



NEWSLINE

March/April 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.

Championing Progress Across Fulton & Montgomery Counties with Chamber Members and the Community



Left: The Chamber's **2026 Legislative Breakfast** took place at the Holiday Inn Johnstown-Gloversville on January 21. Abbey Burke from Assemblywoman Mary Beth Walsh's office and Assemblyman Robert Smullen spoke to the crowd about business issues in New York State and beyond. There were close to 100 Chamber members in attendance.



Right: There was a **Ribbon Cutting** that took place in February for the reopening of the **Fulton County YMCA at SUNY Fulton-Montgomery Community College** Child-care Center in Johnstown!



Right: **Ribbon Cutting at Liquor by the Lake**, a new liquor store owned by Mike Monks (pictured with Chamber staff) is now open for business at 2039 State Highway 10 in Caroga Lake. Visit them on [Facebook](#) for more info or check them out on page 3.



Photos at left, from top: The **17th Annual Walleye Challenge** was held all over the Great Sacandaga Lake on Saturday, February 14. The sold out event with 1500 fishing enthusiasts welcomed registrants from not only New York, but also from Connecticut, Florida, Kentucky, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maryland, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. There were a total of 188 walleye that were weighed for entry in the contest and there were payouts of the heaviest six fish in each of the eight hours of the tournament. Please see page 15 for a list of winners, sponsors, partners and more! Pictured from the top—Lou Stutzke announces winners at Lanzl's on the Lake, middle photo is part of the large crowd at Lanzl's, and bottom is one of the happy winners!



Message from the Interim Executive Director

2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair—Jeffrey Methven, *St. Mary’s Healthcare*
Vice Chair—Seth Brown, *Brown’s Ford*
Secretary—Peter Lawrence, *Family Counseling Center*
Treasurer—Ryan Faville, *Stewart’s Shops*
Immediate Past Chair—Geoff Peck, *Nathan Littauer Hospital & Nursing Home*

Elizabeth Bridge, *Liberty ARC*
Caleb Brown, *Anderson-Negele*
Ashley Capobianco, *Townsend Leather Company, Inc.*
Christie Davis, *Fulton-Montgomery Community College*
Ashley Delaney, *The Wesson Group*
Mike DiMezza, *HFM Career & Technical Education*
Janine Dykeman, *Mental Health Association in Fulton & Montgomery Counties*
Ryan Heck, *Alpin Haus*
David Jankowski, *3D Chess Politics, LLC*
Matt Ossenfort, *Gallagher*
Mike Schaus, *THNK Tank Media/WENT Radio*

CHAMBER STAFF

Nicole Walrath VanAlstyne, *Interim Executive Director*
Alexis Beman, *Business & Education Partnership Coordinator*
Mark Bolebruch, *Finance*
Jennifer Hammons, *Special Projects Associate*
Alixandria Shrome, *Programs & Communications Coordinator*
Terry Swierzowski, *Newsline Editor/Reporter*
Jessica Valachovic, *Membership Outreach Associate*

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](#)

I am honored to step into the role of Interim Executive Director of the Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce. Having proudly served the Chamber for more than a decade, I remain a familiar face and a dedicated advocate for our business community.

During this transition, our Chamber team and I remain fully committed to supporting you and your business. We sincerely thank you for your continued partnership, and please know that our dedication to serving, supporting, and advocating for our members remains unwavering.

We have a busy spring ahead with our Business Expo & Annual Awards Celebration, Community Job Fair, Career Con, and many ribbon cuttings and other events. This newsletter is packed with opportunities for our members, and we encourage you to take full advantage of these valuable opportunities to network, collaborate and more.

We’re in this together, and I’m here for any questions or ideas you have. You can reach me at nicolew@fultonmontgomeryny.org.

With appreciation and gratitude,
Nicole Walrath-VanAlstyne
Interim Executive Director &
Workforce Development

Welcome New Members

January-February 2026

BROADVIEW FCU

5003 State Highway 30, Amsterdam

(800) 727-3328 | www.broadviewfcu.com

Broadview was formed when two leading financial institutions in Upstate New York joined forces. Built on a legacy over many decades of putting people first, Broadview meets you where you are on your financial journey – and guides you forward.

Turn to financial solutions created to help people, businesses, and communities thrive. Enjoy the streamlined simplicity of technology with the comfort and assurance of meaningful, personal attention.

LIQUOR BY THE LAKE

2039 State Highway 10, Caroga Lake

(518) 835-6969 | [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/liquorbythelake)

Liquor store in the heart of Caroga Lake. Small store with competitive pricing. Caroga Lake's new go-to for wine, liquor and hometown service. Right next door to Lakeview Store, bringing the spirits you love with the friendly vibe you expect.

SH GRAPHICS & MORE

308 West Montgomery Street, Johnstown

(518) 921-9473 | www.shgraphicsandmore.com

A custom print and graphics shop built around helping local businesses, racers, and teams stand out. I create high-quality stickers, banners, wraps, sportswear, and custom apparel, with a focus on bold design, durable materials, and fast turnaround. Every order is made with attention to detail, clear communication, and pride in my work—bringing my customers' ideas to life from start to finish.

FIDELIS CARE

25 British American Blvd., Latham

<https://www.fideliscare.org> | (518) 275-8318

Here for Your Health: Fidelis Care offers quality, affordable health coverage for people of all ages and at all stages of life. We can help you find the plan that's right for you.

ARTIST LAKE MEDIA

artistlakemedia.wordpress.com/ | (631) 949-9997

Multi-Media: photo, video, graphic design, social media, events-sports, weddings, parties, banquets, etc.; head shots, portraits, and more.

Continued on page 4



Membership Message

*Jessica Valachovic,
Membership Outreach
Associate*

As I wrap up my first couple of months with the Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to all of you. As I continue learning and navigating my new role with optimism, it has been wonderful meeting new members and reconnecting with many of our long-standing businesses. Your continued engagement and support are what keep the Chamber going and growing.

I am grateful for every conversation and connection so far. My goal moving forward is to remain a strong advocate for our membership by strengthening relationships, elevating your voices, and helping you make the most of your Chamber benefits in ways that fit your unique goals. To our valued current members, if you need anything at all, please feel free to reach out to me directly so I can support you in the areas that matter most to your business.

I was especially thankful to take part in the 17th Annual Walleye Tournament this year. As someone who previously participated alongside my family, it was meaningful to experience the event from a Chamber perspective. I am already looking ahead to the 18th Annual Walleye Challenge and look forward to working closely with our businesses, volunteers, and vendors to continue enhancing this valued community tradition.

I am also excited for the many upcoming events hosted by the Chamber and our members. Thank you to everyone who has supported and participated in our recent ribbon cuttings and Business After Hours events. Your involvement and enthusiasm truly reflect the strength of our Chamber community.

To our prospective members, I would welcome the opportunity to connect and discuss how the Chamber can support your business or organization. Please feel free to reach out at (518) 725-0641 or membership@fultonmontgomeryny.org.

Thank you again for such a warm welcome. I look forward to continuing to build meaningful connections in the months ahead.

Warm regards,
Jessica Valachovic

Welcome New Members

January-February 2026

(continued from page 3)

SARATOGA'S COMMUNITY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

189 Ballston Ave., Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
(518) 584-2323 | www.saratogafcu.org

A full-service financial institution founding in 1945. Has grown to service the financial needs of the communities within Fulton, Montgomery, Saratoga, Warren and Washington counties offering a wide range of services from student loans, mortgages, and auto financing to savings and retirement options. We are committed to integrity, innovation, and individualization.

