



NEWSLINE

May/June 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.

Building Momentum: A Strong Start to the Busy Summer Months



A ribbon-cutting event at the Grand Opening of new member **LPG Bar & Grill**, 226 W. Main Street, Amsterdam. The big crowd included Chamber staff, Board members and Ambassadors, Amsterdam Mayor Cinquanti, LPG's owners, family, staff and well wishers!



Above: The Business Education Partnership collaborated with HFM BOCES Career & Technical Education to present **Women in the Workforce** event on March 12. Women in non-traditional roles conversed with close to 150 students to talk about careers for women in our region.



Above right: **Chad Majewski Real Estate** had a great Grand Opening of their new office at 10 W. Main Street in Fonda. Chad is excited to be able to better serve his customers in Western Montgomery County with this new office.



SH Graphics & More owner Steven Hulbert, center with scissors, poses with from left Chamber Vice Chair Seth Brown, Johnstown Councilman Eric Parker and Mayor Amy Praught, Chamber's Jessica Valachovic and Ambassador Deb Hall. A custom print and graphics shop creating high-quality stickers, banners, wraps, sportswear, and custom apparel, with a focus on bold design, durable materials, and fast turnaround.

NTI Logistics, 30 Forest Street in Amsterdam, had a ribbon cutting event in April. Specializing in back office logistics, they offer local, domestic, and international shipping.



Scenes from the successful **Business Expo** at Amsterdam Muni held on April 2. Clockwise from top: **Gateway Solutions**; **A+ Plus Mowing & Trimming**, and the **Fort Plain Museum & Historical Park**.



REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

2 N. Main Street, Gloversville, NY 12078

(518) 725-0641 | fultonmontgomeryny.org

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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](#)



Message from the Interim Executive Director

#FMRCCAmerica250: Your Business, Your Story

As we celebrate America's 250th birthday, the Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber is proud to be on the road connecting with the businesses that make our community strong.

Through ribbon cuttings, Business After Hours, community events, and personal visits, we have already connected with more than 150 members, and we are continuing toward our goal of visiting 250 businesses before July 4th.

But this campaign is about more than visits. It is about your story.

Every business has a reason for being here. A purpose. A connection to the community. Through our testimonial and interview outreach, we are inviting you to share what your business represents and why you chose to build it right here in Fulton and Montgomery Counties.

We want to hear from you.

Whether it is a quick testimonial or an interview, your story helps showcase the strength, resilience, and pride of our local business community. If you would like us to visit your business or share your story, reach out to us at fultonmontgomeryny@gmail.com or connect with us at an upcoming event. Watch for details on this initiative on our social media pages, and in our email blasts.

Let's celebrate your business and the impact you make every day.

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

Welcome New Members

March—April 2026

GLOVE CITIES ARTS ALLIANCE

52 Church Street, Gloversville
(518) 921-4007 | glovecitiesarts.com
Glove Cities Arts Alliance (GCAA) seeks to help sustain the health of the arts in our communities.

MICROPOLIS COOPERATIVE, INC.

30 N. Main Street, Gloversville
<https://www.facebook.com/MicropolisGallery/>
Micropolis is a cooperative art gallery located inside Mohawk Harvest Cooperative Market. Our mission is to provide artists with an opportunity to display and sell their artwork, support the regional art community, and be a part of the revitalization of downtown Gloversville. Paintings, drawings, photographs, jewelry, pottery, glass, fiber art, digital art, baskets, wood, mixed media and cards are available.

GREEN ESSENTIALS NATURALLY, LLC

3734 State Highway 30, Amsterdam
<https://greenessentialsnaturally.com/>
Health and wellness store providing supplements for the relief of discomfort. Health supplements for the immune system, cognitive support, sleep and energy.

LPG BAR & GRILL

226 W. Main Street, Amsterdam
(518) 212-2600 | [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/lpgbarandgrill/)
LPG Bar and Grill is a new Spanish-American restaurant where bold flavors meet heartfelt hospitality. Located in the heart of Amsterdam, we serve a diverse menu that blends traditional Latin dishes and classic American dishes. Where everyone is familia!

FLOWERS BY MARY RUTH

51 Bridge Street, Amsterdam
(518) 212-2259 | <https://www.facebook.com/RuthsRoses86/>
Full-service florist.

CURTAIN CALL CAFE

12 W. Main Street, Johnstown
(518) 312-0138 | curtaincallcafe.net
Curtain Call Café is a Broadway-inspired coffee shop located on Main Street in Johnstown, NY. We serve specialty coffee, fresh pastries, sandwiches, and light fare in a warm, inviting atmosphere. With a focus on community, creativity, and connection, the café will also highlight local artists and provide a space for small performances and gatherings.

SACANDAGA KITCHEN & BATH CO.

2469 State Highway 30, Amsterdam
(518) 775-0580 | sacandagakitchenandbath.com/
Kitchen and bath design, sales and installation



Membership Message

Jessica Valachovic,
Membership Outreach Associate

Connecting with our local business community has been one of the most rewarding parts of my role. From day one, my goal has been to get out into our communities, meet members where they are, hear their stories, and find ways to support their success. I am proud to say we are well on our way.

Visiting businesses across Fulton and Montgomery counties has been an incredible experience. Every member has a unique story, and these visits go beyond simple check-ins. They strengthen relationships and ensure members are getting the most from their Chamber investment.

As part of America's 250th anniversary, we set a goal to visit 250 members and are making great progress. If you would like your business included, I would love to connect. Reach out at membership@fultonmontgomeryny.org or call 518-725-0641 to schedule a visit.

I have also had the privilege of being part of many ribbon cuttings and events. Each one celebrates growth, investment, and community pride, and I look forward to many more in the months ahead.

We also have exciting events coming up. Join us May 14 for Art in the Heart of Gloversville: A Downtown Art Walk, bringing creativity and energy to our downtown. Then June 1 through June 6, we will support Painting Gloversville Purple for Alzheimer's in partnership with The Fulton County Center for Regional Growth's Gloversville Downtown Development Specialist. This meaningful initiative brings businesses together to raise awareness and support families impacted by Alzheimer's.

I look forward to continuing these visits, building new relationships, and supporting our members every step of the way.

Here's to continued growth, connection, and community.



Lippert / Taylor Made Named Industry of the Year

The Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce is proud to recognize Lippert and its Taylor Made brand as the 2026 Industry of the Year, honoring a company whose impact spans generations, industries, and continents, while remaining deeply rooted in the Gloversville community.

Lippert's story begins in 1956, when founder Larry Lippert launched a small metal fabrication shop in Alma, Michigan. What started as a modest operation producing galvanized roofing for manufactured housing has grown into a global manufacturing leader, now employing more than 12,500 team members across over 140 facilities worldwide. Through decades of innovation, strategic growth, and a commitment to diversification, Lippert has become a key supplier in the RV, marine, and transportation industries.

At the heart of Lippert's continued success is a simple yet powerful philosophy: putting people first. Every decision is guided by a commitment to improving the lives of team members, customers, and the communities they serve. That mindset is clearly reflected in Gloversville, where Taylor Made, a Lippert brand, continues a legacy that began more than a century ago.

Founded in 1908 by Nelson A. Taylor, Taylor Made started as a canvas and awning shop right here in Gloversville. Over time, the company evolved alongside the recreational boating industry, pioneering innovations such as curved tempered glass windshields and setting new standards in marine manufacturing. Today, Taylor Made remains a global leader in customized marine components and boating accessories, supplying both OEM and aftermarket customers with products known for their quality, durability, and performance.

Despite becoming part of a Fortune 1000 company, the Gloversville facility has never lost sight of its roots. "We feel ownership of keeping the legacy of this business alive and well in the region," shared the leadership team. "We take pride in our history and feel a responsibility to continue building on it."

That pride is evident throughout the organization. With more than 300 team members locally, Lippert and Taylor Made are not only major employers, but also active community partners. Their team consistently steps up to support local initiatives, from hosting Bingo nights at the Fulton Center for seniors to organizing fundraisers for the SPCA, Haven of Hope, and the

Ronald McDonald House. Employees volunteer their time, donate resources, and even adopt families during the holiday season through the Salvation Army. Each leader is encouraged to create opportunities for community impact, reinforcing the company's belief that business should be a force for good.

