Fulton Montgomery REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

NEWSLINE

November 2026

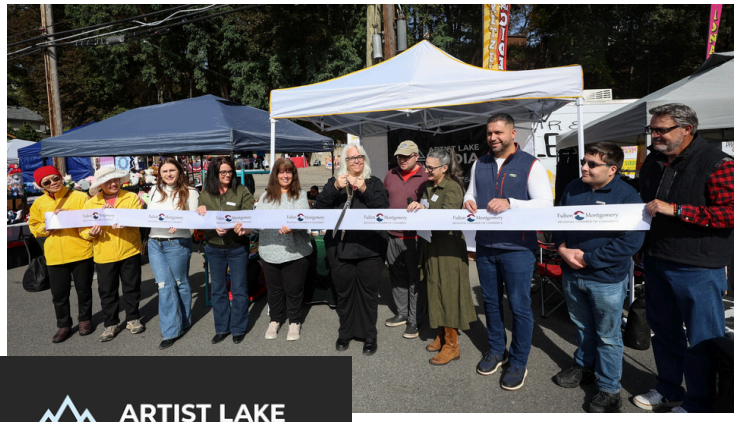
A Publication of the Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce

The Chamber supports our members and our region as a partner for business, workforce, and tourism development.

NOVEMBER IS A TIME FOR GIVING THANKS. SHOPPING LOCAL. GROWING TOGETHER.



Marquis Certified Home Health Care held a special "Six Degrees of Care" event at the Chamber in October. Marquis started the group with the belief that stronger communities are made through connections. The idea that any two people in the world are two or fewer social connections apart, prompted an idea to name this group around that concept, and the six degrees of separation. Hence- SIX DEGREES OF CARE was aptly named. At the well-attended event, networking was key and the group talked about each of their initiatives, goals, etc. Follow the Six Degrees of Care group on LinkedIn.



The Chamber helped Artist Lake Media and its owner Christine Heeren celebrate her new logo and her business at Amsterdam's CreekFest/Oktoberfest. As a photographer, Christine plays such an important role in capturing the people, businesses, and special moments that make our community unique. Visit her online at https://thrillcats.wixsite.com/artistlakemedia



Above: Mason Memorial Home, a new Chamber member and new business at 13 Belmont Place in Amsterdam, celebrated their grand opening with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. As a family-owned and operated local business run by husband-and-wife duo Michael and Colleen Mason, Mason Memorial Home focuses on honoring loved ones through tailored funeral, cremation, and preplanning guidance. Their dedicated team provides compassionate 24/7 care to guide families through every step of the process with warmth, dignity, and step-by-step support during their time of need.



Thank you to The Glove Theatre for hosting a successful, fun Business After Hours in October. It was great to reconnect with Chamber members from downtown Gloversville and beyond! The Glove has a lot going on - keep updated on all their events and shows at https://www.facebook.com/theglovetheatre



Right: 5 Star Storage, located at 2680 Route 29 in Johnstown is owned by Derek and Jeff Brown of Brown's Ford & Brown's Collision. 5 Star Storage was born out of a need for storage spaces and the business offers them from 5'x5'x8' to 30'x10'x8'. Rentals can be made in person or online. *See more information about this new business on page 3.*

Fulton Montgomery
REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
2 N. Main Street, Gloversville, NY 12078
(518) 725-0641 | fultonmontgomeryny.org

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The 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 Executive Director Jennifer Laubenstein

October continued the strong momentum we saw in September, bringing another month filled with collaboration, community engagement, and meaningful connections across Fulton and Montgomery Counties. From workforce development initiatives to member events and ribbon cuttings, the energy of our business community was felt in every corner of our region.

We began the month with CareerCon on October 1st, an event that brought together employers, educators, and students to explore career pathways and build awareness of the opportunities available right here in our region. The turnout and enthusiasm made it clear that our workforce partners and local businesses are deeply committed to supporting students as they prepare for the careers that will shape our region. It was a tremendous success and a strong start to the month.

Throughout October, we continued to show up for our members and celebrate their milestones. Runnings' Annual Ladies Night brought together nonprofits, partners, and community members for an evening focused on connection, awareness, and support. Later in the month, we supported the Build 'Amy's Bags' annual fundraiser at Ruby & Quiri, a heartfelt event that united businesses and volunteers in support of recently diagnosed breast cancer patients.

On October 10th, we celebrated the Ribbon Cutting for Artist Lake Media during CreekFest/OktoberFest in Amsterdam. It was wonderful to join Christine Heeren as she marked this new chapter and continued her work capturing the stories and creativity that make our region unique.

Member engagement remained strong with a vibrant Business After Hours at the Glove Theatre, where attendees enjoyed networking, conversation, and a behind-the-scenes look at one of our region's most historic venues. The month also included several additional ribbon cuttings, each marking growth, investment, and confidence in the future of our region. Being present for these milestones is one of the most meaningful parts of my role, and I am honored to support businesses as they expand and evolve.