BELL'S PERFORMANCE SPORTS

55 E. Main St., Nelliston
(518) 332-6633 | [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/bellsperformance)

Bell's Performance Sports is an Outdoor Performance Apparel and Auto Detailing Shop. We carry FXR Snowmobile/Motocross/Pro-Fish Clothing, Gear, and Safety Equipment. We offer a full range of FXR products as well as offer the ability to order it as well. We are also a FT Auto Detail Shop for personal and commercial needs.

A+ PLUS MOWING AND TRIMMING

(518) 224-1216 | aplusmowingandtrimming.com

Small local business that performs Residential and Commercial lawn mowing, trimming of hedges, brush, small trees, and snow blowing.

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION OF NENY

1003 New Loudon Rd., Cohoes
(518) 867-4999 | <https://alz.org>

Leading the way to end Alzheimer's and all other dementia — by accelerating global research, driving risk reduction and early detection, and maximizing quality care and support.

SHORTY'S SOUTHSIDE

51 Broad Street, Amsterdam
(518) 212-2688 | www.shortyssouthside.com

A cherished landmark in Amsterdam NY's historic Southside since its establishment in 1948.

Led by Executive Chef Bill Perecich, formerly of 518 Grille, our kitchen delights in crafting a menu of beloved classics, featuring everything from mouthwatering wings and hearty burgers to flavorful wraps and the iconic Amsterdam staple, the Grinder. Whether you're craving a leisurely lunch or a satisfying dinner, Shorty's invites you to experience our warm hospitality and delicious fare. With options for dine-in service, convenient delivery, and a hassle-free drive-up window, we've got you covered.

YANKEE HILL PAINTING & REPAIRS

155 Third Ave., Tribes Hill
[Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/yankeehillpainting) | (518) 378-0493

Providing quality interior and exterior painting service for homes and commercial properties.

GORICK CONSTRUCTION CO., INC.

27 Track Drive, Binghamton, NY
(607) 775-1765 | www.gorickconstruction.com

Gorick Construction Co., Inc. is a full-service heavy highway and demolition contractor in Binghamton providing estimates with computerized modeling to help you with any design discrepancies.

We attack every project head on to give you the highest quality product in the timeliest and cost-effective way.

Every project is unique and has its own requirements, ranging from site-specific conditions to schedules. Our company uses a Trimble GPS Systems to complete each job the right way.

KEE TO INDEPENDENT GROWTH INC.

PO Box 243, Ballston Spa, NY 12020
(518) 309-3557 | www.keetoindpendentgrowth.com

Community-based agency committed to the strengthening of individuals through support, counseling, education, outreach & advocacy services 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.

WELCOME ALEXIS BEMAN TO THE CHAMBER STAFF

The Chamber's new Business & Education Partnership Coordinator, Alexis Beman, began her tenure at the Chamber in January! Help us welcome her when you see her—at PTECH, CTE or at a Chamber event! In her role, Alexis works with Workforce Development Director Nicole Walrath-VanAlstyne, building relationships between schools and local businesses to create work-based learning, internships, and career opportunities for students at PTECH and CTE/HFM BOCES. She will act as a liaison to help align curriculum with industry needs, organize events, and manage stakeholder engagement to enhance student success.



Alexis is from Mayfield. She graduated from SUNY FM in Fall of 2023 and she is slated to graduate this spring from SUNY Empire State College with a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology. She is so excited about the opportunity to give back to her community in this position, as well as honored to get a chance to help the youth of the region. Her most recent experience prior to taking her Chamber position was in the mental health field.

Alexis is looking forward to helping students take steps to move their careers and education forward and to get where they want to be. She is also grateful for the experience she will get with her work with the Chamber to make connections and help to strengthen the regional business community. Please reach out to Alexis at (518) 725-0641 or via email at bepcoordinator@fultonmontgomeryny.org.



MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

January-February 2026

Thank you for your continued support!



40+ YEARS

- Gabriel Contractors of Amsterdam—60
- Brown's Ford of Johnstown—54
- WEST & Company, CPAs, PC—53
- Ruby & Quiri, Inc.—52
- Holiday Inn Johnstown-Gloversville—52
- National Grid—52
- SWANY America Corp.—52
- C.T. Male Associates, DPC—52
- NBT Bank, Gloversville Financial Center—52
- Kingsboro Lumber Co., Inc.—52
- Wood, Seward & McGuire & Sacco, LLP—52
- Apollo Northeast Sales & Service—51
- KeyBank, Gloversville—51
- Stewart's Shops—51
- First Presbyterian Church, Johnstown—50
- Romana's Italian Kitchen—46
- Santos Construction—44
- Brown Coach—43
- Philip Beckett, CPA, PC—42
- Spagnola & Spagnola Accounting Firm, LLC—42
- Gary DiSanto-Rose, DMD—41
- DiBlasi Agency, Inc.—42
- J. Paul Kolodziej, Attorney & Counselor at Law—41

31 – 40 YEARS

- H.F.M. Prevention Council—40
- Amsterdam Auto Parts Inc. (CarQuest) - 39
- City of Johnstown—39
- Gloversville Enlarged School District—38
- Family Counseling Center of Fulton County—37
- Fulton County Sheriff—36
- Jones & Nauden Leather/Booth & Co.—36
- Holland Meadows Golf Course—36
- Partner's Pub—35
- Broadalbin Manufacturing—35
- Broadalbin-Perth Central School District—35
- Adirondack Lakefront Retreat on the Great Sacandaga, LTD—35
- MacKenzie and Tallent, Attorneys at Law—35
- Canajoharie Falls Cemetery Association—35
- Pineview Commons Home for Adults—34
- Lanzi's on the Lake—33

- Beech-Nut Nutrition Corporation—33
- Cranesville Block Company, Inc.—33
- Northville Public Library—32
- Peking In Johnstown Corp.—32
- Abdella & Sise Law Firm—31
- Colonial Overhead Doors—31

21 – 30 YEARS

- Mental Health Association in Fulton & Montgomery Counties—30
- Oppenheim-Ephratah-St. Johnsville Central School District—29
- Fiber Conversion—29
- Sport Island Pub—29
- Daily Gazette Co., Inc.—28
- First Choice Financial Federal Credit Union—28
- Town of Charleston—28
- Village of Fultonville—28
- Town of Root—28

(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

January-February 2026

Thank you for your continued support!



21 – 30 YEARS (continued from page 5)

- Gloversville Johnstown Joint Wastewater Treatment Facilities—28
- City of Gloversville—28
- The Eccentric Club—28
- Smith & Smith Contractors, Inc.—27
- KeyBank, Amsterdam (Division St.) - 27
- Plaza's Italian Bistro—27
- Say It With Signs—27
- Empire State Development—27
- Putman Enterprises (Johnstown Building Contractors) - 27
- Chris Rizzo Trucking, Inc.—27
- The Glove Theatre—26
- J. H. Burhmaster Co., Inc.—26
- KeyBank, Palatine Bridge—26
- Rogers Family Orchards, Inc.—25
- Cranberry Cove Marina—25
- Steven J. Bruning, CPA—25
- Derby Office Equipment—25
- Euphrates, Inc.—24
- Northville Central School—24
- Beckmann Converting—23
- Fuel-N-Food, Inc.—23
- Sacandaga Valley Arts Network—23
- St. Mary's Healthcare—23
- Twin Cities Sports Promotions—22
- St. Johnsville Chamber of Commerce—21
- Advantage Builders—21
- Universal Warehousing—21
- NFP (Rose & Kiernan) - 21

11 – 20 YEARS

- Community Bank, Canajoharie—19
- Perfection Cleaning Service—19
- KeyBank, Johnstown—19
- Rockwood Environmental Solutions, LLC—19
- Friends of Sanford Stud Farm—19
- Deborah R. Hermance, DDS—19
- DeMi's Wine & Liquors—18
- Arkell Museum/Canajoharie Library—18
- McDonald's of Amsterdam—18
- McDonald's of Fultonville—18
- McDonald's of Palatine Bridge—18
- Life Christian Center Church—17
- Empire Automotive Solutions, LLC—17
- Law Office of Heidi Gifford—16
- Lamar Outdoor Advertising—15
- OB1 Insurance Agency, Inc.—12
- VanNostrand & Co., CPAs—12