Internally, Lippert's "people-first" culture is more than a statement, it is a daily practice. Through leadership development programs and personalized growth plans, team members are supported both professionally and personally. Nearly 90 percent of employees participate in these programs, which focus on areas such as career development, health and wellness, financial stability, and community involvement. The company refers to its hiring approach as "Hiring Healthy," seeking individuals who are positive, growth-oriented, and committed to continuous improvement.

This investment in people extends beyond the workplace and into the future workforce. Lippert has been a strong partner in the Chamber's Business & Education Partnership initiatives, hosting student tours, participating in workforce events, and creating hands-on learning opportunities. One standout example is their welding training program, which provides high school students with 12 to 16 weeks of real-world experience alongside skilled professionals, helping to build a pipeline of future talent.

Innovation also remains a cornerstone of the company's success. Taylor Made continues to lead the marine industry with patented technologies such as the Erskine Hinge, the Vadney Clip, and their widely used slide-through window systems. Their commitment to American-made quality and lifetime product guarantees further sets them apart in a competitive global market.

Looking ahead, Lippert and Taylor Made are focused on continued growth, driven by strong leadership, new ideas, and an unwavering commitment to their people and community.

As they receive this well-deserved recognition, their message is clear: this achievement belongs to every team member, past and present, who has contributed to their success. With deep local roots and a global reach, Lippert and Taylor Made exemplify what it means to be an industry leader and a true community partner.

LIPPERT/TAYLOR MADE BRAND

93 South Boulevard, Gloversville | [Lippert.com](https://www.lippert.com)

Pictured above are Assemblyman Robert Smullen, The Chamber's Interim Executive Director Nicole Walrath-VanAlstyne and Vice Chair Seth Brown, along with members of the Lippert leadership team, including Lippert/Taylor Made OEM General Manager Todd Vincent (holding certificate) and Aftermarket General Manager Jeff Nicosia (holding award).



MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

March-April 2026

Thank you for your continued support!



40+ YEARS

- Betz, Rossi, Bellinger and Stewart Funeral Homes – 52
- SUNY Fulton-Montgomery – 52
- Salmon Law Firm, PLLC – 48
- Shrine of Our Lady of Martyrs – 43
- F-M-S Counties Workforce Development and Private Industry Council – 42

31 – 40 YEARS

- Amsterdam Housing Authority – 38
- Betz, Rossi, Bellinger & Stewart Funeral Homes – 35
- Lenz & Betz Funeral Home – 35
- Jackson & Betz Funeral Home – 35
- Gloversville Economic Development Corp. - 32
- Judith Ann Realty, Inc. – 31

21 – 30 YEARS

- Adirondack Harley-Davidson, Inc. – 30
- D.W.L. Brand MFG. Animal Control Equipment & Solutions – 30
- Electro-Metrics – 30
- Fulmont Community Action Agency, Inc. - 30
- Lou's Electric of Amsterdam, Inc. – 30
- Roser Communications Network, Inc. – 28
- Harold's Restaurant and Lounge – 27
- Countryside Fuels – 26
- Glove Cities Veterinary Hospital, P.C. - 26
- Walmart DC #6096 – 26
- Salvione Insurance Agency Inc. - 21
- Sanders Motorsports, Inc. – 21
- St. John's Episcopal Church – 21
- Security Supply Corporation (WinSupply Inc) – 21

11 – 20 YEARS

- Dunlap Chiropractic – 20
- Key Bank National Association-Wallins Corners - 20
- Pavlus Orchards – 20\
- School House Treasures – 20
- Community Bank – Johnstown - 19
- Spinnaker Management & Realty Sales – 19
- Elizabeth Cady Stanton Hometown Association, Inc. – 18
- Allan MacVean, CFP – 18
- River Ridge Living Center, L.L.C. – 18
- Sikorski's Service Station – 18
- Adirondack Septic Tank, Inc. – 17
- Amsterdam Mohawks – 17
- Distinct Home Designs, Inc. – 17
- The Hearing Doctor – 17
- Frank's Gun Shop, Inc. – 16

- Fulton County Farm Bureau – 16
- Mohawk Valley Group at Morgan Stanley – 16
- Pickett Memorial Co. – 16
- Sam's Seafood Steakhouse - 16
- SW The Spa – 16
- Amsterdam Eye Care – 15
- Amsterdam Printing – 15
- Lamont Engineers – 15
- L & M TV & Appliances, L.L.C. – 15
- Zanella's Market Hill Service & Auto Sales, Inc. - 15
- GIANT Solutions, L.L.C. – 14
- Stephen Miller General Contractors, Inc. - 14
- Bethany Schumann-McGhee, Attorney at Law - 14
- Community Bank – Amsterdam – 13
- Hales Mills Country Club - 13
- Insight Payroll Solutions, Inc. – 12
- Beacon Insurance Agency Group, Inc. – 12
- Outdoor Motor Sports & Trailer Sales – 12

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

March - April 2026

Thank you for your continued support!

- NBT Bank-Fonda – 11
- The Wesson Group, LLC – 11

1 – 10 YEARS

- Advanced Cleaning & Restoration Services, LLC – 9
- Rogers' Cideryard LLC - 9
- Hugh Johnson Advisors – 7
- Golden Sand Asian Spa – 7
- Fulton County Center for Regional Growth – 5
- Mingo's Moving – 5
- NBT Bank-Gloversville – 5
- Lisa Queeney-Vadney, CFP Board Emeritus – 5
- Advanced Therapy PT OT SLP RN Psych PLLC – 4
- Betty Beaver Fuel Stop – Canajoharie – 4
- Betty Beaver Fuel Stop-Fultonville – 4
- Classic Auto Wash – 4
- Dygert Farms Creamery - 4
- This is Bliss, Massage Therapy - 4
- Gateway Property Solutions – 3
- Gateway Construction Solutions – 3
- Gateway Realty Solutions - 3
- AD Lakeview Orchard – 3
- AccuStaff – 3
- Megabites Catering – 3
- Veteran's Time To Thrive Inc. (VT3) – 3
- NBT Bank - Vail Mills – 2
- NBT Bank-Johnstown – 2
- Cynthia Gifford-Howard Hanna Real Estate Services – 2
- Fulton Street Liquor – 2
- Park Outdoor Advertising – 2
- 518 Renovations – 2
- Cintas Corporation – 2
- Bella Vita Salon LLC – 2
- Pluchino's Marina – 2
- Sam's Discount Wine & Liquor – 2
- Riverside Pizza – 2
- St Andrews Heating & Cooling – 2
- NBT Bank – Northville – 2
- Fun Fusion – 1
- Grand Indian Kitchen – 1
- Jeric Properties Inc. – 1
- Mildred Elley Amsterdam – 1
- New York Power Authority Visitors Center & Lansing Manor – 1
- Nicolino's Restaurant – 1
- Sunny Hunny Farms – 1
- The Boho Dinosaur's Greenery – 1
- The Reis Group – 1
- TA Fultonville – 1
- Trust Your Gut Productions - 1



CHAMBER GOLF CLASSIC—Date and Sponsorship Opportunities

One of the biggest and best Chamber events has been announced for 2026—the Golf Classic! Spend a great day on one of our region's best golf courses, enjoy a great round of golf, great camaraderie with 100+ Chamber members, great food and beverages, contests, prizes and more! The best part about the event is that it benefits the Chamber's Scholarship Program, which each year awards five \$1,000 scholarships to deserving high school seniors in Fulton and Montgomery Counties, or those who graduated from these schools, and are furthering their education at an accredited two- or four-year college or university.

Treat your clients and vendors, your employees, or yourself to a great day for a great cause! Sponsorship opportunities for this event are listed on page 15 of this newsletter. Watch the Chamber's weekly e-mail blasts, website, and social media in the coming weeks for additional details...and sign up TODAY to participate!