(continued on page 3)

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Looking ahead, November is shaping up to be another busy and exciting month. We will kick off our Small Business Saturday initiative, supporting local retailers as they prepare for the holiday season. We also look forward to Business After Hours on November 4th at Mohawk Harvest, held in conjunction with their open mic night, along with several additional ribbon cuttings throughout the month. You can stay up to date on all our upcoming events by visiting our website.

Behind the scenes, we are continuing to make enhancements that strengthen the value we provide to our members. The Chamber is working on website improvements designed to give businesses more ways to promote their services, share their stories, and connect with one another. These updates reflect our ongoing commitment to expanding the tools, resources, and platforms that support your success.

October was a month of connection, celebration, and continued progress, and November promises even more opportunities to come together as a business community. Thank you for your partnership, your engagement, and the work you do every day to strengthen our region.

Warm Regards,
Jennifer Laubenstein
Executive Director

Fulton Montgomery
REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The FMRCC Member Forward Initiative

Putting Members at the Center of Everything We Do

To our Chamber members,
Read about this new Chamber initiative that we are excited about. We will go into more detail in the December issue of *Newsline*.

FMRCC MEMBER FORWARD INITIATIVE

Putting Members at the Center of Everything We Do

At the Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce, our members are more than part of our organization. They are the reason it exists.

That is why we have adopted a simple philosophy we call FMRCC Member Forward.

This initiative means that every program, service, investment, partnership, event, and communication, is evaluated through one important question:

How does this benefit our members?

As the business landscape continues to evolve, so must your Chamber. We believe our responsibility is not just to maintain programs, but to continuously look for new ways to provide value, create opportunities, and support the success of the businesses and organizations that invest in our region.

What the FMRCC Member Forward Initiative Means for You

Being Member Forward means we are committed to:

Increasing Your Visibility Through enhanced digital tools, member spotlights, marketing opportunities, directory listings, social media promotion, email communications, events, and strategic partnerships designed to help your business be seen.

Strengthening Your Connections By creating meaningful opportunities to network, collaborate, and build relationships with fellow businesses, community leaders, and decision-makers throughout the region.

Advocating for Business Serving as a strong voice for the business community by connecting members with legislative updates, government leaders, workforce initiatives, and regional economic development efforts.

Providing Valuable Resources Investing in tools, technology, workforce partnerships, educational opportunities, and business resources that help members operate more effectively and compete in a changing marketplace.

Listening and Adapting Seeking member feedback and using it to guide future services, programs, and Chamber priorities so that our efforts remain aligned with your needs.

How the FMCC Member Forward Initiative Shapes Our Future

You may already be seeing this initiative in action through soon to be launched website enhancements, expanded member tools, improved communications, new marketing opportunities, workforce initiatives, and a stronger focus on delivering measurable value to every member.

These efforts are not isolated projects. They are part of a larger commitment to creating a Chamber experience that is responsive, relevant, and focused on helping businesses thrive.

Our Promise

As your Chabmer, we will continue to ask ourselves:

- Does this create value for our members?
- Does it help businesses grow?
- Does it strengthen connections?
- Does it improve visibility and engagement?
- Does it support a stronger business community?

If the answer is yes, we will pursue it.

Because when our members succeed, our communities succeed. When local businesses grow, our region grows. And when the Chamber remains focused on delivering meaningful value, we become a stronger partner for every business we serve.

The FMRCC Member Forward Initiative - because every decision starts with our members.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

October 2026

KAYLA DUESLER MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING, PLLC
(518) 774-7896
https://kaylascoachandcounsel.com
Mental health private practice; telehealth appointments.

5 STAR STORAGE
2680 Route 29, Johnstown
(518) 930-5800 | https://www.5starstorage.us
Self storage facility with two brand new buildings with over 100 units for rent, starting at 5'x5'x8' and going up to 30'x10'x8'.





Membership Message

Jessica Valachovic
Membership Outreach Associate

November is here, bringing one of the most meaningful and community-focused times of the year for our Chamber. As we settle into the fall season, our calendar is filled with events, gatherings, and opportunities designed to help you connect, grow, and stay involved. Whether you're looking to network, celebrate milestones, or strengthen your business relationships, there is truly something for everyone.

We encourage all members to stay engaged and take advantage of the many ways you can participate this month. From member-hosted events and ribbon cuttings to community celebrations and seasonal activities, November offers countless opportunities to meet new people, build partnerships, and highlight your business.

We're also gearing up for one of our favorite annual traditions, Small Business Saturday. This initiative is close to our hearts, and we are truly looking forward to getting out into the community to support the incredible small businesses that make our region unique. Our local entrepreneurs invest so much into their work, and we're proud to stand beside them, spotlight their efforts, and help drive customers through their doors during this important weekend.

Be sure to keep an eye on your email, visit our website, and follow us on social media. You'll find a wide variety of upcoming events and opportunities that may be the perfect fit for you and your business. Explore what speaks to you and don't hesitate to jump into something new.

After all, we're your trusted resource for connections, and we're excited to continue building a strong, active, and supportive business community with you this November.