- Mohawk Valley Economic Development District—11
- Johnstown Historical Society—11
- KCS Land Research—11
- State Farm Insurance, Jenny Rulison-Fisch—11
- NBT Bank, Canajoharie—11
- CDL Associates Insurance Agency—Northville—11

1 – 10 YEARS

- St. Johnsville Rehabilitation & Nursing Center, Inc.—10
- Studio Herbage Florist—19
- Town of Caroga—10
- Mud Road Sugar House—9
- Fulton County Regional SPCA—9
- Assemblyman Robert Smullen—8
- NBT Bank, St. Johnsville—8
- Community Loan Fund of the Capital Region—7
- Dollar General Logistics—7
- Mohawk Harvest Cooperative Market—5
- McClary Media—4
- Johnson Hall State Historic Site—4
- Reets Boatworks & Bayside Marina—4
- Salute to Service Veterans Coalition, Inc.—3
- Fulton County Industrial Development Agency—2
- Ideal K9 Training, LLC—2
- To Life! - 2
- NBT Bank, Ft. Plain—2
- NTI Freight & Logistics—2
- Powerhouse Motor Sports—2
- Rose & Hughes Funeral Home—2
- Purple Glass Healing Arts, LLC—1
- Zonta Club of Montgomery-Fulton—1
- Convenience/Deli Store—1
- Axis Strength Training—1
- Canape Insurance—1
- The Sabai Jai Project—1
- Dan's Excavation Service, Inc.—1

ANNUAL CHAMBER AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER for the following Chamber members who will be presented with these awards on Thursday, April 2 at Meg's at Muni. Read about these award winners in the following pages of this newsletter and in the May/June issue. Join us in celebrating these great businesses at the April 2 Business Expo and Awards presentation, open to Chamber members and their employees! See RSVP information on page 20.

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

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

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

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

CENTENNIAL AWARD: *Given to a Chamber mem-*

ber who is an active participant in Chamber programs and has been in business in our region for 100+ years.

NORTHVILLE 5&10, Honorable Mention: Pickett Memorials

AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS AWARD: *The Agricultural Business of the Year Award is given to*

an agricultural Chamber member business or event (or related) that has made a positive contribution to the economic growth and well-being of our region.

SUNNY HUNNY FARMS

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

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

HERBERT T. SINGER COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD: *This honor is bestowed upon individuals who demonstrate selfless dedication to enhancing the quality of life in their community. Herbert T. Singer and his brothers were pioneers and expert practitioners in the field of direct mail, and were the founders of the former Amsterdam Printing & Litho. He was also very involved in the Amsterdam community, serving on the school board, was one of the founders of the Amsterdam Community Chest, a precursor to the United Way.*

AMSTERDAM ROTARY

EXECUTIVE OF THE YEAR AWARD: *The Executive of the Year Award is presented to a regional business executive who demonstrates a vision, commitment, and passion not only for the advancement of their business, but also for the community as a whole.*

DAVE ZISKIN AND JAY DETRAGLIA, HFM BOCES



FULTON AND MONTGOMERY COUNTIES BENEFIT FROM INCREASED LOCAL ACCESS TO SPINE AND ORTHOPEDIC CARE: St. Mary's Healthcare, Nathan Littauer Hospital & Mohawk Valley Orthopedic Associates add first new surgeons under joint venture

Residents of Fulton, Montgomery and Hamilton counties are reaping the first benefits of a joint venture that brings much-needed spine and orthopedic surgeons to St. Mary's Healthcare, Nathan Littauer Hospital and Mohawk Valley Orthopedic Associates.

The three organizations are partners in Fulton-Montgomery Medical, a professional corporation that enables St. Mary's and Nathan Littauer to collaborate on attracting medical providers and practices. MVOA joined Fulton-Montgomery Medical last year as the corporation's first service line.

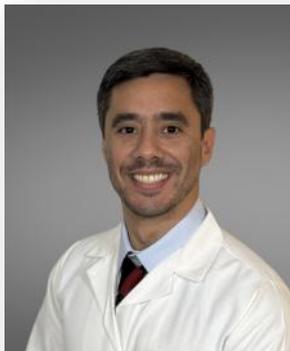
Spine surgeon Arnaldo Martinez, MD, and orthopedic surgeon Joachim Tenuta, MD, came on board this month as members of MVOA. They join Russell Cecil, MD, and Gerald Ortiz, MD, who have been the Mohawk Valley's leading orthopedic surgeons for decades.

"Our partnership with St. Mary's and Nathan Littauer was instrumental in recruiting exceptionally skilled surgeons to help our practice grow alongside the region's expanding orthopedic needs," Dr. Cecil said. "With two more physicians on our team, patients can be confident that timely, high-quality orthopedic care will remain available in our community."

Dr. Martinez comes to MVOA from Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, where he completed fellowships in spine surgery and pediatric orthopedics. He earned his medical degree from the University of Puerto Rico, Medical Sciences Campus and is a member of the North American Spine Society and the International Society for the Advancement of Spine Surgery.

Dr. Tenuta has nearly 40 years of experience, including as an orthopedic surgeon at the Albany Stratton VA Medical Center. He also served as team physician at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point for 12 years and as clinical instructor in West Point's John A. Feagin Jr. Sports Medicine Fellowship Program. A graduate of West Point and University of Virginia School of Medicine, Dr. Tenuta completed his orthopedic residency at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. He is board certified by the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgeons and is a fellow of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons and American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine.

The two new physicians add complementary expertise to a practice that has earned a reputation for excellence, compassion and its personal approach to patient care.



Arnaldo Martinez, MD



Joachim Tenuta, MD

Dr. Martinez is highly skilled in spine surgery and pediatric orthopedics, and Dr. Tenuta has special expertise in sports medicine and shoulder arthroplasty. Dr. Cecil is an expert in joint replacement surgery, and Dr. Ortiz is specially trained in minimally invasive arthroscopic surgery.

"Whether they have bone, joint or muscle injuries, patients can count on MVOA for accurate diagnosis and superior care right here, close to home," Dr. Ortiz said.

MVOA has offices at 5010 State Highway 30 in Amsterdam and 434 South Kingsboro Ave. in Johnstown. Surgery is performed at St. Mary's Healthcare and Nathan Littauer Hospital. For appointments, call (518) 842-2663 (Amsterdam) or (518) 773-4242 (Johnstown).

JARROD JOHNSON OF GO FOR IT FITNESS & PERSONAL TRAINING TO HOST AND PARTICIPATE IN THE BOBBY STEWART TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS AT SUNY FM ON APRIL 11

GLOVE CITY SLUGGERS BOXING ORGANIZATION PRESENTS

THE BOBBY STEWART TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS

AN ADIRONDACK LBC SANCTIONED REGIONAL EVENT HONORING MR. STEWART AND HIS INCREDIBLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SPORT OF BOXING.

FEATURING MULTIPLE BOUTS OF OLYMPIC STYLE BOXING WITH FIGHTERS FROM OUR IMMEDIATE AREA AND THE SURROUNDING ADIRONDACK REGION.

SATURDAY APRIL 11, 2026 2PM-6PM
WEIGH-IN TIME 11AM

FULTON MONTGOMERY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
2805 NY-67
JOHNSTOWN, NY 12095

FEATURED BOUT OF THE EVENT
HEAVYWEIGHT MATCHUP BETWEEN:

JARROD JOHNSON
GLOVERSVILLE, NY

VS.