THANK YOU to already committed sponsors:
The Family Counseling Center—Snack Cart
St. Mary's Healthcare, Amsterdam—Tee Sign



**CHRISTINE CARPENTER -
YOUNG PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR
First Choice Financial Federal
Credit Union**

The Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce is proud to recognize Christine Carpenter of First Choice Financial Federal Credit Union as the recipient of the Young Professional of the Year Award. The award honors a Chamber member under the age of 40 whose commitment, enthusiasm, and positive energy contribute to the betterment of the region. For Carpenter, the recognition reflects a decade of dedication to her organization, her community, and the people she serves.

A 2009 graduate of Johnstown High School, Carpenter has built her entire professional career close to home. She describes that decision as deeply meaningful. Growing professionally in the same community where she was raised has allowed her to give back to the people and places that helped shape her. Attending community meetings or seeing former teachers, mentors, and neighbors reminds her how connected the region truly is.

"It means everything to me," Carpenter said. "Being able to work here and give back to the community that helped me grow is a full circle moment."

Carpenter joined First Choice Financial Federal Credit Union in September 2015 as a part time teller after working on a New York State of Health project with Maximus in Albany. Seeking a position closer to home, she took what she describes as "the biggest gamble" of her career by stepping into the teller role. That decision proved to be life changing.

Her career progressed quickly as she advanced to full-time senior teller serving all branches. From there she was promoted to Marketing and Compliance Officer before ultimately stepping into her current role as Vice President of Marketing and Business. Her promotion to vice president was finalized in 2025, marking a significant milestone in her ten-year journey with the credit union.

In her role, Carpenter oversees marketing initiatives, community partnerships, and member engagement efforts. She manages digital and traditional marketing channels including social media, websites, email campaigns, advertising, and printed materials. Much of her work also focuses on building relationships with nonprofits, schools, and community organizations to ensure the credit union remains active and engaged throughout the region.

"Our mission is people serving people," Carpenter said. "Every role within the credit union matters, from the teller helping someone with a transaction to leadership guiding strategy. We all play a part in changing someone's life." One of Carpenter's proudest accomplishments has been expanding the credit union's scholarship program. Originally established in 2006, the program historically focused on traditional college bound students. Under her leadership, the scholarship initiative has evolved to reflect the diverse educational pathways of today's learners.

The program now awards ten \$1,000 scholarships supporting college students, trade school students, adult learners, and GED graduates. Carpenter was inspired to broaden the program after reviewing applications from nontraditional students, including homeschool applicants

and individuals pursuing skilled trades.

"There are so many different paths people take in life," she explained. "We wanted to make sure the scholarship program recognized and supported those journeys." Carpenter's commitment to professional development extends beyond her organization. For the past four years she has served on the New York Credit Union Association's Young Professionals team, a statewide group of emerging leaders dedicated to advancing the credit union movement.

While she admits that being one of the youngest professionals in many rooms initially felt intimidating, Carpenter has learned to embrace those moments as opportunities for growth.

"Sometimes you walk into a room and feel like the youngest person there," she said. "But you just keep showing up, learning, and doing the work."

Carpenter credits much of her success to the mentors who supported her along the way. Present and former credit union leaders including Christine Pedrick, Brenda Coons, and Erica Tomlinson played instrumental roles in guiding her development and helping build her confidence. She also acknowledges the broader leadership team at First Choice Financial for creating an environment that allowed her to grow professionally while balancing motherhood and family life.

As an active Chamber member, Carpenter values the organization's role in connecting businesses and strengthening the regional network.

"The Chamber has been incredibly supportive," she said. "It provides opportunities to network, learn, and build relationships across our community."

Looking ahead, Carpenter remains focused on continuing to learn, support community initiatives, and encourage others to get involved.

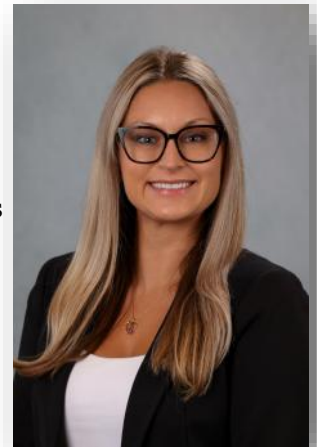
"Don't wait for the perfect opportunity," she advises young professionals. "Just start. Volunteer, attend local events, explore the region. The more you get involved, the more impact you can make."

For Carpenter, the Young Professional of the Year Award is both an honor and a motivation to keep moving forward.

"This recognition reminds me that showing up and giving your best truly makes a difference," she said. "It encourages me to keep learning, growing, and supporting the people and community around me."

**FIRST CHOICE FINANCIAL FEDERAL
CREDIT UNION**

355 Hales Mills Road, Gloversville
<https://fcfinancialcu.org/>



UNITED WAY OF THE GREATER CAPITAL REGION A COMMUNITY HOST FOR WEAVER AWARD GRANTS FOR FULTON AND MONTGOMERY COUNTIES



The United Way of the Greater Capital Region is shining a spotlight on the everyday changemakers who quietly strengthen communities through its new Weaver Awards initiative—an effort rooted in connection, trust, and the power of people coming together.

Selected as one of just 25 host communities nationwide for Weave: The Social Fabric Project at the Aspen Institute, the organization is bringing national recognition—and local opportunity—to the Capital Region. Its service area spans Albany, Columbia, Greene, Schenectady, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Fulton, and Montgomery counties, positioning it to amplify grassroots efforts across a wide and diverse region.

At the heart of the Weaver Awards is a simple but powerful idea: communities are strongest when people actively “weave” connections between neighbors. These weavers may be individuals, informal groups, or small nonprofits—often operating with budgets under \$250,000—who are mentoring, organizing, advocating, and creating meaningful change in their communities. While 501(c)(3) status is not required, applicants without it may apply through a fiscal sponsor, ensuring accessibility for emerging and grassroots efforts.

Through the program, selected weavers in Fulton and Montgomery counties can receive mini-grants of up to \$5,000, along with access to broader resources and a national network of peers. More than just funding, the initiative aims to validate and elevate work that often goes unnoticed but has a profound impact.

Nominations open June 15 and will remain available throughout the summer, accompanied by open office hours to support applicants. Program mixers to help with nominations and applications include a scheduled Montgomery County event on June 4 at the Creative Connections Clubhouse in Amsterdam from 4:30p–6pm, and on Thursday, June 25 from 4-5:30pm at the Chamber Rotunda in Gloversville, offering community members a chance to learn more and get involved. See page 20 for more information. To RSVP for either event, visit <https://www.unitedwaygcr.org/weavers>

Ultimately, the Weaver Awards are about recognizing that strong communities don’t happen by chance—they are intentionally built, one connection at a time. For more information, including information about Weaver mixers, visit United Way online at <https://www.unitedwaygcr.org/weavers>

PURPLE GLASS HEALING ARTS FACILITY HAS GREAT SPACES AVAILABLE; WILL HOST MEDIUM BRANDON RUSS ON MAY 16

[Purple Glass Healing Arts](https://purpleglasshealingarts.com) Wellness Center has a great building in downtown Gloversville that offers a turnkey experience for community programs, nonprofits, start-ups—for anyone—looking for comfortable, accessible office, teaching and meeting space at their facility located at 64 E. Fulton Street in Gloversville. They will rent space for an hour, a weekend, a month, or longer if needed.

See a list, and pictures, of available spaces at <https://purpleglasshealingarts.com/available-spaces>

Purple Glass will work with anyone who needs space at a mutually beneficial price. The longer your stay, the better the price point.

Tours are available by appointment. Call or text: 518-224-2583 OR Email: purpleglasshealingarts.com

In addition, Patti Noble is a Level 3 Certified Reiki Practitioner, a Master Life Coach & Level 5 Certified Summit Transformation® Facilitator. This training & experience allows Patti to work with individuals and groups on physical, spiritual, emotional and energetic levels for a holistic approach to wellness, peace and balance.

To view Purple Glass’ event offerings, which includes various yoga classes and more, visit the website at <https://purpleglasshealingarts.com/calendar-of-events>

Purple Glass is hosting Medium Brandon Russ on May 16 at 2pm at their location. For more information visit the Purple Glass [Facebook page](#).

For more information, visit Purple Glass on their website at purpleglasshealingarts.com or call (518) 224-2583.