Wishing you a wonderful November,
Jessica Valachovic

MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

October 2026

Thank you for your continued support!

40+ YEARS

Keymark Corporation – 50
Kasson & Keller, Inc. – 50
The Arc Lexington – 43

30 – 39 YEARS

Maider and Smith – 38
Greater Johnstown School District – 35
Walmart-Amsterdam – 32
Capital District Physicians' Health Plan – 31

20-29 YEARS

Montgomery County Office for Aging, Inc. – 27
Hardies Electric Service Co., Inc. – 26
Village of Hagaman – 26
Northampton Animal Hospital – 25
Canajoharie Central School – 21

10 – 19 YEARS

Tamara L. Dunlap, D.D.S. – 19
Bowman's Market – 18
William R. Dorn Construction, Inc. – 18
Amsterdam Rotary District 7190 – 16
Glover Insurance Agency – 12
Caroga Arts Collective, Inc. – 10
Milligan and Higgins – 10
Twin Pine Family Chiropractic, LLC – 10

1– 9 YEARS

Montgomery County Business Development Center – 9
Lee's Shops at Wagner Square – 9
Stump City Brewing, LLC – 9
Karpeles Manuscript Library Museum – 7
CAPTAIN Community Human Services – 7
Frothingham Free Library – 5
Saratoga Arts – 4
Greater Johnstown Lions Club – 3
Lee Newspapers, Inc. – 2
Thomas Construction – 1
Trinity Wealth Management , LLC – 1
Valer Law, PLLC – 1



TOWN OF PERTH LAUNCHES ONLINE OPEN HOUSE FOR COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

Residents Invited to Share Their Ideas and Help Shape Perth's Future Through November 9

Were you unable to attend the Town of Perth's Comprehensive Plan Open House on October 21? There is still an opportunity to participate! The Town of Perth has launched an Online Open House Survey, available October 22 through November 9, to give residents, property owners, and business owners interested in Perth's future an opportunity to share their perspectives and help guide the Town's Comprehensive Plan update.

The online open house includes the same information and questions presented at the October 21 in-person event. This provides an additional opportunity for community members to learn about the planning process, review information about the Town, and offer input on the issues, opportunities, and priorities that should shape Perth's future.

The Comprehensive Plan update, known as "Perth 2035: Preserve, Plan, Progress," is intended to establish a community-supported vision for the Town and guide future decisions about land use, housing, economic development, transportation, community services, farmland, natural resources, and the protection of Perth's rural character.

What Can You Do at the Online Open House?

Participants will have an opportunity to:

- LEARN about the comprehensive planning process and the work the Town has completed to date.
- REVIEW results of previous community surveys and the issues and challenges identified through the planning process.
- EXPLORE the draft community vision and goals and offer perspectives on the Town's desired future.
- VIEW new maps developed for the Town that illustrate important community features, resources, and development patterns.
- SHARE ideas and help prioritize which issues, challenges, and opportunities should be addressed first.

Community participation is an essential part of developing a Comprehensive Plan that reflects local values and priorities. Whether residents are concerned about protecting farmland and open space, maintaining rural character, providing housing opportunities, improving roads and infrastructure, or supporting local businesses, their input will help shape the recommendations and actions included in the updated Plan.

How to Participate

The Online Open House Survey is available from October 22 through November 9, 2026.

Visit the Town of Perth website at https://www.perthny.gov/ and click on "Town's Online Open House" to review the information and complete the survey.

For additional information about the Comprehensive Plan update, visit the Town of Perth website at www.perthny.gov

GLOVERSVILLE SENIOR SERVICES CENTER SEEKS FOOD-RELATED BUSINESSES TO PARTICIPATE IN "CELEBRITY CHEF" OPPORTUNITIES

The Gloversville Senior Center, 53 Church Street, is interested in establishing a collaborative partnership with local food businesses. Once a month, on a Wednesday, they would like a local chef to create a lunch or dessert special for the senior center. Center staff will meet with the business to discuss planned dishes and how they can cover the cost of ingredients. During the initial meeting, businesses can tour the kitchen to see the setup and equipment available for the service. Businesses are also welcome to prepare dishes at their establishments. The senior center will promote the partnership through local advertising. If you are interested in learning more, please reach out to Tonay Ferraro at (518) 736-1828.







MOHAWK VALLEY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT, INC. (MVEDD) AWARDED TWO USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT GRANTS:

USDA Rural Business Development Grant (RBDG) to Support Local Farmer and USDA Rural: Microentrepreneur Assistance Program (RMAP) Grant to Support Small Businesses in the Mohawk Valley

The Mohawk Valley Economic Development District, Inc. (MVEDD) is pleased to announce it has been awarded two grants through USDA Rural Development – Rural Business Development Grant (RBDG) and Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program (RMAP). These grants will enable MVEDD to expand its support for rural microenterprises, farmers, and agribusinesses across the region, offering targeted technical assistance and other guidance to help our small businesses thrive.