NELSON TYLER
TOWN OF PERTH, NY

ADDITIONAL BOUTS BETWEEN FIGHTERS OF VARIOUS AGE GROUPS AND WEIGHT CLASSES TO TAKE PLACE AHEAD OF THE FEATURED BOUT.

PRESALE TICKETS \$10
CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER \$5
DOOR TICKET SALE PRICE \$15

ALL PROCEEDS ARE TO SUPPORT NON-PROFIT YOUTH ORGANIZATION

CONTACT JARROD JOHNSON FOR PRESALE TICKETS AT 518-723-6159 OR EMAIL GLOVECITYSLUGGERSBOXING@GMAIL.COM
ALSO CONTACT JARROD IN REGARDS TO INTEREST IN TOURNAMENT PARTICIPATION, VOLUNTEERING TO WORK THE EVENT OR SPONSORSHIP/DONATION.

GLOVE CITY SLUGGERS BOXING IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION WITH THE DIRECT INTENTION OF PROVIDING A STRUCTURED, DISCIPLINED ENVIRONMENT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO GROW AND PURSUE THEIR PASSIONS. THIS IS NOT JUST A BOXING PROGRAM. THIS IS TRAINING FOR LIFE!

For tickets and for more information, contact Jarrod at (518) 723-6159 or email glovecitysluggersboxing@gmail.com

THE GLOVE THEATRE ANNOUNCES EXCITING MARCH & APRIL 2026 LINEUP

The Glove Theatre is thrilled to announce an electrifying lineup of concerts and special events for March and April 2026. From iconic tribute performances to community events and free educational programming, The Glove continues to honor its storied past while creating unforgettable live experiences in the heart of downtown Gloversville.

Tickets for all events are available online. All concerts are all-ages unless otherwise noted. Visit <http://www.theglovetheatre.com> for tickets and full details.

MARCH EVENTS

Saturday, March 7 at 7:00 PM – Viva Las Elvis Featuring award-winning tribute artist Dan Fontaine, this high-energy celebration of Elvis Presley brings the King's greatest hits to life with authenticity and passion.

Saturday, March 14 at 7:00 PM – I Get Wild: Playing The Talking Heads A dynamic tribute celebrating the innovative sound and artistry of Talking Heads, delivering fan favorites with electrifying stage presence.

Friday, March 20 at 7:00 PM – Trivia Night with Fulton County Regional SPCA A fun-filled community trivia night supporting the Fulton County Regional SPCA. Gather your team and enjoy an evening of friendly competition for a great cause.

Saturday, March 21 at 7:00 PM – That 80s Band Back by popular demand, That 80s Band returns for a totally rad night of 80s hits. Dress up, dance, and relive the decade of big hair and bigger anthems.

Sunday, March 22 at 1:00 PM – Adirondack Fish & Piscivorous Birds (FREE Event) This free all-ages education event explores Adirondack fish species, restoration efforts, and the environmental relationship between fish and bird populations. A pre-event fly-tying demonstration begins at 1:00 PM.

Friday, March 27 at 7:00 PM – Nirvani: A Nirvana Tribute Experience An authentic tribute to Nirvana, bringing the raw energy and unforgettable sound of 90s grunge back to the stage.

APRIL EVENTS

Friday, April 10 at 7:00 PM – Run For Cover: Rush Tribute Celebrating the legendary catalog of Rush, Run For Cover delivers classics like "Limelight," "Tom Sawyer," and epic deep cuts from the band's 70s and 80s era.

Saturday, April 11 at 7:00 PM – Dead Man's Waltz A six-piece all-star collective honoring the music of Grateful Dead, The Allman Brothers Band, and The Band. This unique performance celebrates the spirit of improvisation and the historic crossover of these legendary groups.

Friday, April 17 at 7:00 PM – Desperados: Eagles Tribute An all-star lineup of musicians celebrating the iconic 70s sound of Eagles with hits like "Hotel California" and "Take It Easy."

Saturday, April 18 at 7:00 PM – Little Lies: A Tribute to Fleetwood Mac Back for their third year at The Glove, Little Lies delivers a powerful, authentic performance honoring the timeless catalog of Fleetwood Mac. Expect soaring harmonies, unforgettable guitar riffs, and a celebration of one of rock's most beloved bands.

Friday, April 24 at 7:00 PM – LOTUS: Spirit of Santana



This seven-piece ensemble recreates the electrifying music of Carlos Santana, blending rock, Latin, funk, and soul into a spellbinding live experience.

The Glove Theatre continues to serve as a cultural cornerstone of Gloversville and Fulton County, bringing nationally touring tribute acts, regional talent, movies, comedy, and educational programming to audiences of all ages. For tickets, event details, and updates, visit: <https://www.theglovetheatre.com>. Follow The Glove Theatre on [Facebook](#) and subscribe to their newsletter to stay up to date on newly added events.

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF FULTON & MONTGOMERY COUNTIES ANNOUNCES 2026 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

**SCHOLARSHIP
2026**

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

Contact Sarah at seh1589@yahoo.com for an application, stop into your guidance counselors office or visit the Soroptimist International of Fulton and Montgomery Counties Facebook page .

Questions or request an application? Please contact Sarah Hafter at seh1589@yahoo.com or visit the Soroptimist Facebook page [here](#).

SALUTE TO SERVICE HOSTS MARCH EVENT

Mark your calendars for Nashville in New York on March 14 at [Lanzi's On The Lake](#) in Mayfield, hosted by our friends at [Salute to Service Veterans Coalition](#)! Enjoy an afternoon of live music and songwriting honoring local veterans, featuring Cameron Wrinkle and JessLee. All proceeds benefit Operation Song. Purchase tickets at: e.givesmart.com/events/N9I/

FULTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S CABIN FEVER VIRTUAL CONVERSATION SERIES WRAPS UP WITH FINAL TWO PROGRAMS

Grab some hot cocoa and your favorite blanket and explore Mohawk Valley history without even leaving your house! Back by popular demand, our Cabin Fever Virtual Conversation series explores broad-reaching local history and brings in historians and scholars from across the state to share their expertise. Escape the winter doldrums from the comfort of your own sofa and discover something new!

On Tuesday, March 3rd at 7pm, join us for "Freedom & whisky gang thegither:" Whisky & Revolution in the Mohawk Valley with Samantha Saladino. Whisky is deeply intertwined with Scotland's identity, culture, and economy. When Scottish emigrants landed in the colonies, they brought the skill and knowledge of distilling with them. Whisky was an important currency. In the years leading up to the Revolution, taverns and public houses became

epicenters of political discussion, meeting places for patriots and Loyalists alike. As Scottish poet Robert Burns wrote: "Freedom & whisky gang thegither."

On Tuesday, March 10th at 7pm, Loretta Tucker of Schoharie Crossing State Historic Site will present "Four Kings and a Queen." In 1710, four Mohawk and Mohican dignitaries travelled to London to meet with Queen Anne, a meeting that would eventually lead to the establishment of Fort Hunter. This program explores English-Native American alliances in early 18th century New York, and the motives behind their mutual cooperation.

These FREE programs will be held via Zoom and pre-registration is required. Please sign up at <https://fultoncountyhistoricalsociety.org/events/>.

[Fulton County Historical Society](#) programs are made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.

GREATER JOHNSTOWN LIONS CLUB SCHEDULES GOLF TOURNAMENT—THINK SPRING!

[The Greater Johnstown Lions Club](#) is proud to announce their 10th Annual Golf Tournament, scheduled for May 16, 2026 at [Fox Run Golf Club & Event Center](#), 129 County Highway 142A, Johnstown. Registration begins at 8:30am with shotgun start at 9:30am. The club is looking for golfers for this full day of fun, food, drinks, games and raffle prizes for a great cause!