SOROPTIMIST CLUB GIVES BACK IN A MEANINGFUL WAY

[Soroptimist International of Fulton and Montgomery Counties](https://www.soroptimist.org) has partnered with [St. Mary’s Healthcare](https://www.stmaryshealthcare.com) to create comfort bags for patients undergoing oncology treatment. Each bag is thoughtfully filled with items to help bring a little extra comfort, care, and encouragement to those facing a difficult journey. Small acts of kindness can make a big difference. Pictured below, from left to right, Kayoko Lomanto, Soroptimist member; Jody Gac, RN; Michele Parry, RN; Amy Wellman, Soroptimist member; Ashley Duross, RN.



SECOND ACT SPIRITS: ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR AWARD RECIPIENTS OWNERS/OPERATORS STACEY AND RICH MICHAELS

Entrepreneurship often begins with a leap of faith. For Stacey and Rich Michaels, that leap became Second Act Spirits, a farm distillery rooted in local agriculture, craftsmanship, and community. Their dedication to building a business from the ground up has earned them the Thomas B. Constantino Entrepreneurial Award from the Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce.

The award recognizes a Chamber member who embodies the entrepreneurial spirit by organizing, managing, and assuming the risks of building a business and persevering to see those efforts succeed. Named in memory of Thomas B. Constantino, founder of The Noteworthy Company in Amsterdam, the honor celebrates leadership, determination, creativity, and vision. Those qualities are clearly reflected in the Michaels' journey.

Before launching their own distillery, both Stacey and Rich spent years working in the craft beverage industry. Along the way, they collaborated with brewers, distillers, and winemakers, gaining valuable knowledge and insight. Eventually, they realized that the skills they had developed could become the foundation for a venture of their own. "We had worked with so many craft producers over the years," Rich explained. "At some point we realized this was something we could do ourselves."

That realization became the beginning of Second Act Spirits. The name reflects both the entrepreneurial leap and the couple's desire to create something meaningful using the experience they had gained.

From the beginning, the Michaels built their distillery around a "grain-to-glass" philosophy. As a New York farm distillery, at least 75 percent of ingredients must be grown in New York State. For Second Act Spirits, that number is even higher, now approaching 99 percent.

Their commitment to sourcing locally is central to their identity. The approach not only ensures quality ingredients but also strengthens relationships with farmers across the state.

"It creates a symbiotic relationship between the distiller and the farmer," Rich said. "Every bottle supports a circular local economy."

That philosophy can be tasted in the distillery's flagship spirits. Clocktower Bourbon, named after the iconic Sanford Clock Tower building where their tasting room is located, has earned two gold medals in national competitions, including the John Barleycorn Awards. Dad's Garden Gin, crafted with botanicals including juniper and locally sourced elderflower, has also received a gold medal and has become one of their most popular products. Rounding out the lineup is Second Act Vodka, produced with New York sourced ingredients and often infused with flavors that reflect the region's agricultural bounty, such as apples and grapes.

While the products themselves have gained recognition, the road to success required persistence. When the Michaels first launched their spirits, they personally visited liquor stores and restaurants, often hearing skepticism from those unsure whether a small new brand could compete.

"We knocked on a lot of doors," Stacey recalled. "Sometimes people weren't ready yet. It took time for

them to hear our story and see the quality of the product."

Customer support played a crucial role in that journey. As more people discovered their spirits, customers began requesting them at restaurants and retailers. That grassroots demand helped open doors that once seemed closed. Today, the distillery's tasting room in the historic Sanford Clock Tower Building has become a gathering place for the community. The space not only highlights their craft spirits but also celebrates the city's history. Visitors often share stories of working in the building when it housed manufacturing operations decades ago, creating connections between Amsterdam's past and its future.

Events have also become an important part of the business. Programs such as Scandal and Spirits, trivia nights, workshops, and themed gatherings bring new audiences through the doors while showcasing local history, arts, and culture. Collaborations with businesses such as Sunny Hunny Farms and regional restaurants further strengthen ties throughout the community. For the Michaels, entrepreneurship is as much about people as it is about products. They remain hands-on in every aspect of the business, from production and sales to bartending and customer conversations.

"No one can tell your story better than you can," Stacey said.

Looking ahead, the couple hopes to expand production within the Clock Tower building, allowing them to bring more of the distilling process on site and eventually offer tours to visitors. Their long-term vision is not to become a national brand but to build a strong regional one rooted in authenticity.

"This is our second act," Rich said. "Our goal is to create a great local company that people here are proud of."

Through perseverance, innovation, and a deep commitment to community, Stacey and Rich Michaels have transformed a vision into a thriving business. In doing so, they have truly embodied the entrepreneurial spirit recognized by the Thomas B. Constantino Entrepreneurial Award.

SECOND ACT SPIRITS

37 Prospect Street, Amsterdam | secondactspirits.com/



Pictured above, from left, Assemblyman Robert Smullen, Stacey and Rich Michaels, Chamber's Board of Directors Vice Chair Seth Brown, and Interim Executive Director Nicole Walrath-Van-Alstyne

BARBARA V. SPRAKER TOURISM PARTNER AWARD—Town of Caroga's Wheelerville Mountain Biking Trails

When the Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce named The Wheelerville Mountain Biking Trails as the recipient of its Barbara V. Spraker Tourism Partner Award, it recognized more than a fast-growing recreation asset. It honored a bold vision that has helped reposition the Town of Caroga as an emerging four-season destination in the southern Adirondack Park.

At the center of that transformation is Jeremy Manning. Elected to the Caroga Town Board in 2016, Manning saw opportunity in a largely underutilized parcel of town-owned land. Purchased in 1962 with New York State funds and subject to recreational restrictions, the property had historically been used for hunting and little else. But Manning had watched other small towns across the country leverage outdoor recreation to drive economic growth. Why not Caroga?

A 2017 Smart Growth Grant funded a feasibility study of the parcel. Two years later, another Smart Growth award supported the first phase of construction. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation became a key supporter. In 2020, the project broke ground. Manning and his team hired experienced trail builders with national credentials—craftsmen who had shaped marquee systems in places like Bentonville, Arkansas and Old Forge. Lead builder Eli Glessman brought design inspiration from Arkansas' progressive trail networks, translating that flow-focused style to Caroga's steeper terrain. "We knew we had to build something unique and remarkable," Manning says, "that trails riders would want to experience again and again."

With limited acreage, the strategy was intentional. The first six trails leaned into advanced and expert-level downhill riding—terrain that would capture attention on social media and within the tight-knit mountain biking community. The gamble paid off almost immediately. While organizers initially hoped to draw riders from Albany and Saratoga, opening weekend brought visitors from Rochester, Syracuse, Vermont—and beyond.

Today, the Wheelerville Mountain Biking Trails encompass more than nine miles of trail, with five additional trails added in its second phase. Riders routinely drive two to three hours to experience the system. On one May opening weekend, a late-night Instagram post was followed by a group of 12 riders arriving from Maine by morning. Visitors from Toronto, Quebec, Colorado and Virginia have followed GPS pins to Caroga, often discovering the community for the first time after a three- or four-hour ride. That discovery is part of the point.

"The trails engage directly with the Southern Adirondack landscape," Manning explains. "That's why people come." Once in Caroga, riders explore the lakes, golf course, kayaking routes and local businesses. Partnerships with the Chamber, Fulton County Tourism and local business owners have amplified that effect. Restaurants and shops such as Lakeview and Vrooman's see steady post-ride traffic. Cross-promotion has become standard practice.

The annual Wheelerville Mountain Bike Festival in August—launched with strong backing from county tourism leaders—has grown each year. This summer's event, taking place August 21 through 23, will feature high-profile competitions, including jump exhibitions supported by Red Bull, downhill racing, and youth programming backed by L.L.Bean.

What began as a grassroots gathering is now a signature regional event.

Collaboration extends beyond county lines. Wheelerville participates in the Bike Borderlands Initiative, organized through the Northern Forest Center, linking 18 trail networks across New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine and Quebec. The shared marketing effort—powered largely by social media and YouTube content reaching more than 150,000 followers—encourages riders to circulate among destinations, boosting small-town economies throughout the Northeast.

