

February 2025

Thank you for your continued support!



41+ YEARS

DiBlasi Agency—41

31 – 40 YEARS

J. Paul Kolodziej, Attorney & Counselor at Law – 40

H.F.M. Prevention Council – 39

Canajoharie Falls Cemetery Association – 34

Beech-Nut Nutrition Corporation – 32

Cranesville Block Company, Inc. – 32

21 – 30 YEARS

Mental Health Association in Fulton & Montgomery Counties – 28

Oppenheim-Ephratah-St. Johnsville Central School District – 27

Chris Rizzo Trucking, Inc. – 25

Knights Inn – 25

Brott Law Office, P.C. – 23

Northville Central School – 22

11 – 20 YEARS

Twin Cities Sports Promotions – 20

Advantage Builders – 20

Universal Warehousing, Inc. – 20

NFP (Rose & Kiernan) – 19

Rockwood Environmental Solutions, LLC – 18

Friends of Sanford Stud Farm – 17

Deborah R. Hermance, DDS – 17

DeMi's Wines and Liquors – 16

Empire Automotive Solutions, LLC – 15

Lamar Advertising – 14

1 – 10 YEARS

VanNostrand & Co., CPAs – 10

KCS Land Research – 10

State Farm Insurance, Jenny Rulison-Fisch – 10

NBT Bank – Canajoharie – 10

CDL Associates Insurance Agency LLC – Northville – 9

St. Johnsville Rehabilitation and Nursing Center Inc. – 9

Town of Caroga – 8

Milligan and Higgins – 8

Mud Road Sugar House – 8

Fulton County Regional SPCA – 7

NBT Bank – St. Johnsville – 7

CDL Associates Insurance Agency, Johnstown – 3

Adirondack Therapeutic Touch – 3

Reets Boatworks & Bayside Marina – 2

Total Tech Solutions – 1

Ideal K9 Training LLC – 1

To Life! – 1

NBT Bank – Ft. Plain – 1

Industrial Acropolis – 1

Calderwood Training Solutions – 1

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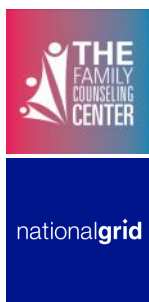
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PLEASE reach out to us with news from your business—new key hires, new product lines, events, successes—we want to hear about it all! We want to help you spread the word about this good news, and keep everyone connected! We also want to hear about any seminars you might want us to facilitate or other programming you would like us to facilitate! For this purpose, you can fill out a form [here](#) or email fultonmontgomeryny@gmail.com.

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THE FAMILY COUNSELING CENTER ANNOUNCES LEADERSHIP TITLE CHANGES FOR MICHAEL L. COUNTRYMAN AND PETER LAWRENCE

The Family Counseling Center is pleased to announce title changes within its leadership team, recognizing the continued dedication and contributions of Peter Lawrence and Michael Countryman. Effective immediately, Peter Lawrence has been named Chief Operating Officer (COO), while Michael Countryman will continue in his role as Chief Executive Officer (CEO), as voted on and approved by The Family Counseling Center's Board of Directors in January.

Board President, Gail Ryan, offered her congratulations on behalf of the Agency's Board of Directors to Michael L. Countryman and Peter Lawrence on their respective promotions to Chief Executive Officer and Chief Operating Officer. "We are so proud of both for all they have done and will continue to do as leaders of our organization," said Ryan. "It is a pleasure to work with them."

Lawrence, previously the agency's Director of Operations, has played a critical role in overseeing the organization's daily operations, ensuring efficiency, and expanding services to better meet the needs of the community. As

Chief Operating Officer, Lawrence will continue to enhance The Family Counseling Center's impact, driving strategic initiatives and operational excellence.

"I am thrilled to continue my service here at The Family Counseling Center as we continue to grow in an effort to better serve our community," said Lawrence. "I'm thankful to our Board of Directors for their support

our vision and the work we do as an organization.

Countryman, who has led The Family Counseling Center for over a decade, remains at the helm as Chief Executive Officer. Under his leadership, the organization has grown significantly, expanding its programs, increasing accessibility to mental health services, and furthering its mission to support individuals and families throughout the region. Countryman's continued vision and leadership will guide the organization into its next chapter of growth and community impact.



Peter Lawrence
Chief Operating Officer



Michael L. Countryman
Chief Executive Officer

"Having been a part of this organization for nearly 25 years, I'm excited about our future and the opportunity we have to provide meaningful and impactful services to our community," said Countryman. "I would like to thank our Board of Directors of their continued support and belief in our vision."

The Family Counseling Center remains committed to providing high-quality mental health and supportive services to individuals and families in need. These leadership title changes reflect the organization's ongoing commitment to excellence and strategic growth.

"The transition to becoming a Certified Community Behavioral Health Center (CCBHC) more than justifies their promotions to the designated titles based on the significantly expanded management responsibilities they are undertaking to guide the Agency," said Ryan. "The Board recognizes them as dedicated and experienced leaders in the field of behavioral health. We are confident they will continue to expand services needed for building an even healthier community."

For more information about The Family Counseling Center and its services, please visit their [website](https://www.familycounselingcenter.org/).

FROM MONTGOMERY COUNTY OFFICE FOR AGING

From Executive Director Dave Jordan, "There are a lot of rumors and falsehoods being spread regarding the new DOGE and what that might mean for aging services in NYS. None of the federal funding that we receive will be affected from the proposed upcoming changes that DOGE has mentioned. I have read emails and articles from MANY people (elected officials, NYSOFA staff, etc.) that there was a proposed cut to "Meals on Wheels" funding (our agency's Title III funding). This is 100% false. "Meals on Wheels" is not and has not been a program that DOGE has been looking to cut."

The agency's mission is to serve older Montgomery County citizens and their families by helping them to maintain their independence, dignity and quality of life. For more information please call their main office on 135 Guy Park Ave. in Amsterdam at (518) 843-2300 or visit them online at <https://officeforaging.com/>



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SARATOGA ARTS KICKS OFF BUILDING RENOVATION AND MORE COMMUNITY COLLABORATION IN 2025



Saratoga Arts is excited to announce the commencement of its long-awaited renovation to 320 Broadway. Funding for the project comes from several sources: a capital project grant award totaling \$766,000 from the New York State Council for the Arts (NYSCA), \$1.1M in funds from the City of Saratoga Springs, as well as individual and foundation contributions. The scope of the project is to repair the building structure, including windows, roofing and draining issues as well as upgrade internal systems including HVAC, power and internal wiring systems. The renovations will also improve the Saratoga Arts' gallery, Dee Sarno Theater, classrooms, and educational spaces on the lower level, as well as provide new indoor/outdoor access directly to Congress Park, and a patio for outdoor use.