Sponsorship opportunities are a great way to make a real difference in the quality of life for our communities. The Lions Club uses the proceeds of the tournament to assist our communities by funding hearing aids for those in need, supporting local food pantries, the school backpack programs in Johnstown to combat food insecurity, Little Leagues, Post-Prom programs, provide public libraries with large-print books, support Mountain Valley Hospice & Palliative Care programs, and their Community Service scholarships in Gloversville and Johnstown. Sponsorship opportunities include: Premier Sponsor that includes a foursome, signage and more (\$1,000); Dinner Sponsor (\$500); Lunch Sponsor (\$500); Bloody Mary/Mimosa Table Sponsor (\$200); Breakfast Sponsor (\$200); Tee Box Sponsor (\$125). They also appreciate donations for their raffles, company swag, or other gift bag items for the golfers. Contact John Huebeler for sponsorships/donations at (518) 762-4710.



You can register for golf at \$130 per person (pre-tournament) or \$145 day of tournament. To register, please contact John or Club President Michelle Muzzi at gjlions20w@gmail.com. Follow the Club, with details on this and other events on its Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/JohnstownLions/>

AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR— SUNNY HUNNY FARMS

In just four years, Sunny Hunny Farms has grown from a backyard beekeeping hobby into one of Montgomery County’s most dynamic small-scale agricultural enterprises. Now, the farm has been named Agricultural Business of the Year by the Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce — an honor that co-owner Tracy Robbins-Garrison calls both humbling and motivating.

After looking at the list of previous winners, Tracy realized Sunny Hunny Farms was joining “an esteemed group.” Each past recipient had a unique story and purpose. For Sunny Hunny, that purpose is rooted in environmental stewardship and community connection.

The farm’s very first hive was born out of concern for honeybee longevity and environmental sustainability. “We know we’re not going to change the world,” Tracy says, “but we can change our bit of the world.” That philosophy shapes every decision on the farm. The main building operates fully electric, with no fossil fuels. A sizable solar array powers the property, complementing an electric vehicle and a “solar house” approach to energy use. Honey is bottled exclusively in glass — never plastic — and customers who return jars receive \$1 off their next purchase. It’s a small but meaningful step toward reducing waste and encouraging shared responsibility.

Sunny Hunny Farms officially launched in February 2022.. The business itself grew organically — almost accidentally. Tracy had been keeping bees for about four years. What began as a hobby slowly became, in her words, “an addiction.” With honey production expanding rapidly, selling informally no longer made sense.

At the same time, Tracy’s mother was running a landscaping business focused on custom gardens and operating a greenhouse for cut flowers in Duanesburg. A partnership formed naturally. Tracy wanted to reenter the farmers market scene; her mother had prior experience selling at markets like the Schenectady Greenmarket. They found their home base at the Gloversville Farmers Market, where they built a loyal customer base that Tracy calls unmatched. Though opportunities to vend at larger markets exist, they remain committed to Gloversville. “Our customers there are the best,” she says.

In 2023, a personal turning point accelerated the farm’s evolution. After her mother’s partner passed away, she sold her home and moved to the current Amsterdam property full time. With three generations now connected to the farm — Tracy’s daughter even lives across the street — Sunny Hunny became a true family operation.

The on-site farm store emerged sooner than expected. Originally part of a long-term plan, it took shape when Tracy and her mother decided to “make a real run at it.” They constructed a greenhouse and a building that now houses a commercial kitchen, honey processing space, and storage for market equipment. The store also became a staging hub for farmers market products — and then, almost naturally, opened its doors to the public after other local producers expressed interest in participating.

Innovation is central to the farm’s production strategy.



Competing with large-scale growers isn’t realistic, so differentiation is key. They grow Concord grapes for customers who wait all year for the short season, ground cherries (also known as goldenberries), and unusual ornamental plants like “pumpkin on a stick,” a striking member of the egg-

plant family. Creative wreath designs — reflecting Tracy’s mother’s artistic style — are often the first items to sell out.

Honey remains the cornerstone. Beyond raw honey, infused varieties have gained a following, particularly elderberry-infused honey, prized for its color and flavor. A partnership with Second Act Spirits grew out of connections at the Gloversville market. The distillery first purchased Sunny Hunny’s lemon honey for Bee’s Knees cocktails, then later collaborated using farm-grown elderflowers and lavender in specialty spirits.

Each season is an experiment. Unlike farmers who stick to a single tomato or cucumber variety year after year, Sunny Hunny embraces trial and error. “We do a lot of trying,” Tracy says. What works scales up; what doesn’t informs the next planting plan.

Beyond products, the farm is expanding its agritourism footprint. Beekeeping workshops, planned for this summer, will be offered in small groups with protective gear, giving participants a firsthand appreciation of hive life. Floral design classes, wreath-making sessions, kombucha workshops, and even yoga among the flowers are either underway or in development. A planned sign on Route 5 — made possible through future plans to become an agritourism designation — will help drive visitors to the property.

Floral services for weddings have also blossomed. What began with a bride who wanted to pick her own flowers has grown into at least three to four weddings each summer. By setting clear expectations — they are a flower farm, not a traditional florist — they keep pricing accessible while delivering wildflower-inspired arrangements enhanced with selectively sourced wholesale blooms when needed.

Sunny Hunny Farms is always planning new, exciting ventures for the business. A new website with integrated e-commerce and point-of-sale data to launch this Spring will not only help customers purchase Sunny Hunny products but will also help the business collect important data about which products are most profitable, and meaningful to its customers. Expansion of wholesale markets is a priority, though Tracy is clear-eyed about scale. “We don’t want to sell honey on a wholesale level in California,” she says. “More localized honey is the best product for all. But we do want a high-quality product that people seek out.” Already, flavored honeys ship to Florida, North Carolina and other states where customers prize Sunny Hunny products.

At its heart, Sunny Hunny Farms is striving to be a good neighbor — to Gloversville, Amsterdam, Montgomery County, and New York State. In an era of global supply chains and industrial agriculture, their mission is refreshingly grounded: feed customers good quality food at a fair price, care for the land and the bees, and thoughtfully steward their small corner of the world.

SUNNY HUNNY FARMS | 334 Robb Road, Amsterdam | <https://www.facebook.com/SunnyHunnyFarms>





COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD— AMSTERDAM ROTARY

When the Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce announced the recipient of its annual Herbert T. Singer Community Service Award, it recognized more than a single year of volunteerism. It honors a legacy of selfless dedication — the very spirit embodied by Herbert T. Singer himself. In 2026, that distinction belongs to the Amsterdam Rotary Club, a group whose members have quietly and consistently shaped the quality of life across Montgomery County, and our region.

The Herbert T. Singer Community Service Award is bestowed upon individuals or organizations that demonstrate an enduring commitment to enhancing their community. Singer and his brothers were pioneers in direct mail and founders of Amsterdam Printing & Litho. Yet his business acumen was matched by civic devotion. He served on the Amsterdam school board, helped found the Amsterdam Community Chest — a precursor to the United Way — assisted in launching the Greater Amsterdam Volunteer Ambulance Corps, and became only the third Amsterdamian to achieve the highest degree of Masonry. His life set a standard of service above self.

That same philosophy defines the Amsterdam Rotary Club.

“We are incredibly proud to receive this award,” said Rotary President Morgan McClary (2025–2026). “It’s an honor. And it’s a testament to all the work our group has been doing for years in the community.”

With approximately 50 members — and several new additions in recent months — Amsterdam Rotary is one of the most active clubs in the region and currently the only Rotary club in Montgomery County. Membership is open to community members willing to serve; individuals do not need to own a business, but they must be sponsored by a current Rotarian. The common denominator is a desire to help and a readiness to put in the work.