Rider feedback has continually shaped the Wheelerville Trails' evolution. Biennial surveys ask not only about trail preferences but also about restaurants, lodging and overall community experience. While the initial build emphasized advanced downhill features, future phases will broaden the appeal.

A federally funded connector trail will soon link Wheelerville to Caroga Lake's commercial center, creating a new trailhead near local businesses. Another 100 acres south of the Nick Stoner Municipal Golf Course are slated for development, with gentler terrain designed for beginners and intermediates. Adaptive mountain biking is also a priority. Plans include widening select trails and creating ride-arounds for technical features, making the system more accessible to riders using hand-powered adaptive bikes or recovering from injuries. E-mountain biking—once approached cautiously—has become an important component, enabling more visitors to tackle the hills and extend their stays.

Winter is no off-season. Volunteers and partners groom the trails for cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and fat biking, reinforcing the Wheelerville Trails' identity as a true four-season asset. Community volunteer days routinely draw dozens of participants for spring cleanup and maintenance.

Local reaction has evolved alongside the trails. Early skepticism centered on cost and impact. Manning notes that grants and private fundraising—including \$30,000 raised by a group in memory of a friend—have minimized taxpayer burden. As visitation numbers climb and outside recognition followed, support has grown. Awards like the Chamber's Tourism Partner Honor help validate the project's value.

Looking ahead, Manning is working to establish a Wheelerville Trails 501(c)(3) nonprofit to ensure long-term sustainability beyond any one individual's leadership. Expansion plans include greater mileage, stronger connections to nearby trail systems such as Peck Hill, and deeper integration into the fabric of Caroga—bike racks at bars, coordinated events, and continued collaboration with complementary attractions like the rodeo, the lakes and concerts and events by the Caroga Arts Collective.

For Manning, the Tourism Partner Award represents a milestone for the entire town. "In just a few short years, the Wheelerville Trails have helped Caroga become a recreational leader," he says. "This is a Caroga victory." In a region where many communities are searching for sustainable economic drivers, the Wheelerville Mountain Bike Trails demonstrate what strategic vision, strong partnerships and world-class design can achieve. By tapping into the pulse of modern eco-tourism while staying rooted in local identity, Caroga Lake has built more than trails—it has built momentum.

WHEELERVILLE TRAILS

Town of Caroga | <https://www.wheelervilletrails.com/>



Jeremy Manning & son

HIGH ROLLERS is the Chamber's Family Award Winner

When the Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce selected High Rollers as the recipient of the Chamber Family Award, it recognized more than a local roller skating rink and go kart track. It celebrated a business built on family, perseverance, and a deep commitment to the community it serves.

High Rollers owner Zach Hatcher works alongside a close-knit team that truly embodies the spirit of a family business. His parents, Lonn Hatcher, who oversees buildings and grounds, and Barb Hatcher, who serves as events coordinator and STEM instructor, are actively involved in the day-to-day operations. Zach's fiancé Maria Provenzano manages social media and marketing while helping with overall management. Together, they have created a welcoming environment where the business, its staff, and its customers feel like an extended family.

For Zach and his family, receiving the Chamber's Family Award was both meaningful and humbling.

"We were very appreciative just to even be nominated," Hatcher said. "We've worked very hard to try to be part of the community. Businesses can open their doors and hope people show up, but we know we can't function without the community. We hope they need us as much as we need them."

That philosophy has shaped High Rollers into more than just an entertainment venue. The rink frequently hosts fundraisers, field trips, cancer benefits, and community events. Hatcher says giving back and staying involved locally has always been a priority.

"We try to push as much back into the community as we can," he said. "We want to be involved in anything we can."

The story of High Rollers stretches back decades. The skating rink was originally built in 1983 and quickly became a popular gathering place during the height of roller skating's popularity. In 2012, the rink changed ownership, and Hatcher, who had started working there as a DJ and skate guard, gradually took on greater responsibilities.

Over time, he became a part-time session manager and eventually stepped in as general manager when the previous owners struggled to keep the rink running. After managing the facility for several years, Hatcher decided he wanted to take a chance on owning the business himself. In 2019, he officially signed the papers to purchase the rink.

Soon after, the COVID-19 pandemic forced the facility to shut down, creating immediate challenges for a brand-new business owner.

"Being new to the business at that time was tough," Hatcher explained. "We didn't qualify for many grants, and we started behind with loans. The business world has changed since COVID, and bringing people back together has been something everyone has had to navigate." Despite those challenges, the Hatcher family remained committed to keeping High Rollers affordable and accessible for local families. While the building itself still car-

ries many elements of its original structure, the team has worked steadily to make improvements including updates to the sound system, water systems, electrical work, and kitchen area.

"We try to make improvements carefully," Hatcher said. "We don't want to outprice our community."

Programs like Kids Skate Free, which allows children up to age 11 to skate once a week at no cost, help ensure the rink remains accessible to families. High Rollers has also launched adaptive skating sessions through a partnership with The Arc Lexington, creating opportunities for individuals of all abilities to participate.

The rink's programming continues to evolve as well, with plans to introduce new programs such as a go-kart racing club in the future.

At its core, High Rollers is driven by family values that influence nearly every decision.

"When we make decisions, it's never just about what makes the most business sense for me," Hatcher said. "We think about what families can afford and what they want to experience."

Family perspectives help guide the business in many ways. From conversations with younger relatives about music trends to input from parents and longtime skaters, the team constantly gathers feedback to shape programming and events.

"It takes a village," Hatcher said. "Our skate family has grown beyond just relatives. The people who come here regularly become part of that family."

Hatcher is particularly proud of how the rink has reconnected with schools and youth organizations throughout the region.

Field trips, STEM learning experiences, and community programs have expanded significantly in recent years, bringing a new generation of skaters into the building.

"We want to bring people together for something fun, safe, and healthy," he said. "It gets people off their phones and interacting again."

Looking ahead, Hatcher hopes to deepen relationships with area school districts and continue expanding programs that make skating accessible to everyone.

"We want every school district involved," he said. "Our goal is to reach as many families as possible and create a place where everyone feels welcome."

Through resilience, creativity, and a commitment to community, the Hatcher family has ensured that High Rollers remains a place where generations can gather, celebrate, and create memories together. For the Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce, honoring High Rollers with the Chamber Family Award recognizes not only a business, but a family that has become an integral part of the region's community spirit.



HIGH ROLLERS

4313 State Highway 30, Amsterdam | highrollersskating.com/

Pictured above, from left Lonn and Barbara Hatcher, Maria Provenzano and owner Zach Hatcher.

PAINT THE TOWN PURPLE

The Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce is proud and excited to partner with The Fulton County Center for Regional Growth's Groversville Downtown Development Specialist Jenn Donovan to "Paint Downtown Groversville Purple." In the coming weeks, we will be visiting local businesses throughout our community as we work toward our shared goal of turning Groversville purple. This initiative is more than just a visual show of support. It is a powerful reminder of the impact we can make when we come together as a community. This is a simple and impactful way for us to dress up Downtown Groversville, attract visitors, and support a meaningful cause.



In the coming weeks, we'll be visiting local businesses as we work together to Paint the Town Purple. As your community champion, we're proud to stand alongside you in support of a cause that touches so many lives. Alzheimer's impacts our families, friends, and neighbors. For many in our region, this fight is deeply personal. This initiative is a chance for all of us to come together, raise awareness, and show those affected that they are not alone. Learn more at www.alz.org/northeasternny

Whether you participate through decorations, donations, or simply helping spread the word, your support makes a meaningful difference. We look forward to connecting with you, hearing your stories, and working together to bring hope to our community.

Let's come together and Paint the Town Purple!

How businesses can participate:

- **Purple Window Displays:** We invite all businesses and property owners to decorate your storefronts or windows in purple to help "paint the town" for the week.
- **Wear Purple:** We encourage everyone to wear purple throughout the week of June 1–6.
- **Purple Specials:** If you are an eatery or drink establishment, we invite you to feature "purple creations"—whether it's a special menu item, a purple cocktail, or a themed dessert.
- **Wine & Food Festival (June 6):** For those participating in the Southern Adirondack Wine & Food Festival, please encourage your staff and attendees to wear purple or consider making a donation while enjoying the festivities.