"The state-city-community partnership is truly remarkable and shows how strong relationships across the region are bringing about not only a renovated building, but also new resources and opportunities. Everyone involved – members, donors, board members, staff, and the community – is very excited for the next iteration of Saratoga Arts," says Amy Bloom, Executive Director.

While the 320 Broadway location is undergoing renovation, Saratoga Arts is partnering with several local organizations to continue offering educational programming, holding regular meetings, and hosting other events to keep the momentum going throughout 2025. Adult classes will primarily be held in the Beekman Street arts district, at CREATE Community Studios and at the Beekman Street Community Room behind the Eden Compton Gallery.

Most of Saratoga Arts' kids educational programming, including summer camp, will be held at the Saratoga Independent School (SIS). Board and committee meetings will be held at the Saratoga Joinery on Caroline Street.

Saratoga Arts is deeply grateful for the community-wide support from both city and regional organizations that enable the organization to continue to grow and thrive while 320 Broadway undergoes renovation. Saratoga Arts is looking forward to returning to its building in late 2025 and already has begun planning a reopening party and other events in 2025 and into 2026.

For more information about Saratoga Arts, please go to: <https://www.saratoga-arts.org/>

CAROGA ARTS COLLECTIVE ANNOUNCES FORMATION OF INTERNATIONAL ARTISTIC ADVISORY COUNCIL (IAAC)

Renowned artists and cultural leaders join Caroga Arts to expand its global impact and reimagine the Adirondack arts experience

The Caroga Arts Collective is proud to announce the formation of its Inaugural International Artistic Advisory Council (IAAC). This esteemed council, chaired by Deborah Barrett Price, comprises renowned leaders across various artistic disciplines who will help elevate the visibility, reach, and mission of Caroga Arts Collective.

The council's distinguished members bring a wealth of expertise and passion for the arts, contributing to the collective's continued growth and influence. "We are deeply grateful to each of these remarkable individuals for their dedication to supporting and advancing our mission of reimagining the Adirondack experience through the power of the arts," said Kyle Price, Founder, Executive & Artistic Director of Caroga Arts Collective.

The council's distinguished members include 2018 MacArthur Fellow and composer **Matthew Aucoin**; saxophonist **Eddie Barbash**, featured on the Oscar and Grammy-winning Soul soundtrack; Grammy-winning cellist and innovator **Mike Block**; **Jeff Haydon**, President & CEO of Ravinia Festival; violist **Ayane Kozasa** of the Kronos Quartet; **Kevin Kwan Loucks**, CEO of Chamber Music America; and **Tommy Mesa**, 2023 Sphinx Medal of Excellence recipient. Also serving are **Cole Randolph**, cellist in the Detroit Symphony Orchestra; **Jim Rosenthal**, Chair Emeritus of Apollo's Fire; **Cara Samantha**, Grammy-winning vocalist and voiceover artist; philanthropist and Gloversville native, **Renée Schine Crown**; **Uri Vardi**, celebrated cellist and mentor; and Grammy-nominated Fender sponsored guitarist **Cory Wong**. Together, these exceptional artists and leaders bring a wealth of expertise and passion to support the Caroga Arts Collective mission. For more information about the Caroga Arts Collective, visit <https://carogaarts.org>

This year's Caroga Arts Music Festival is **looking for interns and volunteers!** Please read the most recent issue of "Loon Call" the CAC newsletter with information about these opportunities [here](#).





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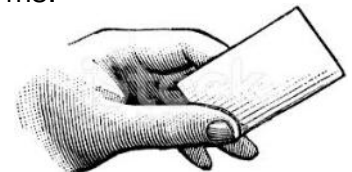
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ST. MARY'S HEALTHCARE ANNOUNCES PROMOTION AND NEW HIRES



Macey Rorick of Broadalbin has been promoted to nursing director of women and family services at St. Mary's Healthcare. She has more than a decade of nursing experience, including four years in the hospital's Birthing Center.

Rorick has spent her entire nursing career at St. Mary's. She joined as a registered nurse in a medical-surgical unit and gained additional experience in intensive care, progressive care, surgical care and maternity. She also has served as a preceptor for new nurses, helping them enhance their clinical skills and embrace the hospital's culture of compassion.

Rorick has a Master of Science in Nursing, with a specialization in nursing leadership and administration, from Capella University. She also has bachelor's degrees from Capella University and the University at Albany. She is certified in electronic fetal monitoring and neonatal resuscitation.

Margaret Sullivan has been named nursing director of inpatient behavioral health at St. Mary's Healthcare, a leading provider of behavioral health services in the Fulton-Montgomery region. The new position reflects the local independent hospital's responsiveness to community needs and its longstanding commitment to quality behavioral health care.

A registered nurse, Sullivan has more than 33 years of experience, including two decades overseeing clinical care and operations in behavioral health units. She comes to St. Mary's from United Health Services Binghamton General Hospital, where she served as interim director of nursing for the hospital's behavioral health and emergency service lines.

Previously, Sullivan held behavioral health leadership and management positions in two Mount Sinai Health System hospitals in New York City; Montefiore Nyack Hospital in Nyack, New York; Belmont Behavioral Health Hospital in Philadelphia; and, locally, at Ellis Medicine in Schenectady and Samaritan Hospital in Troy.

Sullivan earned a bachelor's degree from the State University of New York at Plattsburgh and a master's degree in nursing from Excelsior University in Albany. She is a long-time volunteer for GYRB-Get Your Rack Back.

Kristina Thomas has been named director of emergency and urgent care services at St. Mary's Healthcare. She has a decade of experience in emergency departments and other acute care settings.



Most recently, Thomas was the clinical nurse manager of telemetry and neuroscience at Glens Falls Hospital. Previously she held nursing and supervisory roles in hospitals in Louisiana and northern New York. Thomas also was an adjunct professor at SUNY Adirondack.

A registered nurse and U.S. Army veteran, Thomas has a bachelor's degree in nursing from the State University of New York at Plattsburgh and a master's in nursing from Empire State University. She also is certified as a nurse executive by the

American Nurses Credentialing Center.