"USDA Rural Development is proud to partner with Mohawk Valley Economic Development District, Inc. on initiatives that strengthen the backbone of the Mohawk Valley's rural economy," said USDA Rural Development New York State Director Richard Mayfield. "These investments help local farmers and small business owners access the tools, training, and opportunities they need to grow. When we support rural entrepreneurs, we're supporting jobs, families, and the long-term vitality of the entire community."

The RBDG award will allow MVEDD to purchase equipment to lease to Garlic Delite Farm, a small garlic farm located in Little Falls, Herkimer County. This equipment purchase and lease will allow the farm to expand their operations. "I appreciate the guidance and support that MVEDD has shown me. This will help me expand my business and stay competitive in New York State" says Frank Yerina, owner of Garlic Delite Farm.

In addition to the USDA RBDG award, MVEDD was awarded funding through the USDA Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program (RMAP). This award will allow MVEDD to build on the success of our hybrid and in-person workshops and one-on-one sessions offered this past year. We will be able to expand our support for rural microenterprises across the Mohawk Valley, offering targeted technical assistance and financial guidance to help our small businesses thrive.

MVEDD will continue to deliver a series of hybrid and in-person workshops and one-on-one consulting services designed to help rural entrepreneurs identify and secure funding opportunities, strengthen their financial planning, and position their businesses for long-term success.

Upcoming workshops will cover:

·Rural Ingenuity: Farmer focused workshop in partnership with University of Albany's Office of Economic Development, Entrepreneurship, & Industry Partnerships

·Fueling Your Rural Ingenuity: Taking the ideas generated from the Rural Ingenuity workshop and applying for grant funding to implement

·Financial Documentation: Building income statements, balance sheets, and statements of cash flow

·Projections: Forecasting to build clear and realistic projections

·Grant Writing: The ins and outs of telling your business story for grants

The Rural Ingenuity workshop will be an in-person workshop with the rest of the workshops being offered in a hybrid format, welcoming participation from rural businesses throughout the Mohawk Valley. In addition to group sessions, MVEDD will provide individualized support to help businesses identify grant opportunities and help prepare competitive applications.

As a companion to the workshops and one-on-one sessions, MVEDD plans to build a centralized, online database for businesses that includes downloadable templates and detailed how-to guides for topics discussed in workshops. Continued expansion of the database will occur as new topics emerge from the business community and from conversations with businesses about the types of assistance they need.

MVEDD encourages rural entrepreneurs, startups, and small business owners to take advantage of this opportunity to strengthen their operations and access new funding pathways.

For more information or to register for upcoming workshops, please visit https://mvedd.org/rmap-1



ST. MARY'S HEALTHCARE EARNS 'MOST WIRED' RECOGNITION FOR OUTPATIENT CARE

St. Mary's Healthcare has been named one of the nation's "Most Wired" healthcare organizations for outpatient care.

The Most Wired designation, from the College of Healthcare Information Management Executives, recognizes St. Mary's success in using technology, analytics and other strategies to drive improvements in care, outcomes and efficiency.

The independent community hospital was one of more than 44,000 facilities worldwide represented in CHIME's 2026 Digital Health Most Wired Survey. St. Mary's achieved level 7 in the ambulatory (outpatient) category by ranking above peers in areas including clinical quality and safety, analytics and data management, cybersecurity, population health, infrastructure, patient engagement and innovation.

"St. Mary's has made significant, strategic investments in technology in recent years to improve our ability to provide the healthcare services our rural community deserves," said Julie Demaree, St. Mary's Healthcare vice president and chief technology and digital innovation officer. "This Most Wired certification acknowledges both the impact of our investments and our commitment to continue to tap technology's potential to improve local access to quality healthcare.

"The recognition also is a testament to the extraordinary leadership and collaboration of St. Mary's clinical integration team, who have helped build and optimize the clinical systems, workflows and data infrastructure that support our digital transformation efforts," Demaree added. "Their work has been instrumental in creating the technology foundation that enables improvements in patient care, operational efficiency and provider engagement."

The annual Digital Health Most Wired Survey is a comprehensive evaluation and digital maturity report card that helps organizations assess the adoption, maturity, outcomes and value of technology. Survey participants are certified at levels ranging from 1 to 10. Those who achieve levels 7 and above are rated Most Wired.

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

MOUNTAIN VALLEY HOSPICE & PALLIATIVE CARE NEWS

CRITICAL CONVERSATIONS: Compassionate Care at the End of Life: A Program for Nurses, Nursing Students & Healthcare Professionals - Wednesday, November 4, 5pm, Nancy Dowd Hospice House, 108 Steele Avenue, Gloversville

Some of the most important moments in nursing have nothing to do with medications, procedures, or monitors. They happen in the conversations we have with patients and families when the questions are difficult, and the answers aren't always clear.

Join the Mohawk Valley Nurses Association and Mountain Valley Hospice & Palliative Care for an engaging evening of discussion about palliative care, hospice, patient advocacy, and navigating the challenging conversations surrounding serious illness and end-of-life care.

Bring your questions, share your experiences, and leave with greater confidence to navigate these critical conversations.