Not only is this a great way to promote downtown Groversville and show community spirit, but it also raises awareness for a cause that touches many of our families.

For details or how to participate, please contact Jessica Valachovic at the Chamber at membership@fultonmontgomeryny.org or via phone at (518) 725-0641.



For more than 60 years, the **U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)** has celebrated National Small Business Week (NSBW), which acknowledges the critical contributions of America's entrepreneurs and small business owners. **National Small Business Week 2026 will take place May 3-9**, and SBA will officially recognize their hard work, ingenuity, dedication, and their contributions to the economy.

For small businesses, the SBA is hosting a Virtual Summit on May 5-6. This year's event is open to established and aspiring business owners and will include educational presentations by industry experts, exhibit booths, free business resources, and business advice from America's Small Business Development Centers. The event is **FREE**, but registration is required. To learn more, or to register, visit <https://www.sba.gov/national-small-business-week/virtual-summit>

The SBA also has some great resources for small businesses most of which are free. Visit <https://www.sba.gov/> for details.

The **Federal Trade Commission** is also celebrating small businesses this week. All week long, learn how the FTC can help you protect your small business from scams and online threats. Run a small business or want to support the small businesses in your community? Here's how you can get involved:

- **Share free FTC resources for small businesses.** [Ftc.gov/smallbusiness](https://www.ftc.gov/smallbusiness) has articles on how to protect your small business from common scams and cyber threats. Also check out [videos for small businesses](#). If some of this guidance is new to you, it may be new to other small business owners, too. Help them protect their business by sharing this advice.
- **Stay in the know with the FTC's Business Blog.** [Subscribe](#) to get the latest advice for businesses. This is also where the FTC will share NSBW events.

Congratulations to all the small businesses in our region for the amazing work you do every day. You make our region strong and connected and we appreciate every one of you!

CHAMBER'S ROTUNDA ART GALLERY OPEN FOR BUSINESS WITH EVENTS AND A CALL FOR CHAMBER-MEMBER ARTISTS

ART IN THE HEART OF GLOVERSVILLE: Downtown Art Walk Invites Community to Explore Local Creativity

The Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with downtown Gloversville businesses, invites the community to experience the vibrant creative spirit of the city at "Art in the Heart of Gloversville: Downtown Art Walk" on Thursday, May 14, from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

This interactive, self-guided event will showcase the work of talented regional artists while encouraging visitors to explore local businesses and cultural destinations throughout downtown Gloversville.

Participants are encouraged to begin their Art Walk journey at the Chamber Rotunda, located at 2 N. Main Street, where they can pick up a passport card. From there, attendees will visit participating locations, enjoy a variety of artistic displays, and collect stamps along the way. Completed passports can be entered for a chance to win a special door prize. In addition to visual art experiences, the Schine Memorial Hall Cultural & Arts Center will offer a free 15-minute spring craft activity, providing a hands-on opportunity for attendees of all ages to engage in the creative process. Live music will also enhance the event, with Michael Bisio performing outside the Glove Cities Arts Alliance Gallery.

Participating locations include:

- Micropolis Cooperative Art Gallery, 30 N. Main Street
- Glove Cities Arts Alliance Gallery, 52 Church Street
- The Glove Theatre Museum, 42 N. Main Street
- The Schine Gallery, 40 N. Main Street
- Ricmar Design & Print Shop and Adirondack WoodSpirits, 31 N. Main Street
- Mohawk Harvest Cooperative Market, 30 N. Main Street
- Schine Memorial Hall Cultural & Arts Center, 40 N. Main Street

Art in the
Heart of
gloversville



The Art Walk will feature works from a diverse group of artists, including Elizabeth Batchelor, Paula Becker, Cheryl Bielli, Dan Bridge, Karen Cooper, Ruth Christie Crotty, Anna Finch, Linda Finch, Dick Foster, Trevor Frampton, Cheryl Gutmaker, Robert Haining, Michelle Harring, Camie Hart, Alexandra Higgins, Linda Hinkle, Jack Horning, Kathy Klompas, Linda Kollar, Kevin Kuhne, Phyllis Lapi, Anne Marie LaVallee, Jonathan Moore, Lynda Naske, Kathie Raneri, Stephanie Ruzycky, Cindy Sheeler, Glen Springstead, Clayton Thomas, Bill Trojan, Lynn Trudeau, Paul Valovic, and Gabi Vardai-Davidson.

"Art in the Heart of Gloversville is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the creativity that thrives in our community while supporting our downtown businesses," said Nicole Walrath-VanAlstyne, the Chamber's Interim Executive Director. "We encourage residents and visitors alike to come out, explore, and experience all that our city has to offer."

During the Art Walk, the Glove Cities Arts Alliance will be holding a reception for its new show from 4:30pm – 7:00pm, which features Alexandra Higgins, "Quiet Observations" and Clayton Thomas' "Fun." In addition, the Micropolis Cooperative Art Gallery is holding its Meet the Artists Reception with photographer Stephanie Ruzycky during the Art Walk from 2:00pm to 6:00pm.

The Art Walk and related events are free and open to the public and designed to be enjoyed at a relaxed pace. Whether you are an art enthusiast, a supporter of local businesses, or simply looking for a unique afternoon activity, the Downtown Art Walk promises something for everyone.

For more information, please contact Jessica Valachovic at the Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce at (518) 725-0641 or via email at membership@fultonmontgomeryny.org.

CHAMBER PUTS OUT A CALL FOR CHAMBER-MEMBER ARTISTS

Are you an artist, by profession or as a hobby, who creates 2- or 3-dimensional artwork that you would like to show in a gallery? Are any of your employees talented artists? As a benefit of Chamber membership we would like to help promote this artwork in our Rotunda Art Gallery to the thousands of tourists that visit our area year-round, as well as to our community! If you'd like to participate, we are looking for artwork to hang in our gallery from July to October. Contact Jessica at the Chamber for all the details at membership@fultonmontgomeryny.org or by phone at (518) 725-0641.

NORTHVILLE 5&10 WINS CENTENNIAL AWARD

The Northville 5 & 10 (Five and Dime) has stood the test of time for more than a century, but for owner Ashley VanAllen, its success has always come down to something simple: hard work, family, and an unwavering commitment to preserving the past while serving the present.

That legacy is now being recognized as the Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber honors the historic shop with its Centennial Award—an acknowledgment of both longevity and lasting community impact.

Located at 122 South Main Street in Northville, the Northville 5 & 10 is widely regarded as the oldest continuously operating five-and-dime store in the United States. Founded in 1907 by Richard G. DeWitt, the business moved into its current home—the Willard Building—in 1914, a structure built specifically for the store just a few years earlier. More than a century later, many of its original features remain intact, from hardwood floors with star inlays and embedded coins to the nostalgic fudge counter and penny candy that continues to delight visitors of all ages.

Through decades of change, including mergers with J.J. Newberry in 1931 and later McCrory's in 1972, the store endured. When McCrory's began closing locations in 1997, the Northville store's future was uncertain—until local ownership stepped in to preserve it. That decision ensured the shop would remain a cornerstone of Main Street, eventually returning to its classic name and identity.

Today, VanAllen and her husband carry that legacy forward as third-generation owners. For VanAllen, the store is more than a business—it's a lifelong connection. She began working there at just 12 years old, learning the rhythms of retail and the importance of customer relationships early on. Now, her own children represent the fourth generation to be part of the store's story.

"I feel very lucky," she said, noting her daily two-and-a-half-minute walk to work from her Northville home.

Inside, the store is a carefully curated blend of past and present. The downstairs remains intentionally nostalgic, filled with penny candy—more than 250 varieties—classic toys, and the ever-popular homemade fudge, still made in-house using recipes passed down through generations. Upstairs, updates have been made to meet modern needs, but never at the expense of the store's historic charm.

"We refuse to lose any of the nostalgia," VanAllen said. "It's important for the store and for our customers."

That sense of nostalgia is palpable. Visitors can still spot cigar burns on the second-floor floors—remnants of an ear-

lier era—and even signatures etched into exterior bricks, including one dated April 16, 1908. The store plays oldies music throughout the day, enhancing the feeling of stepping back in time.