Thomas is president of the Adirondack Chapter of the Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association and a member of the American Nurses Association, the American Organization for Nursing Leadership, and the Emergency Nurses Association.

For more information, visit St. Mary's Healthcare online at smha.org or call (518) 842-1900.

HEALTHY FAMILIES MONTGOMERY & SCHOHARIE COUNTIES (ICAN) MOVES LOCAL OFFICE

[The Healthy Families Montgomery & Schoharie Counties organization](http://TheHealthyFamiliesMontgomery&SchoharieCountiesorganization) has moved its local office from Riverfront Center, Amsterdam to its new address at 2 Guy Park Avenue, Amsterdam. The services provided through Healthy Families of Montgomery and Schoharie Counties, are home-based, and are designed to support expectant families and parents in making a healthy home as they experience pregnancy and anticipate the birth of a new child.

ICAN is an evidence-based program, and research shows that home-visiting can positively impact the lives of children and their families — families have healthier babies, demonstrate better knowledge of parenting and child development, create positive family bonds, develop connections to community resources, and have children who perform better in school.

Families who participate in Healthy Families of Montgomery and Schoharie Counties are offered in-home support services until the child enters Kindergarten, Head Start or turns 5 years old. A primary goal of this program is to identify strengths and challenges prenatally or at birth, and to provide appropriate information, care, resources and referrals to help babies get off to a healthy start.

Anyone can make a referral to HFMSC. You can even refer yourself! The agency strives to talk with all expectant parents and parents of newborns in Montgomery and Schoharie Counties. Look for their surveys (referral forms) throughout the community, (i.e., prenatal clinics, WIC, doctor's offices, etc.).

Referrals can be made by completing a program survey and sending by fax to (585) 684-5816, by email to sbellassai@ican.family, or by calling (315) 801-7357. Visit the agency online at <https://ican.family/programs/healthy-families-of-montgomery-and-schoharie-counties/>

SOROPTIMIST OFFERS CASH RAFFLE

Soroptimist International of Fulton and Montgomery Counties is offering a cash raffle, with top prize \$1500, 2nd prize \$500 and 3rd prize \$250. Tickets are only \$10 each and are available at the Chamber office at 2 N. Main Street, Gloversville, from Soroptimist members, or by emailing Janine Dykeman at roy.dykeman@outlook.com. Drawing will take place April 15. Proceeds benefit local scholarships awarded by Soroptimist. Visit the club's [Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/soroptimistinternational) for details.



CAROGA LAKEVIEW STORE: A COMMUNITY HUB

Located In the heart of Caroga Lake, the [Caroga Lakeview Store](#) has become more than just a convenience store—it's a thriving community hub. Owned and operated by Mike Monks since February 1, 2021, the store is revitalizing local commerce and bringing new energy to the area. After four years under his leadership, the store's success is due to his dedication to the community and entrepreneurial spirit.

Mike Monks grew up in Mayfield and Broadalbin, and graduated from Broadalbin-Perth schools. With strong ties to the region, he has been an advocate for community-driven initiatives that support local businesses and families. His passion for Caroga Lake extends beyond the store, as he actively organizes and sponsors events in the Caroga Lake community.

One of Mike's most successful initiatives is the Caroga Fire & Ice Fishing Contest that took place on February 22 and February 23. A portion of each \$5 entry fee was donated to the Caroga Lake Fire Department. At this tournament, fishing enthusiasts had the opportunity to fish in five lakes—East and West Caroga Lakes, Canada Lake, West Lake, and Green Lake—with weigh stations available for measuring pickerel, panfish, trout, splake, and rainbow trout. The contest guaranteed a 100% prize payback with a \$4,000 minimum payout, and the celebration culminated at the store with a DJ and After Party for participants. Additionally, every child entrant received a raffle prize. From a modest beginning of 125 participants last year, the contest attracted over 300 fishing enthusiasts this year.

Beyond fishing, Mike has played a pivotal role in organizing the Caroga Lake Winter Carnival, that ran this year from January 31 to February 2 in collaboration with Fulton County Tourism. The festival featured a Snowmobile Poker Run, Fireworks, Snow Volleyball, Outhouse Races, a Chili Cook-Off, a Vintage Snowmobile Show, Live Music, and more. According to Mike, the carnival's goal is to bring families to Caroga Lake, encouraging them to explore local businesses, and establish an annual winter tradition there.

The Caroga Lakeview Store isn't just a convenience store—it's a go-to spot for locals and visitors alike. The store adapts to the seasons, offering warm winter gear, bait, blankets, Caroga Lake merchandise, and more. The store's food service is popular, serving breakfast from 7 AM to noon, followed by a selection of pizza, hot and cold subs, burgers, calzones, salads, appetizers, and more from noon to 8 PM. Customers can dine in or take their meals to go. Michelle, a store employee, recently won first place in the Caroga Lake Winter Carnival Chili Cook-Off, and visitors can sample the award-winning chili at the store.

Beyond food and gear, the store provides beer, drinks, gas, diesel, propane, and firewood, making it a must stop for people in the area. Regulars and newcomers can stay updated on special offerings through the store's [Facebook](#)



[page](#), where weekly wing specials and other promotions are featured.

Mike's business mindset extends beyond his store—he envisions continued growth for Caroga Lake. Recognizing the area's development, including the influence of the Caroga Arts Collective and new business investments, Mike saw an opportunity when the former Groom's Store became available. He took the leap, transforming it into the business it is today. His vision includes more projects on the horizon, ensuring that Caroga Lake will continue to thrive.

Mike attributes a lot of his success to his dedicated team. He emphasizes the importance of hiring individuals who are eager to learn and grow. "You have to want to get up and learn something new every day to be successful. I am grateful for my hard-working, friendly staff who keep The Caroga Lakeview Store going and on the right path," says Mike.

Whether stopping by for a warm meal, participating in a fishing contest, or attending the Winter Carnival, visitors and locals alike can appreciate the efforts of a business owner who truly cares about Caroga Lake and our region.

Stay tuned for more exciting updates from Mike and the Caroga Lakeview Store—you never know what's coming next!