Discussion will be led by Celeste Farnham, MVHPC Clinical Director and Katherine Gotobed-Frasier, MVHPC Palliative Care Case Manager.
Space is limited so pre-registration will be required. Register early to save your space.. Call (518) 725-4545.

Winter Wonderland Gala to Benefit MVHPC
Date: December 12th, 2026 | Time: 6pm-9pm | Location: Timeless Tavern, 162 S. Main Street, Northville

Join us for a magical evening of elegance and compassion at our Winter Wonderland Gala. This formal affair will be a night to remember, featuring live and silent auctions, delectable appetizers and desserts.

To donate a basket or item for event auctions, please contact Lisa Wood at Timeless Tavern: (518) 863-4635

Tickets are limited to a maximum of 80. Purchase yours at the Timeless Tavern starting November 10th and experience a truly unforgettable evening while supporting a worthy cause. Tickets are non-refundable.

If you are unable to attend, but would still like to make a contribution, please visit their donation page. For event updates, and to view auction and raffle items, check out the event raffle page.



SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL TO HOST 42ND ANNUAL FALL HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR

Soroptimist International of Fulton and Montgomery Counties will host its 42nd Annual Fall Holiday Craft Fair on Sunday, November 22, 2026, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Gloversville Middle School, located at 234 Lincoln Street in Gloversville.

The event will feature more than 100 professional crafters, offering shoppers an opportunity to find unique, handcrafted gifts for the holiday season. Additional activities will include a bake sale, raffle baskets, and food concessions.

Admission is $3 per person, with children 12 and under admitted free. Proceeds support Soroptimist's mission of improving the lives of women and girls in the local community.



FULTON-MONTGOMERY COMMUNITY COLLEGE ANNOUNCES LAUNCH OF SUNY ASAP PROGRAM

New Program Provides Financial, Academic, and Personal Support to Help Students Stay on Track and Graduate on Time

SUNY Fulton-Montgomery Community College (FMCC) last month announced the launch of the Advancing Success in Associate Pathways (ASAP) program, a comprehensive student support initiative designed to help students overcome financial, academic, and personal barriers and earn an associate degree within three years.

Through new state funding, FMCC will launch the program with 150 students this fall, providing participants with personalized advising, academic support, financial assistance, career development, and connections to campus and community resources.

Launched at SUNY in 2024, ASAP|ACE provides wraparound support designed to increase retention and degree completion while preparing students for careers and continued success. Eligible students receive access to financial assistance for expenses such as textbooks, groceries, transportation, and other costs of attendance, along with personalized advising, academic support, career development, and referrals to campus and community resources.

An additional $8 million in state funding from Governor Hochul and the State Legislature brings total annual statewide investment in ASAP|ACE to $20 million. The expansion will allow the programs to serve an anticipated 10,000 students across 44 SUNY campuses, including FMCC's inaugural cohort of 150 students.

ASAP|ACE students across SUNY have demonstrated stronger academic outcomes, including earning more credits and re-enrolling at higher rates than comparable students who are not enrolled in the program.

Supporting FMCC Students Where They Are

At FMCC, the program is already demonstrating how targeted support can help students address barriers that might otherwise interfere with their education. Freshman Alexandra Porcelli says ASAP has made a meaningful difference during her first semester of college.

"The ASAP Program has been extremely helpful during my first semester as a first-time college student. I feel encouraged and supported, knowing I have somewhere to turn when I need help with tutoring, extra bus passes, scheduling, or developing better time-management skills."

In addition, for freshman Hannah Conti, ASAP has helped remove a significant transportation barrier, allowing her to attend classes consistently and stay focused on her education. When asked about ASAP she stated, "Students who face challenges or barriers to attending college but are determined to further their education should take advantage of what ASAP offers. The financial support for transportation, books, tuition, and other expenses, combined with the personal support of the program, can make the difference between wondering if college is possible and knowing that it is."

ASAP also creates opportunities for students to build connections and a sense of belonging. Emalee Brockhum, a General Studies sophomore, said the program's weekly wellness walks have provided an opportunity to connect with other students while taking a break from the demands of college.

"ASAP has an open invite for their weekly wellness walk. This has allowed me the opportunity to decompress between classes, get some fresh air, and to connect with other students outside of class. It helps me to feel grounded and provides me with a sense of belonging."

Through ASAP, FMCC is expanding the resources available to students—not only helping them address immediate challenges, but also providing the support, connections, and encouragement they need to persist, graduate on time, and prepare for their futures.

To learn more about the ASAP program at Fulton-Montgomery Community College, visit them online at https://fmcc.edu/student-experience/asap-program?highlight=WyJhc2FwIl0=

MOHAWK HARVEST COOPERATIVE MARKET: A DOWNTOWN GLOVERSVILLE STRONGHOLD

In the heart of downtown Gloversville, Mohawk Harvest Cooperative Market has become far more than a place to pick up groceries. It is a gathering spot, a showcase for regional farmers and makers, and an anchor that helps keep Main Street moving and growing.