But what truly sets the Northville 5 & 10 apart is its deep connection to the community. The business regularly donates to local booster clubs, concession stands, and organizations such as the Edinburg Little League and the Sacandaga Valley Arts Network. VanAllen takes particular joy in supporting events that celebrate history and tradition, like Elvis tribute shows, which remind her of her grandparents, Nelson and Louise, who once owned the store.

That community support is returned in kind. Loyal customers—many spanning generations—continue to shop there year after year. Some even call ahead during the busy summer season to have their favorite fudge boxed and ready. Others rely on staff to gather items for them or assist with shopping accessibility, reinforcing the store's reputation for personal service.

VanAllen credits her grandparents and mother for instilling the values that guide her today: a strong work ethic, fairness in pricing, and treating employees like family. Those principles are evident in everyday moments, like former employees stopping by to help unload deliveries or college students returning each summer to work.

Running a business of this scale is not without challenges. Staffing has been difficult at times, and balancing family life with the demands of ownership requires constant effort. Still, VanAllen remains committed, driven by a long-term goal of passing the store on to the next generation.

Her advice to other businesses is straightforward: "You have to put in the work. Nights, weekends—whatever it takes. And learn when to say no."

As the Northville 5 & 10 celebrates this milestone recognition, it stands as more than a retail store. It is a living piece of history, a gathering place, and a testament to the enduring power of family-owned business—one that continues to welcome customers not just as shoppers, but as part of its story.



NORTHVILLE 5&10

122 South Main Street | facebook.com/Northville5and10

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SPONSORSHIP FORM

FULTON MONTGOMERY REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

GOLF CLASSIC 2026

Friday, September 18th, 2026



SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

All Proceeds will benefit the Chamber's mission, building restorations, and the annual scholarship program of the Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Presenting Sponsors \$5,000 (includes 8 golfers)

The Presenting Sponsors are the TITLE sponsors of the event. You will receive two foursomes (\$1,200 value), name used on all promotional materials, social media, prominently placed signage, hole sponsorship, a full-page ad on the inside front cover of the program booklet (\$400 value), and the option to distribute brochures/gift items to all golfers and volunteers.

Apparel Sponsors \$3,000 (includes 4 golfers)

Apparel Sponsors underwrite the cost of the souvenir gift with their logo given out to each player. You will receive one foursome in the tournament (\$600 value), recognition in all event promotional materials, social media, event signage, and a full-page ad on the inside back cover of the program booklet (\$400 value)

Cocktail Hour Sponsors \$2,000 (includes 4 golfers)

This sponsor underwrites the fabulous cocktail hour. You will receive one foursome in the tournament (\$600 value) recognition in all promotional materials, social media, event signage, and a full-page ad in the program booklet (\$250 value)

Dinner Sponsors \$2,000 (includes 4 golfers)

This sponsor underwrites the delicious heavy appetizers and awards program. You will also receive one foursome in the tournament (\$600 value), recognition in all promotional materials, social media, event signage, and a full-page ad in the program booklet (\$250 value)

Lunch Sponsors \$1,000 (includes 2 golfers)

Lunch Sponsors underwrite the delicious lunch and includes a twosome in the tournament (\$300 value), recognition in the event promotions, social media, signage at the lunch site, as well as a partial-page ad in the program booklet.

Beverage Cart Sponsors \$500

Provide liquid refreshments to our thirsty golfers! You will receive recognition on event promotions, social media, a partial-page ad in our program booklet, and signage on the cart that cruises the course.

Snack Cart Sponsors \$500

Provide grab-and-go snacks to keep our golfers fueled all day! You will receive recognition on event promotions, social media, a partial-page ad in our program booklet, and signage on the snack cart as it travels the course.

Specialty Drink Hole Sponsors \$500

Sponsorship of cocktail holes or craft beer holes includes signage at the hole, recognition in the event promotions, social media and a partial-page ad in our program booklet.

Tee/ Contest Sponsors \$250

Tee and Contest Sponsors will receive your company name and logo on tee signage and recognition in our program booklet as well as social media. A first-come, first-serve basis will be used for placement.

Door Prize Sponsors (IN-KIND)

The INKIND Door Prize Sponsors will provide a door prize to be raffled off at the tournament. Recognition will be received at the event and on social media.

Company Name:

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Point of Contact: (Name)

Point of Contact: (Phone)

Point of Contact: (Email)

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

The Montgomery County Infrastructure Grant Program Now Open

The Montgomery County Tourism Infrastructure Grant Program is funded through Montgomery County's Occupancy Tax and is administered by Montgomery County Tourism. This grant is designed to support capital and infrastructure projects that enhance tourism assets and improve visitors' experience throughout Montgomery County. Eligibility The following entities located in Montgomery County, NY are eligible to apply: • Municipalities (towns, villages, county agencies) • Not-for-profit organizations • Tourism-related businesses • Owners or operators of historical, cultural, or recreational tourism sites Applicants must demonstrate site control, ownership or permission for the proposed project. |

Applications are due no later than June 1. For more information: <https://visitmontgomerycountyny.com/blog/montgomery-county-infrastructure-grant-program-serving-montgomery-county-new-york/>

The Back to Buffalo Voyage is heading to Montgomery County

Building on the momentum of the 2025 Bicentennial Voyage - a defining event for Buffalo Maritime Center and New York State - the Back to Buffalo Voyage serves as the centerpiece of the tour, shifting from a commemorative journey to an education-first program. Over 22 days, the boat will visit 16 ports along the Erie Canal, delivering NYS curriculum-aligned programming and public engagement opportunities expected to reach more than 5,000 students and thousands of community members statewide.

The Erie Canal Boat Seneca Chief will be docked in Riverlink Park in Amsterdam on June 7 and 8. Learn more at: <https://buffalomaritimecenter.org/backtobuffalo/>

Pathway to History Weekend

Road to 250: Revolutionary Road Tour, Saturday, June 20. Reservations required. Seating is limited. Learn more at: <https://visitmontgomerycountyny.com/celebrate-america-250-in-montgomery-county/>

FULTON COUNTY

Fulton County is ready for summer adventure with unique venues and exciting events shaping up inside, as well as out and about. New events are added daily to the county's <http://www.44lakes.com> "Calendar of Events."

Live music, concerts, art walks and history are in abundance! Join us to explore, hike, paddle, wade, fish or find your own special moment of Zen in one of our 44 lakes or endless acres of natural forest!

Here are a just a few summer highlights:

- May 16/17 – Johnson Hall Seizure Reenactment
- May 22 – Johnstown Memorial Day Parade
- May 25 – Gloversville Memorial Day Parade
- June 6 – Southern Adirondack Wine & Food Fest, Gloversville
- June 13 - Mayfield Historic Society Strawberry Festival, Rice Homestead
- June 20 – GSL Poker Run, Sport Island Pub, Northville
- July 4 – Caroga Fish & Game Cardboard Boat Derby, Salute to Stoner
- July 3/4/5 - Northville July 4 Parade and Doin's
- July 3/4/5 – Johnstown Historic Society America 250 Celebration, Downtown Johnstown
- July 16 - Mayfield Historic Society Ice Cream Social, Rice Homestead
- July 17/18/19 – Northville Rotary Woodworking & Fine Arts Weekend, Northville Town Park
- Aug. 8 – Gloversville Railfest
- Aug. 8/9 – Lumberjack Show and Competition, Royal View Pub & Campground
- Aug. 13/14/15 – Mayfield Bannertown Fair
- Aug. 15 – GSL Jet Fest
- Aug. 21/22/23 - Wheelerville Trails 5th Mountain Bike Festival

Please visit <http://www.44lakes.com>, click on the calendar for the most recently updated events, and happenings at all our local venues!

NEWS YOU CAN USE FROM THE U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

Business Trends and Outlook Survey

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

New supplemental questions capturing business use of artificial intelligence (AI) were added to the BTOS from Nov. 17, 2025, to Feb. 8, 2026. These data are now available on the BTOS webpage as data download files and visualizations. The data show how artificial intelligence is being adopted across businesses, including differences by industries, geography (states) and firm size. Additionally, the data provide insights into how AI is being used within businesses, the types of tasks it supports and how it is changing work.