NATIONAL GRID ANNOUNCES "UPSTATE UPGRADES"

National Grid is making some of the biggest improvements and upgrades to its system in a century with the goal of meeting the growing energy needs of upstate New York. We call this collection of electric transmission projects the Upstate Upgrade. Recently called a "game changer" by national publication *Site Selection* magazine ([link](#)), the Upstate Upgrade is a \$4 billion investment by National Grid in Upstate New York's future. The upgrades include new technology to increase the grid's performance and reliability in the face of extreme weather and the region's famously cold and snowy winters. Over 1000 miles of transmission lines will be built or upgraded bringing power to dozens of state-of-the-art substations that can meet today's increased electric demand.

National Grid's Inghams-Rotterdam project includes rebuilding approximately 65 miles of existing 115kV transmission line and associated work to build, reconfigure, and upgrade substations across Fulton, Herkimer, Montgomery, and Schenectady counties. This project, currently in the fieldwork and design stage, will continue to progress through 2025. Learn more about this project and others in the Upstate Upgrade at <https://upstateupgrade.nationalgrid.com/>



OUR CHAMBER-MEMBER MAPLE PRODUCERS ARE ALREADY HARD AT WORK PRODUCING SWEET TREATS

*Please visit these great businesses during NYS Maple Weekends this month—
March 22-23 and March 29-30*

MUD ROAD SUGAR HOUSE,
278 Mud Road, Ephratah | [Facebook](#) | mudroadsugarhouse.com

Owners: Vern Duesler III & Family

Awards: Chamber's 2017 Agricultural Business of the Year

About

Mud Road Sugar House is a family-run maple sugaring business with a rich history spanning over 50 years. Founded in the late 1960s, the company has grown through multiple generations of the Duesler family. Today, the business is operated by Vern Duesler III alongside his wife Maggie, sons D.J. and Chad and their wives, and the Duesler grandchildren Brayden, Olivia and Brice, who continue the tradition of producing award-winning maple products.

Products

Mud Road Sugar House specializes in high-quality maple syrup and a variety of maple-infused products, including:

- Pure Maple Syrup (Traditional & Bourbon Barrel-Aged)
- Maple Cotton Candy
- Pure Maple Cream
- Boxed Maple Cream Drops
- Pancake Flour & Mixes
- Maple Meat Rub
- Maple Coffee
- Maple Dressing & Marinade
- Maple Mustard
- Granulated Maple Sugar
- Maple Sugar Candy
- Maple Jelly
- Maple Brittle
- Maple Roasted Nuts
- Maple Popcorn
- Maple Lollipops & Hard Drops
- Maple Lip Balm
- Wedding Favors
- NEW for 2025: Maple Soft Serve Ice Cream (Pints & Quarts)



Legacy & Growth Milestones

- **1965-1972:** Original sugar house built by three generations: Vern Sr., Vern Jr., and Vern III.
- **1976-1991:** Expansion of facilities, including kitchen, storage, wood shed, and front addition.
- **2001-2019:** Continued growth with upgrades to

the processing equipment, vacuum systems, and an increase in taps.

- **2024 Production:** Harvested 556 gallons of syrup, with 400 gallons classified as Grade A and the remainder sold commercially.

- **Taps & Expansion:** Expanded from 3,100 to 4,000 taps, with 3,600 in Fulton County and 400 in Montgomery County.

Events & Community Engagement

Mud Road Sugar House is active year-round, participating in craft fairs and local events, including Northville Farmers Market, Wells Old Home Days, Mayfield Bannertown Fair, Fort Klock Craft Show, and the Soroptimist Craft Show in November.

At their **Annual Open House** during NYS Maple Weekends in March, visitors can witness the maple syrup production process firsthand.

Open House Specials:

- Maple Soft Serve Ice Cream Launch (2025)
- Amish Buggy Carriage Rides (Weather Permitting)

Complimentary Treats:

- Silver Dollar Pancakes with Warm Syrup (First Weekend)
- Corn Fritters with Warm Syrup (Second Weekend)
- Product Sampling Table featuring their extensive line of maple products
- Live Demonstrations of the syrup-making process

Family Tradition & Commitment

The Duesler family remains deeply committed to the craft of maple sugaring. With Vern's oldest son now managing the bulk of the work, and his youngest son and wife participating in craft fairs downstate, the entire family plays a role in maintaining and expanding the business, including the grandchildren. Vern's wife, Maggie, is a key figure in the operation, handling logistics for the open houses and producing many of the maple-based treats.



Where to Find Their Products

Mud Road products can be found at various establishments in our region, including:

- Caroga Lake View Store, Caroga Lake
- Broadalbin Hotel, Broadalbin
- Rogers Orchard & Cidery, Johnstown
- Let's Twist Again Diner, Perth
- Canada Lake Store & Marina

Looking Ahead

With a favorable forecast for the 2025 maple season and continued expansion efforts, Mud Road Sugar House is excited to bring even more sweet innovations to customers. As they say, **"Taste the Sweetness of Nature!"**

PEACEFUL VALLEY MAPLE FARMS

116 LaGrange Road, Johnstown

[Facebook](#) | peacefulvalleymaplefarms.com

Owners: Steve and Jenny Savage

**About**

Nestled in the scenic countryside of Johnstown, NY, Peaceful Valley Maple Farms is a family-owned and operated business dedicated to producing pure, wood-fired maple syrup with

time-honored traditions and modern sustainability practices.

Founded in 1986 by Steve Savage, the Farm's roots trace back even further, when Steve learned the craft from his grandfather, Gordon LaGrange. Today, alongside his wife Jenny and son Stephen, the Savage family proudly operates the farm with nearly 25,000 taps spread across 400 acres in Fulton, Montgomery, and Otsego Counties.

At Peaceful Valley, they use a wood-fired evaporator to create rich, flavorful maple syrup, while also utilizing solar energy and modern technology to enhance efficiency and sustainability.

Offerings

Authentic **Maple Products** available in their on-site gift shop or online!