Walk through the doors and the variety is immediately clear. The store's expansive spice section is a draw for home cooks and serious chefs alike, with everything from everyday staples to harder-to-find blends. The cheese section is just as impressive, pairing favorites from afar with local selections. Shoppers will also find frozen and fresh local meats, seasonal produce, dairy, and much more, so a single trip can fill a pantry, a holiday table, or a gift basket.

What truly sets the market apart is its commitment to local sourcing. The shelves carry products from dozens of local producers, including farmers, bakers, and food artisans from across our region. Each purchase keeps dollars circulating in Fulton and Montgomery Counties, supporting neighboring families and strengthening the local economy. For shoppers, it means fresher food, a clear connection to where it comes from, and the chance to try something made just down the road.

Store Manager Jeremy "Jay" Krajewski and the Mohawk Harvest team are working to make sure members and the public remember they have a home for holiday shopping and beyond. Whether you're planning a festive dinner, building a charcuterie board, or searching for a thoughtful gift featuring local flavors, the market offers an alternative to big-box convenience that gives back to the community. For Co-op members, they can order in wholesale quantities at a discount, and Jeremy can order most any product you're looking for through their extensive network. If you don't see it, ask…

As a cooperative, Mohawk Harvest is rooted in the idea that a store works best when it serves the people around it. Members help shape its direction, and the public is always welcome to shop. That open-door approach has helped the market build a loyal following and a lasting presence in downtown Gloversville.

For the Chamber community, the market is a reminder of what intentional local shopping can accomplish. Every time a shopper chooses a downtown business, the benefits extend to nearby restaurants, shops, and services, and to the producers who stock the shelves.

This season, the Chamber encourages members and residents to make Mohawk Harvest Cooperative Market part of their holiday plans. Stop in, say hello to Jeremy and the staff, explore the spice aisle, sample something from the cheese case, and take home a taste of what our region produces.

Please consider all of your holiday table and baking needs and shop the Co-op. Support local this holiday season and all year long. Your neighbors, and your table, will be better for it. And you will help this important downtown Gloversville survive and thrive. At right is Jay Krajewski.





Your Vision, Our Expertise
Together we bring your ideas to life.

Think of us as a part of your team, ready to support you every step of the way - from consultation and design to the final printed piece, we've got you covered!

- Graphic/Logo Design
- Marketing
- Catalog Creation
- Annual Reports
- Menu Creation
- Direct Mail
- Brochures
- Business Cards
- Letterhead
- Envelopes
- Forms
- Signage
- Artist Prints
- Promotional Products
- Banners
- Etc....

ricmar
marketing design print

518.921.4041
ricmarsolutions@gmail.com
A NYS Certifed WBE

TOURISM News & Updates

So much going on in our region! For event details, please reference event calendars on www.44lakes.com or visitmontgomerycountyny.com

MONTGOMERY COUNTY EVENTS

November 5 @ 4pm and November 7 @1pm
The Campaigns of 1777: Saratoga and Philadelphia, SUNY FM, 2805 State Highway 67, Johnstown – part of the 2026 American Revolutionary War 250 Conference.

November 7

- 8th Annual Pumpkin Smash, Veterans Park, 205 Locust Ave., Amsterdam. Smash your pumpkins, enjoy cider and donuts, face painting, and games. Smashed pumpkins will go to Grow Amsterdam's Compost Works Initiatives – 10am to 1pm
- Arkell Museum's Holiday Arts & Crafts Fair, 2 Erie Blvd., Canajoharie – 10am to 4pm
- Candle Making Class, VFW Post 942, Fonda, $40 per person

November 8

- Pancake Breakfast & Basket Raffle, H.C. Smith Benefit Club, 533 Crum Creek, St. Johnsville, 8am to 12 pm
- Annual Kilts Farm Members Harvest Dinner, 172 Kilts Road, Ft. Plain. 1pm-5pm – potluck dinner – the farm provides locally sourced turkey, ham and lamb, members bring salads, side dishes and desserts to complete the meal – Exclusively for Members of Kilts Farm

November 13
Drink Amsterdam Holiday Market, 6pm to 9pm in the Sanford Clock Tower. Local pours, good food, live music and more. 6pm to 9pm

November 14
Murder Mystery Dinner, Canajoharie-Ft. Plain Elks Lodge, 15 Old Station Rd., Nelliston. Tickets $50 pp, call/text (518) 461-5039

November 21
Christmas Table Center Pieces Workshop, Kilts Farm, 172 Kilts Rd., Ft. Plain, 10am to 4pm, (518) 993-2275
Creation Story with Tom Porter, Kanatsiohareke Mohawk Community, 4934 State Highway 5, Fonda, $50 in person with traditional meal, mohawkcommunity.org

FULTON COUNTY EVENTS

November 5

- Empty Bowls 2026 – HFM BOCES, 2755 State Highway 67, Johnstown – 5pm-7pm,, Community dinner benefitting Catholic Charities' hunger-relief efforts. Enjoy a meal and choose a handcrafted bowl to take home.
- Primetime Trivia Night at Hales Mills Country Club, 146 Steele Road, Johnstown – 6:30pm