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

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

[Data](#) will be released biweekly and available by sector, state and the 25 most populous metropolitan statistical areas. Survey results give local, state and federal officials essential, real-time data to aid in policymaking and decision-making. In addition, the

information aids businesses in making economic decisions.

Census Academy

Let the Census Bureau show you how to find and use Census Bureau data for your everyday uses, including informing your business plan, supporting grant proposals and research projects, developing apps, urban development planning and services, and much more! Whether you're looking for economic or demographic data, the [Census Academy](#) can teach you how to get what you need for your various projects, the Census Academy can help you do it all. In addition, to request free workshops and trainings for your organization, send them an e-mail at census.askdata@census.gov.

NATHAN LITTAUER
Hospital & Nursing Home

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ATTENTION BUSINESSES IN THE CITY OF GROVERSVILLE

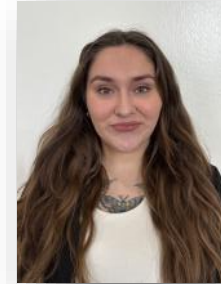
The [Groversville Economic Development Corporation](#) has loans available for businesses located in the City at comfortable and competitive rates for a variety of needs and purposes! Interested businesses should call the Chamber or email projects@fultonmontgomeryny.org

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

Contact
(518) 725-0641
or membership@fultonmontgomeryny.org



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



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

THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS: A SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITY JOB FAIR

Our recent Community Job Fair was a true reflection of what can be accomplished when organizations come together with a shared purpose. In partnership with SUNY Fulton-Montgomery Community College and FMS Workforce Solutions, the Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce was proud to help host an incredibly successful event that brought opportunity directly to our community.

With 75 participating businesses and nearly 500 job seekers in attendance, the energy throughout the day was nothing short of inspiring. From seasoned professionals to those just beginning their career journey, attendees had the chance to connect directly with employers across a variety of industries.

A highlight of the event was the strong presence of students from HFM BOCES (programs such as CTE & PTECH) and participating school districts. New this year, we also expanded the opportunity to include regional high school seniors who are workforce-bound after graduation. This allowed students to engage directly with local employers, explore career pathways, and take meaningful steps toward their future right here in our region.

This event truly showcased the strength and impact of collaboration. When education, workforce development, and the business community align, we create meaningful opportunities that benefit not only individuals, but our entire region.

We are proud to continue building these connections through our Business Education Partnership and look forward to creating even more opportunities that support a strong, prepared, and thriving workforce.



Above: The collaborating teams from the Chamber, SUNY FM, and FMS Workforce Solutions pose before the successful event.

Below: Scene from the Job Fair where nearly 500 job seekers came to talk to 75 businesses about available positions.



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, May 14—2pm-6pm

ART IN THE HEART OF GLOVERSVILLE: DOWNTOWN ART WALK

Downtown Gloversville—start at Chamber Rotunda, 2 N. Main Street

This interactive, self-guided event will showcase the work of talented regional artists while encouraging visitors to explore local businesses and cultural destinations throughout downtown Gloversville. See page 13 for more details and please join us!

Wednesday, May 20—5pm to 6pm

RIBBON CUTTING AND GRAND OPENING OF NEW PATIO AT MEG'S AT MUNI 158 Upper VanDyke Avenue, Amsterdam

Join us for a ribbon-cutting event to “christen” the new patio at Meg’s at Muni at Amsterdam Municipal Golf Course...the perfect place for gathering, dining, and enjoying the season ahead! Enjoy live music with complimentary food and beverage tastings as we officially cut the ribbon and celebrate this exciting addition to our region!

Friday, May 29—5pm to 8pm

RIBBON CUTTING AT CHAD MAJEWSKI REAL ESTATE IN NORTHVILLE

109 N. 2nd Street, Northville

Enjoy live music by TS Ensemble, along with cocktails and hors d’oeuvres, making it a great evening to connect, celebrate and experience this newly renovated space for this growing real estate company! Come out and show your support for this growing business and be part of this exciting grand opening!

June 1 through June 6

PAINT THE TOWN PURPLE

City of Gloversville

A weeklong event to raise funds and awareness for the fight against Alzheimer’s disease. See page 12 for details.

Tuesday, June 2—4pm to 5pm

RIBBON CUTTING AT VALER LAW, PLLC

3748 State Highway 30, Amsterdam

Join us on this special day at new member Valer Law Office in Amsterdam! The office will be open for networking with fellow Chamber members while enjoy-

ing appetizers and beverages that will be catered just for this special event!

Wednesday, June 3—6pm

39TH ANNUAL FULTON COUNTY SPORTS AWARD BANQUET

Holiday Inn, 308 N. Comrie Ave., Johnstown

The Chamber honors the top Fulton County athletes from each of its high schools, the schools’ championship teams and representatives, and then awards Top Male and Female Athletes of the Year. Athletes, their families and friends, Chamber members are invited to attend. To purchase tickets, they will be available in mid-May at the front desk at the Holiday Inn or call the Chamber for details.

Friday, June 5—10am

RIBBON CUTTING AT TIMELINE DIESEL

310 Blecker Street, Gloversville

Come and check out this newly renovated 4,500 square foot facility! Timeline Diesel proudly serves as our region’s only fuel-injection specialist! Help support this service disabled, veteran-owned business where the only mechanic specializing in fuel injection is located.

Tuesday, June 9 8:15am

RIBBON CUTTING FOR LITTLE FREE LIBRARY GRAND OPENING AT FIRST CHOICE FINANCIAL FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

355 Hales Mills Road, Gloversville

Little Free Library is a nonprofit organization based in St. Paul, Minnesota. Their mission is to be a catalyst for building community, inspiring readers, and expanding book access for all through a global network of volunteer-led Little Free Library book-exchange boxes. Help us celebrate the Credit Union’s opening of their own Little Free Library this morning! This project ties closely to the roots of the credit union, as they were originally founded to serve educators and their focus on literacy in all forms.

GET INVOLVED WITH **YOUR** CHAMBER (continued)

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, June 10 —5pm-7pm
BUSINESS AFTER HOURS AT RIVER RIDGE LIVING CENTER: REHABILITATION & NURSING
100 Sandy Drive, Amsterdam

Come to this great Business After Hours to network, enjoy tasty beverages and refreshments and learn all about River Ridge Living Center.

Reception Wednesday, June 11 5pm-6pm
PAWTRAITS AT THE CHAMBER ROTUNDA ART GALLERY
2 N. Main Street, Gloversville

A reception for an Art Show in the Chamber's Rotunda Gallery which will feature art created by Gloversville High School students from a project with the Fulton County Regional SPCA. The show will open on June 8 and can be viewed Monday through Friday from 9am-4pm until June 19 unless Chamber is closed for an event. Please join us for the reception, with free admission and open to all. Light refreshments will be served and student art awards will be presented at 6pm.

Friday, June 12
BOULEVARD SCHOOL STUDENTS VISIT DOWNTOWN GLOVERSVILLE, INCLUDING CHAMBER OFFICES

Downtown Gloversville

We are excited to meet students from Gloversville's Boulevard School and tell them all about what the Chamber does, and all about the great businesses in our city, in our county, and in our region!

Thursday, June 25 4pm-530pm
WEAVER AWARDS MIXER

Chamber Rotunda, 2 N. Main Street, Gloversville

Come find out what the Weaver Awards are all about and how you/your organization may apply for these grants (read more on page 8). RSVP to this mixer by visiting The United Way of the Greater Capital Region online at <https://www.unitedwaygcr.org/weavers>

Friday, September 18—Mark Your Calendars!
CHAMBER'S GOLF TOURNAMENT
Course TBD—see pages 6 and 15 for details

Mark your calendar for a great day of camaraderie, golf and more at the Chamber's Annual Golf Tournament where proceeds benefit the Chamber's Scholarship program, awarding \$1K to graduating students in our region's high schools!

WE CONTINUE TO HIGHLIGHT THIS YEAR'S CHAMBER AWARD WINNERS—READ MORE ABOUT THESE GREAT BUSINESSES IN THIS NEWSLETTER!



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