- Pure NY Maple Syrup (Wood-fired for deep, rich flavor)
- Bourbon Barrel-Aged Maple Syrup
- Cinnamon-Infused & Coffee-Bean Infused Maple Syrup
- Maple Black Tea & Herbal Tea
- Maple Candy, Coffee, Cream (Maple, Cinnamon, Bourbon)
- Maple Sugar, Pancake Mixes, Maple Drops
- Custom Maple Leaf Bottles – Perfect for Wedding Favors & Gifts
- Gift Boxes (Breakfast Box, Maple Explorer, Maple Lover, Sampler)

Restaurant (*Mid-September through Father's Day*)

- Saturday Breakfast: 7:00 AM - 12:00 PM
- Sunday Breakfast: 7:00 AM - 1:00 PM
- Friday Dinner: 4:30 PM - 8:00 PM (*Homemade weekly, reservations encouraged*)

Gift Shop

Their gift store is open whenever the restaurant is open! You can also make an appointment to visit Monday-Thursday – Call (518) 762-8936

Workshops & Seasonal Events

- Barn Quilt Painting Classes (*Next event in April!*)
- Holiday Merry Market – Featuring maple products, gifts, and local vendors
- Wreath & Sip Nights – A fun, creative way to celebrate the holidays
- Cupcake Decorating Classes

Commitment to Sustainability

At Peaceful Valley Maple Farms, they are committed to preserving tradition while embracing innovation. In 2017, they installed a solar energy system to support our syrup production, reducing our environmental impact. The sugar house also uses a reverse osmosis system and steamway pan to increase efficiency while decreasing energy consumption—but they always finish our syrup the old-fashioned way: with wood.

Taste the tradition. Experience the passion. Enjoy Peaceful Valley Maple Farms Pure New York Maple Syrup.

For orders, reservations, or event inquiries: jenny@peacefulvalleymaplefarms.com or visit Peaceful Valley Maple Farms online at <https://peacefulvalleymaplefarms.com/> or on [Facebook](#).

**COLLEEN IOELE-DECRISTOFARO JOINS GATEWAY REALTY SOLUTIONS**

Colleen Ioele-DeCristofaro has announced she is joining her son, David, at Gateway Realty Solutions. In their announcement of the hire, Gateway said, "With over 30 years of experience in real estate, Colleen brings unmatched expertise, passion, and dedication to her clients. She has been consistently recognized among the top Realtors in the Capital District, earning multiple accolades, including Top Producer, Listing Leader, Sales Leader, and National Sales Excellence. ...We're proud to have such a dedicated and accomplished professional join our growing team!" Find out more about Gateway Realty Solutions online at <https://www.gatewayrealtysolutions.com/> or on their [Facebook page](#).

REGULATED HUMAN COMPLIANCE LLC CAN HELP YOU WITH COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS AND MORE

Regulated Human Compliance LLC implements cybersecurity and compliance strategies for small businesses to ensure government regulations are met.

Most small businesses are still unaware The New York State SHIELD Act became fully enforceable in March 2020 requiring that companies of all sizes develop, implement, and maintain reasonable safeguards to protect the security, confidentiality, and integrity of the private information. Under the SHIELD Act, "the Attorney General may seek injunctive relief, restitution, and penalties against any business entity for violating the law." "For failure to maintain reasonable safeguards, the court may impose a civil penalty of up to \$5,000 per violation."

Under the law, private information is any personal information concerning a natural person in combination with any one or more of the following data elements in combination any required security code:

- Social Security number
- driver's license number
- account number
- biometric information
- username
- email address
- password credentials.

Reference: [SHIELD Act | New York State Attorney General](#)

Regulated Human Compliance LLC provides automated, report driven, next generation analysis to meet key security metrics of the SHIELD Act.

- 45-minute online security awareness training course with certificate of completion
 - Dark Web Monitoring
 - Personal email account dark web scanning
 - Weekly Micro-Security Training Videos & Quizzes
 - Unlimited Phishing Simulations
 - Employee Vulnerability Assessment (EVA)
 - Monthly Security Newsletter
 - Management Portal Access for ongoing status reports
- Services start at \$89 per month for up to 10 employees. Enhanced Options for Healthcare Professionals requiring HIPAA Compliance are available.

For more information, please reach out to:
[Regulated Human Compliance, LLC](#)
 Craig Stephenson, Sr. Vice President
cstephenson@RHCompliance.com | (518) 281-1678

ELEVATE YOUR CORPORATE EVENTS AT THE PINE LAKE LODGE

Pine Lake Lodge, located at 1050 State Highway 10, Caroga Lake is the perfect destination for your over-



night company event, offering ample space that blends relaxation with productivity. In collaboration with Megabites Food Catering, Pine Lake Lodge provides a seamless and stress-free experience with exceptional services. The facility offers:

- Access to entire facility/outdoor areas including 8 bedrooms with 6 bathrooms; three common rooms, bar room, gathering and dining room, commercial kitchen, game room, and plenty of outdoor space for exploring or activities
- A/V equipment (projector, 85" TV, wi-fi and more Mid-week occupancy readily available; and depending on bookings weekends may also be available
- Event design and set-up
- Seasonal décor
- Any size event catering with dietary accommodations – private chef services and full meals – hot or cold 24-hour on-call services
- Help with activity planning and enhanced services – have facilitated sip and paints, drum circles, Reiki services, games, pool, darts, and outside fire pits, full size volleyball, horseshoes, hiking trails nearby, and lots more.

Contact Pine Lake Lodge for your next overnight corporate leadership meetings, retreats, employee awards, client meetings, and much more. Contact Pine Lake Lodge at (518) 265-4272 or info@thepinelakelodge.com



Working together to build your business.

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FULTON MONTGOMERY REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESENTS:

BUSINESS EXP & ANNUAL AWARDS CELEBRATION

Thursday, April 3rd, 2025

4:00-7:00p

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



Business Expo from 4:00-6:00

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

Annual Awards presentation at 6:00

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

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

Vendor Table Fee: only \$50!

**Chamber Members and Guests
FREE to attend!**

For details, sponsorship opportunities, and to register:

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



TOURISMA

NEWS & UPDATES

Walleye Challenge 2025

Written by: Jerrod Vila

Outdoor News Multimedia Sales

Representative | NYS Licensed Guide

Board Member | New York State Outdoor Writers Association

The morning started off as one of the better days (weather wise) that we've had in some time; temperatures in the high teens/low 20s, slightly overcast, and almost zero wind made for a rather enjoyable way to start the day. The only impediment tournament anglers faced, including myself, were conditions. Copious amounts of snow sitting atop a healthy amount of slush and slop. These conditions seriously hampered all wheeled vehicles. Even with chains, wheelers and side by sides struggled to move about the Great Sacandaga Lake. Tracked wheelers and snowmobiles fared far better, but even still, traversing the surface of the lake, especially while pulling sleds full of gear, was no easy task. Go figure, the one season there is absolutely zero issues with ice thickness and ice safety, mother nature deals us one heck of a nasty hand. Nonetheless, everyone seemed to prevail over the rather un-ideal ice conditions.