“It’s good work, fun work, and very rewarding,” McClary said. “It’s given me the opportunity to meet and connect with people I might not even have met otherwise.”

Under McClary’s leadership, the club has expanded its outreach across the county while ramping up marketing and social media efforts to ensure the community knows Rotary is ready to help. At 34, McClary represents a generational shift within the club. Traditionally skewing older, Rotary has intentionally worked recently to engage young professionals in their 30s and 40s.

“Older generations need younger people to get involved,” she said. “It’s incredibly important to build that next wave of leadership, while carrying on the successful and time-honored traditions that have shaped our Club and the work it does.”

That leadership transition is already in motion. McClary

succeeded Kara Travis, and Vice President Brittany Kolbe is slated to become president this summer — marking new generations of leadership guiding the club forward.

One of this year’s standout initiatives was a brand-new fundraiser: an Adult Prom, themed “Silver Screen Soirée.” The idea sparked casually around a backyard firepit during a summer Rotary After Hours gathering. In her day job with Montgomery County, McClary frequently fields funding requests for high school after-prom parties — vital programs that keep teens safe on prom night. The Rotary team saw an opportunity: host a winter formal for adults and direct proceeds to youth after-prom programs.

Chaired by Kolbe and organized by a dedicated committee, the event exceeded expectations, raising approximately \$17,000 — surpassing its original goal. Proceeds will be split among after-prom programs in Fonda, Amsterdam, Canajoharie, and Fort Plain. (OESJ currently does not have an after-prom program.) Businesses contributed sponsorships and raffle baskets, and Rotarians from Schenectady even attended, later remarking on the enthusiasm driving the club.

“Every little bit really counted,” McClary said. “We’re so proud. The proceeds from the event will make a meaningful difference to youth all over Montgomery County.”

The Adult Prom joins Rotary’s robust slate of annual fundraisers, including the return of the beloved Fish Fry, and the club’s largest event of the year — the Variety Show. Last year’s show raised nearly \$100,000 for beneficiaries including Mountain Valley Hospice & Palliative Care, the Amsterdam High School Marching Rams, St. Mary’s Institute and Rotary Youth Scholarships. This year’s recipients will be New Dimensions in Healthcare, Catholic Charities of Fulton and Montgomery Counties, the Foundation of St. Mary’s Healthcare, the Amsterdam High School Drama Club, and of course their Rotary Youth Scholarships. This year’s cast call is set for March 25, with organizers hopeful it will be the biggest production yet.

At the heart of every decision lies Rotary’s guiding principle: Service Above Self. McClary leads using Rotary’s Four-Way Test as a moral framework: Is it the truth? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it build goodwill and better friendships? Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

“If I follow these,” she said, “I know I’m on the right track.”

Equally important to her leadership style is transparency and empowerment. McClary prioritizes open communication and ensuring members have the information they need to make sound decisions. She actively solicits ideas from newer members, asking about their passions and encouraging fresh perspectives.

That openness shaped her own Rotary journey. Sponsored by past president Anne Boles in April 2022, McClary credits the club with pushing her beyond her comfort zone — even onto a stage to sing and dance in front of hundreds during the Variety Show. *(continued on page 13)*

Farm Connection Night

Connecting Restaurants with Local Farms

Co-Hosted with the Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce. In partnership with Meg's at Muni and the Montgomery County SWCD Agricultural Economic Development Specialist.

Wednesday

March 18

5:00 PM

AT

Meg's at Muni

158 Upper Van Dyke
Ave Amsterdam, NY
12010

\$150 per plate

RSVP by March 13

An Evening of Local Food, Connection & Opportunity

Join us for a Farm Connection Night designed for restaurant owners, chefs, and managers interested in sourcing high-quality local meats, dairy, produce, and specialty products.

The evening will feature a five-course prix fixe menu with curated wine pairings, thoughtfully prepared by Meg's at Muni using ingredients sourced directly from local farms.

This event offers the opportunity to:

- Connect directly with local farmers and producers
- Learn about local sourcing opportunities for restaurants
- Explore the business benefits of partnering with local farms
- Discover how local ingredients can elevate menus and attract today's diners

Who Should Attend?

Restaurant owners,
Chefs,
Managers,
and food service
professionals
interested in building
strong local supply
partnerships

RSVP on our website or contact Jessica Valachovic at membership@fultonmontgomeryny.org



or funding youth-centered programs, Rotary strives to respond where it can make the greatest impact.

Beyond local initiatives, the club contributes to Rotary International's longstanding global effort to eradicate polio — a mission ongoing for more than 45 years. At each meeting, a red "polio bucket" circulates among members, with donations sent to support worldwide vaccination efforts.

Looking ahead, McClary hopes the community sees Rotarians for who they truly are.

"Rotarians are your neighbors, your public servants, your nurses, small business owners — regular people who want to help," she said. "We're everywhere. And we're willing to step up for our community."

In honoring Amsterdam Rotary with the Herbert T. Singer Community Service Award, the Chamber recognizes not just a year of achievement, but a culture of service woven deeply into the club's identity. It is a legacy Singer himself would recognize — and one that ensures Montgomery County and our region continue to thrive for generations to come.

AMSTERDAM ROTARY

<https://www.facebook.com/amsterdam.rotary>



(continued from page 12)

"I've been able to track my growth personally and professionally because of this group," she said. "They helped me find my voice and my confidence."

Rotary's strength, she emphasizes, lies in its teamwork. Members bring diverse skill sets — from fundraising expertise to set construction. One member might build stage sets; another might arrive with a trailer full of hay bales when needed. Most members juggle careers and other commitments, yet they show up consistently for one another and for the community.

"You don't find that everywhere," McClary said. "When you have it, you know how impactful it can be."

To determine community needs, the club utilizes an application process for 501(c)3 organizations, carefully reviewing requests and matching them with appropriate events. This year brought a record number of applications — more than ten, beyond the organizations Rotary already funds. A rating system helps prioritize needs, but thoughtful discussion remains central to decisions. Whether supporting a Christmas auction for the Fort Plain Senior Center

GOVERNOR HOCHUL ANNOUNCES EXPRESS NY, A NEW STATEWIDE EFFORT TO STREAMLINE REGULATIONS AND IMPROVE HOW GOVERNMENT WORKS

All-of-Government Effort Will Solicit Ideas From Across New York To Speed up Housing and Infrastructure, Support Small Businesses and Streamline Delivery of Services

Call for Submissions To Run Through April 3; Submit Recommendations Through [New Online Portal](#)

Governor Kathy Hochul announced the launch of EXPRESS NY (Expediting Processes and Regulations to Enable Streamlined Services), a new statewide effort to make government work better by tackling outdated and burdensome regulations, policies, and practices that stand in the way of delivering for New Yorkers. EXPRESS NY is the next phase in the governor’s 2026 State of the State commitment to cut excessive red tape to speed up government and make it easier, faster, and more affordable to deliver the critical projects and services that New Yorkers need.

“New Yorkers navigate regulations in ways big and small, from small businesses trying to get off the ground to local leaders trying to build needed housing and infrastructure; today, it is clear to all that it is often too hard and takes too long to navigate red tape and get approvals,” said Gov. Hochul. I’ve charged my team to slash excessive red tape, and by asking the people who interact with bureaucracy every day for their ideas, we can deliver a more responsive and effective government that supports the dreams and ambitions of New Yorkers and takes this state to the next level.”

In October, Governor Hochul directed state agencies to identify outdated or obsolete regulations and policies. In this initial phase, agencies identified nearly 100 potential regulations and practices in need of reform, modernization or elimination. Opportunities to cut red tape that state agencies have identified include: removing unnecessary fees for small businesses, expediting occupational licensing renewals for workers, digitizing paper-based processes, rescinding unenforced and out of date regulations, and reducing burdensome and unnecessary reporting require-

ments.