November 6

- Northville Farmers' Market – Winter Market – Bradt Building, 42 S. Main Street
- Joe Adee & The Lug Nuts, The Glove Theatre – 7pm

November 7

- Poetry Open Mic(less) at the Glove Cities Gallery, 52 Church Street, Gloversville – 1pm to 3pm
- Caroga Lake Music Festival Resident Artists, Schine Memorial Hall, Gloversville – 6:30pm refreshments, 7pm concert
- Floydian Trip: The Premiere Pink Floyd Experience @ The Glove Theatre, 7pm
- Flannel & Flare Fusion Line Dance Party, Johnstown Moose Club, 109 S. Comrie Ave, Johnstown – 7pm

November 7 and November 8
Varin Enterprises 2nd Annual Christmas Market, 212 Stoner Trail Rd., Johnstown – 11am-3pm

November 8

- Northville Rotary Club Veterans' Brunch, Sport Island Pub, 108 Riverside Dr., Northville, 12pm
- Saving Private Ryan (Free Movie), The Glove Theatre, 2pm

November 10
Resin & Glass Mosaic Suncatcher, Great Sacandaga Brewing Co, 3647 NY-30, Broadalbin – 6pm

November 11
Fall Soap Making, Paul Nigra Center for Creative Arts, 2736 State Highway 30, Gloversville, 10am

November 12
Holiday Entertaining Made Easy with Wally Hart, Paul Nigra Center for Creative Arts, 5:30pm

November 14

- Mary Poppins, Jr., Colonial Little Theatre, 1 Colonial Court, Johnstown – 7pm
- Big Eyed Phish: Dave Matthews Band Tribute, The Glove Theatre – 7pm

November 17
Blown Glass Ornaments, Paul Nigra Center for Creative Arts, 6pm

November 21
Craft Fair at the Gloversville Senior Services center, 53 Church St., Gloversville – 10am

November 25
Johnstown Thanksgiving Eve Sports Card Memorabilia & TCG Show, Johnstown Moose Club, 109 S. Comrie Avenue – 5pm

November 28
Holiday Tree Lighting, Sherman's Amusement Park, Caroga Lake, 2pm-5pm

THE CHAMBER WANTS TO HEAR HOW YOU GET YOUR NEWS

Communications Survey aims to shape a stronger, more useful way to connect with members

The Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce is asking its members a simple question: how do you want to hear from us?

The Chamber has launched a Communications Survey to learn how members receive news from the organization, and how they stay informed about local business and the wider world. The results will help the Chamber build a communications plan that reaches members in the ways that work best for them.

"Our goal is to make sure the information you need actually gets to you, in the format and on the platform you prefer," said Chamber Executive Director Jennifer Laubenstein. "The best way to do that is to ask."

What the survey covers

The survey asks members about their communication habits, including:

- How they currently get news and updates from the Chamber, such as email, social media, the website, print, or word of mouth
- Which sources they rely on for local business news and general news
- How often they'd like to hear from the Chamber
- What types of content are most valuable to them, from event announcements and networking opportunities to advocacy updates and member spotlights

The survey is designed to take only a few minutes to complete.

Why it matters

Communication habits have changed quickly. Members may follow business news through social media, local outlets, newsletters, or text alerts, and the Chamber wants to be where its members already are. Feedback from the survey will guide decisions about which channels to emphasize, how to format messages, and how to share the Chamber's work so the information is timely and useful.

Responses will be used to develop a plan for communicating with members going forward. The Chamber plans to share what it learns and how it intends to put the feedback to use.

How to participate

Members can take the survey at https://forms.gle/Kww1gYexrGKNZZcm8 by November 30. Every member's input counts, whether you're a long-standing business owner or new to the Chamber.

For questions about the survey, contact the Chamber at (518) 725-0641 or via email at fultonmontgomeryny@gmail.com. See page 14 for a QR code and more information about the survey.

INTRODUCING THE CHAMBER'S 2027 SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce its 2027 Sponsorship Opportunities, available now for the full year ahead.

By releasing the complete lineup early, we're making it easier for businesses to plan and budget with confidence. Whether you're looking to build brand awareness, strengthen your community reputation, connect with regional leaders, or support workforce development and scholarships, there's an option to fit your goals and your budget.

Nine signature events span the year, including:

- January: Legislative Breakfast
- February: Walleye Challenge
- March: Annual Awards
- April: Business Expo
- September: Chamber Golf Classic
- October: Career Con – BEP
- December: Holiday Mixer

Sponsorship levels range from $250 to $5,000, with benefits that can include logo placement, signage, social media and newsletter recognition, complimentary tickets, and speaking opportunities. For year-round visibility, the Chamber also offers digital options, including email advertising (reaching 3,000 inboxes each week) and website banner ads (about 11,000 visits per month).

Some of our most popular opportunities have limited availability, such as Presenting Sponsor spots, so early commitments secure the best placement. Your investment turns the Chamber's reach into real regional progress, with visibility across a 500+ member network.