The board was indeed filled throughout the day. The Walleye Challenge pays 7 places per hour, over the course of 8 hours. 56 money prizes given throughout of the day for just fish prizes. Only 11 of 56 fish were over 2 pounds - and 9 of those 11, being barely over.

Hour 1 first place prizes went to Jojo Insogna with a 3.15 pound fish. Hour two was a tie between John Greenhill and Steve Santamaria with a 2.0 pound walleye. Hour three went to Doug Fidler with a 2.06 pound fish. Hour 4 was Cody Milanese with a 2.05 pounder. Hour 5 was taken by Jason Kemper with a 2.10 pound 'Eye. Hour 6 topped out at only 1.11 pounds weighed in by Chris McClean. Hour 7 saw the biggest fish of the entire tournament, a healthy 4.05 pounder weighed in by Catherine Hammons of Northville. Hour 8 was taken by Logan Burroughs with a 2.01 pound walleye.

Big winners of the side by side and other machines are as follows: Anthony Mullarkey of Gloversville was the first name drawn and chose the side by side. Devin Dywer of Johnstown and Andrew Koch Sr. of Castleton won the

other two remaining 4 wheelers.

Guiliana Manzer won the kid's 4 wheeler, with the winning youth fish brought to the weigh station of 11b 9oz. Additional Raffle Prize Winner (Hunting Blind and supplies) Justin Bergh of Johnstown.

A 50/50 was held to support the Henry Ross III Memorial Fund. The winner was Joe Passino and he gave some of the proceeds back to the organization.

Anne Boles, Executive Director of the Chamber would like to extend a big thank you to all our partners who help make this event possible. We couldn't do it without the continued support of Louie Stutzke, Beaver Ross, Maria Ross, Glen Henry and family, Fuel-n-Food, Saratoga Eagle, Franks Gun Shop, Lanzi's On The Lake, Frank & Sons Body Works, Reale Landscaping, Hart's Towing, Wiggly Worm Bait Supply, Henry D Ross III Memorial Fund, Great Sacandaga Lake Fisheries Federation Inc, GSL Safe Lake, Ponderosa Pines, Alys Shirt Werks, our local Emergency Management Partners, County Officials, and the countless volunteers who all make this day happen!!



Nicole Walrath VanAlstyne,
*Director of Work-
 force Development*
 nicolew@
 fultonmontgom-
 eryny.org



Natalie May,
*Business & Education
 Partnership Coord.*
 nataliem@
 fultonmontgom-
 eryny.org

Fulton Montgomery
 REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

CTE
 HFM CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION

SAVE THE DATE

WOMEN IN THE WORKFORCE

MARCH 12, 2025

11:00-1:00

HFM BOCES CAREER AND TECH CENTER
 2755 STATE HWY 67, JOHNSTOWN, NY

KRISTINA MARSHALL--KMARSHALL@HFMBOCES.ORG
NICOLE WALRATH--NVALRATH@HFMBOCES.ORG

REGISTER NOW

You'll have the opportunity to network with other women in non-traditional roles and interact with female students with passions and interests in non-traditional career fields.

START HERE. GO ANYWHERE.

Details about this upcoming event, Women in the Workforce, can be found on page 20. Are you a woman in the workforce in a non-traditional role? We would love to have you participate! Contact Nicole Walrath at nwalrath@hfmboces.org

BTECH (Basketball TECH) is taking place this year on Wednesday, April 9 in the afternoon at HFM PTECH at Glebe Street at Johnstown! We are looking for business partners to come together as a team and play against PTECH students in a really fun environment! Contact Natalie May to RSVP (by 4/1) or for details: nmay1@hfmboces.org.

WANTED BUSINESS PARTNERS

BTECH

FOR HFM PTECH'S 3RD ANNUAL BTECH

APRIL 9TH, 2025
502 GLEBE STREET
JOHNSTOWN, NY

WE ARE LOOKING FOR A GROUP OF 6 BUSINESS PARTNERS TO COME TOGETHER AS A TEAM, TO COMPETE AGAINST HFM PTECH STUDENTS DURING OUR ANNUAL BTECH [BASKETBALL] GAMES. NO SKILLS REQUIRED!

RSVP BY 4/1 TO [NMA1@HFMBOCES.ORG](mailto:nmay1@hfmboces.org)



CHAMBER CHAMPION SPONSORS

As a Chamber Champion, these businesses are leaders in supporting the Chamber and our regional business community. Their generous underwriting helps make this newsletter possible, along with our advertisers.



Mental Health Association
in Fulton & Montgomery Counties
307-309 Meadow Street, Johnstown, NY 12095
518-762-5332 or 1-800-734-5864
www.mentalhealthassociation.org



NATHAN LITTAUER
Hospital & Nursing Home

For more information on Chamber Champions,
contact Anne Boles at (518) 725-0641
or anneb@fultonmontgomeryny.org

JOIN US FOR A FREE WEBINAR ABOUT CHAMBER MEMBER BENEFITS

Welcome to our Chamber 101 Webinar Series! Join us on Friday, March 14 at 9am as we explore all the amazing benefits and opportunities the Fulton Montgomery Chamber offers to help your business thrive.

From membership perks to our Business Education Partnership, workforce development, advocacy, and more, we're here to support your success every step of the way. Stay tuned for insights on events, networking, community engagement, and navigating your Chamber website! Let's grow together! RSVP at <https://business.fultonmontgomeryny.org/events/details/chamber-101-webinar-series-45224>

PERTH COMPREHENSIVE PLAN COMMISSION SEEKS FEEDBACK FOR COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

Since the spring of 2023, the Perth Comprehensive Planning Commission has been working on an update to the Town's 2013 Comprehensive Plan. A Comprehensive Plan is a long-range planning document that determines a community's vision, goals, objectives, policies, strategies, and aspirations for future growth, development, preservation, and recreation discussing but not limited to transportation, utilities, land use, recreation, and housing.

Public comment is being sought from community residents, landowners, and business owners regarding short- and long-term goals within the Town; feedback is important and highly encouraged. This feedback will be beneficial when the Committee develops goals and recommendations for the Comprehensive Plan. Public comment on a comprehensive plan survey is crucial because it allows residents to directly express their concerns, priorities, and vision for the future of their community, ensuring that the resulting plan accurately reflects the needs and desires of the people who will be most impacted by it, leading to greater community buy-in and support for future development decisions.