Now, Governor Hochul wants to hear from New Yorkers directly to seek their ideas on cutting red tape and making government work better. The State has launched a new portal for New Yorkers to identify regulations, policies, and practices that add unnecessary process, undue burden, or are simply out of date. Specific areas of focus include recommendations that will:

- **Speed up housing & infrastructure development** by addressing obstacles that slow down our ability to build affordable housing and other infrastructure New Yorkers depend on: transportation, child care centers, water infrastructure, parks, community centers, and more.
- **Support small businesses** by tackling burdensome requirements and fees that make it difficult for businesses to launch, serve customers, or grow.
- **Streamline access to services** by simplifying complicated processes or removing unnecessary hurdles that prevent families from accessing benefits and services that New York State supports or oversees (e.g., healthcare, child care, nutrition, mental health).

New Yorkers should submit ideas in a new portal that the State has launched [here](#). The call for ideas will be open until April 3.

Governor Hochul has also appointed a new Associate Director of Regulatory Reform in the Executive Chamber to help oversee this effort. Over the coming weeks, Chamber officials will be meeting with small business owners, community leaders, localities, industry experts, and other key stakeholders to hear from them about burdensome regulations.

EXPRESS NY builds on Governor Hochul’s commitment to improving how state government operates by cutting needless red tape while investing in the services and programs that New Yorkers need. In her 2026 State of the State, the governor unveiled her “Let Them Build” Agenda, which will make it easier for communities across New York to build housing, green infrastructure, childcare centers, and other critical infrastructure through commonsense reforms to the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA).

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17th ANNUAL WALLEYE CHALLENGE AN UNQUALIFIED SUCCESS FOR ALL!

Everyone was a winner thanks to the collaboration and partnerships with dozens of businesses and groups who helped make this one of the best fishing tournaments to date! There were some of the best conditions, too, with plenty of ice and temperatures warm enough to enjoy the day!

Congratulations to the Big Prize Winners of the Day:

LARGEST FISH: Curt Benedetto, Jr. 7.3 lbs.

SIDE BY SIDE: Josh Cromling

SIDE BY SIDE: Jim Palmer

4-WHEELER: Jeff Eaker

KID'S 4 WHEELER: Landon Jones—youth largest fish 1.1 lbs.

A THANK YOU FROM THE CHAMBER

We are beyond grateful for everyone who helped make the 17th Annual Walleye Challenge such an incredible success!

To the countless volunteers who gave their time, energy, and dedication — thank you. This tournament has grown and thrived for 17 years because of your hard work, both behind the scenes and out on the ice. Your commitment to making this event special for our community does not go unnoticed.

We also extend a huge thank you to all of the vendors and local businesses who generously donated their time, services, and support. Your contributions fuel this event year after year and truly showcase the strength of our local partnerships.

A very special thank you to the Henry D. Ross III Memorial Fund for their continued dedication to our community, including the Valentine's Day bears for fishermen, women, and children to bring home something sweet, and for providing a table with important safety gear for riders. We are also thrilled to highlight the incredible Send It App — a fantastic tool that lets users enter and see recreational hazards on and around the lake, helping keep everyone safe. A heartfelt thanks to Beaver Ross and Maria Ross — whose tireless efforts over all the years they have been part of the Walleye Challenge have played a crucial role in keeping everyone safe on the Great Sacandaga Lake. Your dedication,



experience, and countless hours of service truly make a difference every year.

We are especially grateful to Fuel and Food — led by Louie Stutzke — our local convenience store and so much more, for being the backbone of this tournament. Because of the countless efforts from each person who shows up to help year after year, this event continues to thrive. Your dedica-



tion, support, and commitment to our community are a huge reason we are celebrating 17 successful years.

A sincere thank you to Lanzi's on the Lake for hosting this event at your beautifully renovated bar and restaurant. Your hospitality and continued support provide the perfect gathering place for participants and community members to come together and celebrate.

We also want to recognize the incredible generosity of Frank's Gun & Tackle Shop, Frank & Sons Body Works, Outdoor Motorsports, and Powerhouse Motorsports for sponsoring and providing the amazing side-by-sides and 4-wheelers awarded as this year's grand prizes. Your support made this tournament even more exciting and memorable for our participants.

We would also like to thank our weigh station locations — Ponderosa Pines, Broadalbin Boat Launch, Lanzi's on the Lake, and Sport Island Pub — for serving as key hubs throughout the tournament. Your cooperation and support help keep the day running smoothly and accessible for all of our participants across the lake.



A big thank you as well to Wiggly Worm Bait Shop for your sponsorship and continued support of our anglers, and to Saratoga Eagle for your generous sponsorship and contributions. Additional thanks to Glen Henry & family, Meg's at Muni, Lorenzo's Southside, Reale Landscaping, Hart's Towing, Great

Sacandaga Lake Fisheries Federation, Inc., and Alys Shirt Werks for the sweatshirts sold to benefit the event. Along with JMB Adirondack Customs for joining us as a valued vendor at this year's event.

Finally, we want to acknowledge our local emergency management partners and county officials, whose support and coordination help make this event safe and successful year after year.

From the months of planning and preparation to the long days spent out on the ice, this tournament would not be possible without every single person who steps up to help. Because of you, this event continues to bring our community together in the very best way.

TOURISM 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

FEATURED APRIL EVENTS IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Visit Montgomery County is the title sponsor for the **Wing It and Sling It Open** (Disc Golf Tournament) at Dove Creek in Amsterdam, NY on Saturday, April 18. This is the first tournament at this course. It's also Wing Fest in the city of Amsterdam. <https://www.facebook.com/share/18it73JMN8/>

Join us for **“Take a Bite of Montgomery,”** sponsored by Visit Montgomery County, NY Wednesday, April 22 through Sunday, April 26. As we're celebrating America 250, restaurants, bakeries and other eateries throughout Montgomery County will offer specials at \$17.76! Mark your calendars and taste your way through Montgomery County while honoring 250 years of American history! <https://www.facebook.com/share/1PwembNBZv/>

Dink at the **‘Dam Pickleball Tournament** is returning to Xtreme Pickle, 1700 Riverfront Center, sponsored by Visit Montgomery County, NY. April 24-26th, 2026 (More details will be available on our website and socials soon.)

FULTON COUNTY

March and April in Fulton County

Leprechauns big and small will enjoy these festive ideas happening in Fulton County this month. March 17 is St. Patrick's Day, and Fulton County small businesses, pubs and eateries are ready to make your celebration shine like gold!

Perhaps start your shenanigans on the Fulton County 44 Lakes Craft Beverage Trail with our local establishments: Great Sacandaga Brewing Company, 3647 NY Route 30, Broadalbin; Higher Ground Distilling, 2513 State Highway 30, Mayfield; Kessler Brewing Company (KBC Beer), 4 North Main Street, Mayfield; Rogers' Cideryard LLC, 260 County Highway 131, Gloversville; and Stump City Brewing: 521 West Fulton St. Ext., Gloversville.

How Sweet It Is! NY Maple Producer Weekends are BACK! March 21-22, and March 28-29! During Maple Weekend maple farms across New York State invite visitors to their "sugar houses" to experience firsthand how pure, mouth-watering maple syrup and other related products are made. Visitors also have the opportunity to enjoy fun, family-friendly activities, taste New York's freshest syrup and purchase maple products. Come visit our Fulton County Sugarhouses: Mud Road Sugar House, Ephratah (Open House 3/28-29); Peaceful Valley Maple Farms, Johnstown and Brower Road Sugarhouse, Gloversville.