The survey can be completed through March 15, 2025. An electronic survey has been set up which will take about 10 – 15 minutes of your time and is available by going to the Town of Perth website, www.perthny.com, or by going to https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1m15tUP2skT5XQUX3Z1tmpclzVn_hkEwMAoxlX6Js9EA/viewform?edit_requested=true

Paper copies are available at Town Hall during business hours. For any questions, please contact the Town of Perth at 518-843-6977. Additionally, postcards will be mailed out to all residents to remind them to participate.

Should those within the Town wish to speak to members of the Planning Commission they may do so at an Open House on Saturday, March 15, 2025, from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm at Town Hall, where they will be able to help identify Strengths, Weaknesses, Threats, or Opportunities within the Town. Residents may also speak with the Planning Commission, which also doubles as the Planning Board at their monthly meeting, which is held on the fourth Monday of the month at 6:00 pm within the Senior Center. The Perth Comprehensive Planning Commission committee consists of Ronald Cetnar, Treavor Gilday, Bob Gordon, Tracy Gutowski, Kaleb Walker, Diane Conard, Nichole Surento, and Bob Morton, with assistance from the Fulton County Planning Department. Michael DiMezza sat on the Planning Commission until the end of 2024.

THE BUSINESS COUNCIL OF NEW YORK STATE RELEASES THEIR 2025 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

The Business Council of New York State has released its 2025 Legislative Agenda which follows here. The Chamber's Governmental Affairs Committee uses this as a guide for their own Advocacy efforts on behalf of our businesses, and also adds additional advocacy efforts for more regionalized and local business issues. Questions should be directed to Anne Boles:

Alcohol & Beverage Control Law

- Allow wine to be sold in grocery stores
- Support ABC Law Reform, implement the Governor's Task Force Recommendations

Energy/Environment/Taxes

- EPR for packaging – Business is urging the Governor to introduce legislation and provide leadership on the issue; the legislative proposal (S.1646/A.1749), which passed the Senate in 2024, is seen as unworkable by business and is strongly opposed.
- CLCPA implementation – This includes return of HEAT act, the pending cap and invest rule (and legislation imposing numerous restrictions on the NYCI market), among others.
- Superfund/Brownfield programs. The state's \$1 billion in bonding authority for superfund cleanups needs reauthorization/replacement, business is asking for a number of programmatic reforms to both superfund (e.g., explicit provisions for "mixed" public/private spending at superfund sites) and brownfield programs (e.g., address provisions adding significant additional costs to volunteers doing brownfield cleanups.)

Financial Services

- Oppose excessively broad compliance and enforcement standards regarding "unfair and abusive" business practices.

Health & Health Insurance

- Advocate for reasonable health data privacy laws that do not inhibit a business's ability to improve consumer access to services and products.
- Oppose new mandates, taxes, and additional unnecessary penalties that contribute to increasing health care premiums for businesses and individuals.

Labor

- Eliminate "wage theft" enforcement against employers who failed to pay manual workers weekly.
- Oppose significant expansion of short-term disability benefits including dramatic increases in benefit amounts, job reinstatement rights, and health insurance continuation, as well as any expansion of Paid Family Leave benefits (bereavement, etc.).
- Respond to any expanded workplace protections in reaction to perceived Trump administration changes at OSHA – specifically warehouse worker injury protections, heat/cold employee protections, retail worker protections, etc.
- Oppose restrictions on noncompete and mandatory arbitration provisions in employment agreements.
- Respond to incremental changes to Workers' Compensa-

sation benefits that add to the cost of the system.

- Resist expansion of use of Wage Boards to modify terms and conditions of employment by industry
- In 2023, BCNYS defeated a bill to ban non-compete agreements in New York due to a veto from the Governor. We are monitoring any re-emergence of this proposal. Oppose.

Privacy

- Adopt privacy legislation similar to the Connecticut statute.

Legal Reform Staff

- Oppose legislation to adopt an "abuse of dominant position" standard for the state's antitrust statute.
- Oppose broad, costly "wrongful death" expansion

Transportation / Housing

- Support the establishing a comprehensive framework for the regulation and integration of autonomous vehicles (AVs) into our state. -Waymo is pushing.
- Support the New York state first home grant program; directs the commissioner of homes and community renewal, in consultation with the state comptroller, to implement such program; provides assistance on behalf of a first time home buyer qualified for such program; and for costs in connection with the acquisition, involving an eligible mortgage loan, of an eligible home, including down payment costs, closing costs, and costs to reduce the rates of interest on eligible mortgage loans
- Support the Faith-Based Affordable Housing Act (FBAHA), which allows faith-based organizations to partner with developers to build affordable housing on their properties.

Taxation

- Oppose new or increased taxes on business.
- Allow taxpayers to make the "pass through entity tax" election as late as September 15 of the tax year to which it applies.

Unemployment Insurance

- Support using public resource to pay down the remaining \$6 billion in Covid-era federal advances used to pay UI benefits, in order to provide payroll tax relief to employees.

Workforce Development

- Ensure the New York Coalition for Child Care has equal voices of business, tax, labor and advocates.
- While supporting the launch of child care substitute tool, it is imperative that the child care system in NYS does not mirror the inequities of the public school system.
- Launching a college in the high school opportunity fund wonderfully highlights the current early college programs but fails to include language and funding include of Advance Placement Coursework which has shown growth from 611,000 in 2022 to 695,000 in 2023, an increase of 14%, for low-income students.
- Streamlining TAP application shows the most success when paired with improving the FAFSA application. In 2024, over 1M FAFSA applications had errors due to a faulty roll-out negatively impacting the ability to receive aid.
- Increased funding support for in-demand occupations is necessary across all universities. BCNYS will continue to advocate for funding for APC, CUNY and SUNY colleges.

CHAMBER ANNOUNCES 2025 AWARD WINNERS

Chamber Members and the public encouraged to join the Chamber in celebrating these winners at the Business Expo/Awards Celebration on Thursday, April 3, 4pm-7pm at the Johnstown Moose Club (see details on pages 13 and 20)

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING
CHAMBER MEMBERS!

Chamber Family Award- St. Andrews Heating & Cooling

Small Business of the Year – Ideal Pest Management LLC and Ideal K9 Training LLC

Barbara V Spraker Tourism Partner Award- The Glove Theatre, Kathleen Evers Perrott

Centennial Award - Bowman's Market - with honorable mentions - Gloversville Palace Diner, Pickett Memorial, Main Motor Car, Dunham's Spring Shop

Agricultural Business of the Year Award – Lakeview Orchards

Industry of the Year Award- Walmart DC #6096

Young Professional of the Year Award- Megan Anagnostopulos, General Manager of the Amsterdam Mohawks

Entrepreneurial Award – Chad Majewski from Chad Majewski Real Estate

Herbert T Singer Community Service Award- Ashley Capobianco of Townsend Leather

Executive of the Year Award - Danny Wheeler- Electro Metrics

Ambassador of the Year Award – Colleen Ioele-DeCristofaro, Gateway Realty Solutions

RADAR GRANTS AVAILABLE

The Regional Apprenticeship Development & Readiness (RADAR) grant is an Apprenticeship program targeting men and women who can self-attest to having had a disability listed on the ADA List of Disabilities <https://askjan.org/a-to-z.cfm> (no documentation required) at any point in time. This program serves individuals residing in the following 11 counties: Herkimer, Madison, Oneida, Fulton, Montgomery, Schoharie, Chenango, Delaware, Otsego, Cortland, and Onondaga. RADAR offers Pre-Apprenticeship training to prepare job seekers for careers in Apprenticeship programs. It also provides access to supportive service funds for transportation, childcare, tools, PPE, work clothes, books, and more. RADAR offers on-the-job training (OJT) funds to employers, with a 50% wage reimbursement for up to 6 months for any new Apprentice. As part of a broader workforce initiative, RADAR also offers services such as workplace success training, resume writing, interview preparation, and job search support.

Funding Breakdown (per-person);

\$1,000.00 Pre-Apprenticeship Training (any training that can be completed within 6 months/ could prepare job seeker for an Apprenticeship)

\$500.00 Supportive Services

OJT 50% up to 6 months

For Additional Information:

Sommer Edwards, RADAR Awards Project Director
315-207-6951 ext. 133

CHAMBER MEMBER NEWS—CONTINUED

ELIZABETH CADY STANTON HOMETOWN ASSOCIATION CELEBRATES WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

For the second year in a row, the Elizabeth Cady Stanton Hometown Association is honoring Exceptional Women of our area. Last year, the organization voted on 15 women, living and deceased, who were the first in their field or trailblazers in some way. They created large posters featuring each woman's story that were displayed in storefront windows throughout Main Street in Johnstown for all passersby to read, learn and be inspired from, and enjoy.

This year, the voting was opened up to the public and there will be eight women being honored this year. The winners will be announced and posters unveiled on Saturday, March 8 which is International Women's Day. They will again be displayed throughout Main Street in Johnstown.

For more information visit our Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/p/Elizabeth-Cady-Stanton-Hometown-Association-100064580234105/>

WELCOME NEW CHAMBER BOARD MEMBERS

This month we are featuring information about your new Chamber Board members for 2025.

Take a minute to get to know them, and welcome them to Board membership!



MICHAEL DIMEZZA

Principal, [Career & Technical Education \(CTE\)](#) at HFM BOCES

Michael DiMezza is the Principal of Career and Technical Education (CTE) at Hamilton-Fulton-Montgomery BOCES, bringing over 13 years of experience as a CTE administrator. Prior to his leadership role at CTE, Mike was a dedicated 7th- and 8th-grade Social Studies teacher in the Greater Amsterdam School District.

Passionate about advancing Career and Technical Education, Mike has been actively involved in several statewide initiatives, including the NYS Civic Readiness Credential, the NYS Work-Based Learning (WBL) Advisory Committee, the NYS Perkins Advisory Committee, and the NYS Digital Learning Advisory Committee. His commitment to enhancing CTE extends to his role on the Association of Career and Technical Administrators (ACTEA) Board of Directors and his service on the Executive Committee for the NYS CTE Network.

In recognition of his dedication to workforce development and regional economic growth, Mike was appointed to the Chamber's Board of Directors, expanding on the incredible partnership that exists between these organizations.

A lifelong resident of Amsterdam, Mike resides there with his wife, Jenelle, and their two children, Enzo and Viviana.



CHRISTIE DAVIS

Director of External Partnerships and Applied Learning, [SUNY FM](#)

Christie Davis is the Director of External Partnerships and Applied Learning at SUNY Fulton-Montgomery Community College. She has been an academic advisor since 2007.

Christie has worked with students from all backgrounds, including high school early admission seniors and adult evening and online students. Beginning in 2021, she began focus on advising employed workers who are upgrading their skill sets through education and coursework as well as On-the-Job Training with local employers and agencies.

Christie is also the Internship Coordinator and the Individual Studies Site Coordinator, securing hands-on learning opportunities for students in all majors. She leads the Business & Community Partnerships Team at FM and assists companies with workforce development initiatives.

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, March 12 11am to 1pm
THE CHAMBER'S BUSINESS
EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP AND HFM
CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION
PRESENT

WOMEN IN THE WORKFORCE
HFM BOCES Conference Center, 2755 State Highway 67, Johnstown.

Join us on Wednesday, March 12 for a Women in the Workforce event. 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. Lunch will be provided by our CTE Culinary students. If you work in a non-traditional role and would like to be a participant, or if you have any questions, please contact Nicole Walrath-VanAlstyne at nwalrath@hfmbores.org

Friday, March 14 9am-10am
CHAMBER 101 WEBINAR SERIES,
MAXIMIZE YOUR CHAMBER
MEMBERSHIP

Learn how to maximize your Chamber membership! Join us for our first quarterly webinar as we discuss an introduction to your Chamber of Commerce, our Business Education Partnership, and additional membership benefits. **FREE** for Chamber members and their employees. RSVP to (518) 725-0641, email fultonmontgomeryny@gmail.com or register [here](#).

Thursday, March 27 4:30pm-6:30pm
SPEED NETWORKING EVENT, SUNY FM's Allen House, 2805 State Highway 67, Johnstown

An event sponsored by the Chamber, SUNY FM, and the FMS Workforce Development Board
An opportunity to engage with industry and community service professionals. Cultivate meaningful connections, explore fresh opportunities, and enhance your professional network. Bring your business cards and marketing materials from your business to share with new contacts. RSVP to the Chamber. Lite fare will be provided.

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

There are opportunities for sponsorship, 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, or email anneb@fultonmontgomeryny.org for sponsorship opportunities, or to sign up to display. Application for Chamber member businesses to display at the event and sponsorship information can be found [here](#).

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