April's agenda will include music, concerts, entertainment, spring crafts, and even some appearances from the Easter Bunny! The Glove Theatre in Gloversville has a comprehensive schedule with many musical genres, visit our art galleries, Paul Nigra Center crafts, and even the annual Youth Fishing Day at Wohlfarths Pond in Gloversville.

*Go to the **www.44lakes.com calendar of events** for a complete and updated schedule with music, entertainment, food, events, the arts, and many, many things to do!

Events to watch for:

- Feb. 28 - Mar 1 - Caroga Lakeview Store 3-Day Ice Fishing Tournament
- Mar. 6/7/8- Food & Fuel 3-Day Ice Fishing Tournament
- Mar. 7 - Snowmobile drag races, Royal Mountain
- Mar. 7 - Johnstown Winter Carnival
- Mar. 21 - Cardboard Sled Derby, Royal Mountain
- Mar. 21/22 - NY Maple Producers Maple Weekend
- Mar. 28/29 - NY Maple Producers Maple Weekend
- Apr. 25 - Youth Fishing Day, Wohlfarths Pond, Gloversville



STATE OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY ADDRESS BY COUNTY EXECUTIVE PETE VROMAN

Montgomery County Executive Pete Vroman delivered the 2026 State of the County address in mid-February at SUNY FM's Allen House, highlighting significant progress in economic development, infrastructure, and public safety. Key initiatives for 2026 include supporting the Amazon project on Route 5S, a new Dollar General Cold Storage facility, and the redevelopment of the former Beech-Nut plant into mixed-use housing and commercial space. The 2026 State of the County address can be viewed on the [Montgomery County Legislature's YouTube page](#) . (continued below)






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7 days a week
(518) 212-6070



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

Key Highlights of the 2026 Address:

- **Economic Growth:** Vroman emphasized continued business investment and the creation of 750+ jobs, specifically citing the \$600 million Amazon project.
- **Infrastructure & Development:** Focus remains on upgrading county infrastructure, strengthening downtown areas, and promoting smart growth through comprehensive rezoning.
- **Housing & Community:** The administration is prioritizing new housing projects in Amsterdam, alongside the mixed-use development at the former Beech-Nut plant in Canajoharie.
- **Public Safety:** The address highlighted continued enhancements to public safety services.
- **Future Outlook:** The county is developing a General Development Plan and Regional Area Plans to guide future land use.

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

Promote YOUR business here for \$75/month WITH free links to your online platforms!

Contact
(518) 725-0641

or membership@fultonmontgomeryny.org



FULTON MONTGOMERY CHAMBER'S
BUSINESS EXPO and ANNUAL AWARDS PRESENTATION
Thursday, April 2, 2026

4:00pm—6:30pm Business Expo | 6:45pm Awards Presentation
Amsterdam Municipal Golf Course | Meg's at Muni | 158 Upper Van Dyke Avenue

BUSINESS EXPO

- Promote Your Business to hundreds of potential clients as a Vendor
 - Network with other Chamber members
 - Explore other regional businesses
 - Learn about the Chamber and how it supports your business
- *Vendor table fee only \$50 (includes 8-foot table, chairs and lite fare) **SPACE STILL AVAILABLE - THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE TO SIGN UP!***



ANNUAL AWARDS PRESENTATION

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

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



See the award winners on page six of this issue.

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

To register to be a vendor, or to find out about sponsorship opportunities, please download application [HERE](#).
Questions? Please call (518) 725-0641 or email fultonmontgomeryny@gmail.com.





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



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

Fulton–Montgomery County Employer Workforce Needs Survey

Local workforce partners are seeking employer input to better align education, training, and talent development efforts with the needs of regional businesses. Your feedback will help guide future workforce programming and support strategies across Fulton and Montgomery Counties. **Complete the survey here: <https://forms.office.com/r/6DUsbCRY62>.**

Be Part of Two High-Impact Workforce Events This April

Regional employers are invited to take part in two complimentary workforce events at SUNY Fulton-Montgomery Community College this April. Hosted in collaboration with SUNY FMCC, the Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce, FMS Workforce Solutions, and HFM BOCES (CTE), these back-to-back events are designed to help you recruit today while strengthening your future talent pipeline.

Community Job Fair

April 22 | 12:00 to 3:00 PM
 Connect with job seekers and promote current employment opportunities.

Career Con

April 23 | 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM
 Introduce 8th grade students to your industry through engaging, hands-on exhibits. Outdoor booth space is available for equipment and larger displays.

Both events will be held at SUNY FMCC in Johnstown, and lunch will be provided for participating employers. We encourage businesses to participate in one or both days to maximize visibility and community impact.

Register here: <https://forms.gle/xmpFadYyMvetixBa6>. For questions, please contact Nicole Walrath-VanAlstyne at nicolew@fultonmontgomeryny.org.

Internship placements needed

Career and Technical Education (CTE) internships will take place from April 27, 2026, through May 8, 2026. CTE seniors will be looking to secure unpaid internships over the next couple of months. If you are interested in hosting a student, please contact Nicole Walrath-VanAlstyne at nicolew@fultonmontgomeryny.org.



GET INVOLVED WITH **YOUR** CHAMBER

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

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

Thursday, March 12—9:00am

WOMEN IN THE WORKFORCE

HFM BOCES, 2755 State Highway 67, Johnstown | East Entrance

This event was created to highlight women breaking barriers in non-traditional roles and to expose students to the opportunities they have right in their communities. We want our female students to have the chance to network and hear from women professionals in our region. Attendees will include select students from HFM component high schools. The day will begin with a panel discussion followed by personalized conversations held in a roundtable forum. If you work in a nontraditional role and would like to be a participant, or if you have any questions, please contact Nicole WalrathVanAlstyne at nwalrath@hfmboces.org Watch this newsletter and our email blasts for details.

Wednesday, March 18—5:00pm

FARM CONNECTION NIGHT: CONNECTING RESTAURANTS WITH LOCAL FARMS

Meg's at Muni, 158 Upper Van Dyke Ave., Amsterdam

Join us for a Farm Connection Night designed for restaurant owners, chefs, and managers interested in sourcing high-quality local meats, dairy, produce and specialty products. The evening will feature a five-course prix fixe menu with curated wine pairings, thoughtfully prepared by Meg's at Muni using ingredients sourced directly from local farms. \$150 per plate, RSVP by March 13 to Jessica at membership@fultonmontgomeryny.org.

Thursday, March 19—11:00am

RIBBON CUTTING EVENT AT SH GRAPHICS & MORE

309 W. Montgomery Street, Suite 14 (2nd floor)

Join us for a ribbon-cutting event at this great new business. RSVP appreciated for planning purposes.

Thursday, April 2—4:00pm to 7:30pm

CHAMBER'S BUSINESS EXPO AND AWARDS PRESENTATION

Amsterdam Municipal Golf Course | Meg's at Muni, Golf Course Road

See page 18 in this issue for details on the events and how to nominate yourself or a fellow Chamber member for these prestigious Chamber awards! There are opportunities for sponsorship, for tabling to display/talk about all your business has to offer, and to attend to see the Chamber Award winners and presentation, and to network with dozens of fellow members. Watch your email blasts for information as it becomes available. Application for Chamber member businesses to display at the event and

sponsorship information can be found [here](#).

Wednesday, April 22

Thursday, April 23

JOB FAIR AT SUNY FM— April 22, 2026

CAREER CON AT SUNY FM— April 23, 2026

2805 State Highway 67, Johnstown

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

Thursday, April 30—5:30pm

RIBBON CUTTING AT CHAD MAJEWSKI REAL ESTATE'S NEW FONDA OFFICE

10 W. Main Street, Gonda

Join us for a ribbon-cutting event at Chad's new office in Fonda. RSVP appreciated for planning purposes.



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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