Connect with the Chamber today to find the sponsorship that best fits your goals.

Access the Chamber's 2027 Sponsorship Opportunities brochure here: https://drive.google.com/file/d/12uPP5Wxvb50Lz4vqdstJ6JGvqIc7e_6k/view?usp=sharing

To participate in any of the great sponsorship opportunities, please contact Jessica Valachovic at membership@fultonmontgomeryny.org or Jennifer Laubenstein at executivedirector.jl@fultonmontgomeryny.org or call (518) 725-0641.



KEEP HOLIDAY DOLLARS CLOSE TO HOME: SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY AND CHAMBER CHECKS

The holiday season is nearly here, and with it comes the annual rush of gift lists, shopping carts, and decisions about where to spend our hard-earned money. This year, more than ever, those decisions matter. Every dollar spent at a locally-owned business does more than buy a present. It supports a neighbor, strengthens a main street, and helps ensure our communities remain vibrant places to live and work.

Why Small Business Saturday Matters

Small Business Saturday, held each year on the Saturday after Thanksgiving, was created to encourage holiday shoppers to bring their dollars to the independently-owned shops, restaurants, and service providers that give our towns their character. While big-box retailers and online giants compete for attention on Black Friday and Cyber Monday, this day shines a spotlight on the entrepreneurs who open their doors every morning and know their customers by name.

The impact is real. Small businesses create jobs, sponsor local sports teams, donate to fundraisers, and pay taxes that support our schools and services. Studies consistently show that money spent locally circulates through the community several times over, paying employees, stocking shelves from regional suppliers, and funding other local ventures. When we shop small, the benefits multiply.

Chamber and CRG Partner to Launch 2026 Small Business Saturday Campaign

The Chamber is once again partnering with the Fulton County Center for Regional Growth (CRG) to promote Small Business Saturday throughout Fulton and Montgomery Counties.

The 2026 campaign will officially launch during the Chamber's Business After Hours networking event at Mohawk Harvest Cooperative Market in Gloversville on Wednesday, November 4. The event will serve as the kickoff to a countywide effort encouraging residents to shop local and support the small businesses that help drive our local economy. Organizers will also unveil the first official Small Business Saturday promotional tote bag of the season and share information about holiday shopping initiatives planned throughout November.

The Chamber is also proud to announce that it has once again been selected as an American Express Neighborhood Champion, a designation awarded to organizations that help promote and celebrate Small Business Saturday in their communities. As a Neighborhood Champion, the Chamber receives access to promotional resources and tools designed to help drive awareness of local businesses and encourage residents to shop small during the holiday season.

The Chamber encourages businesses, residents, and visitors to join the movement by supporting local merchants on Small Business Saturday and throughout the holiday season.

Chamber Checks: A Gift That Stays in the Region

The Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce makes shopping local easier than ever with its Chamber Checks program. Chamber Checks are gift checks that can be redeemed at participating Chamber member businesses all over the region. Rather than handing out a gift card that benefits a distant corporation, givers can offer recipients the freedom to choose from a variety of local businesses, with every dollar staying right here at home.

Each Chamber Check is sold with a gift envelope that includes a current list of participating businesses, so recipients can see exactly where to spend it. With hundreds of Chamber Checks sold each year, the program is a proven way to drive traffic to local doors. They make an ideal gift for employees, family, friends, and customers alike.

Chamber Checks can be purchased at the Chamber office or at Ruby & Quiri, 307 N. Comrie Avenue in Johnstown.

Join the List

For local business owners, the program is also an opportunity. Want to drive more customers to your business this holiday season? Get on the Chamber Checks list. The cost is just $25, and participation continues through the holiday season and into 2027. To qualify, a business must be a Chamber member in good standing, and it must notify the Chamber no later than Friday, November 6.

To be added, contact Jennifer Hammons at (518) 725-0641 or email projects@fultonmontgomeryny.org.

Make This Season Count

Small businesses have worked hard to adapt to this challenging economy through rising costs and changing shopping habits. They are counting on the support of their communities, and this holiday season, that support matters more than ever. Whether you are shopping on Small Business Saturday or giving a Chamber Check to a valued employee, you are making a choice that reaches well beyond the gift itself.

This year, let's keep our shopping dollars local, and keep our communities thriving, during the holidays and all year long.

HEALTH INSURANCE OPEN ENROLLMENT NOW THROUGH DECEMBER 15

Open enrollment for health insurance coverage runs from November 1 through December 15, with renewals taking effect January 1. If you're a Chamber member looking to review your options, now is the time.

Your Chamber Insurance Contact

Eric Kane, Area Vice President at Gallagher Benefit Services (Arthur J. Gallagher & Co.), is the Chamber's go-to resource for all health insurance questions. With more than 17 years of experience as an insurance broker in the New York Capital District, Eric is endorsed by several associations across the state and brings innovative solutions we believe will serve our members well.

Gallagher is currently gathering updated plan and pricing information for Chamber members. Watch your email and upcoming issues of *Newsline* for details as they become available.

Insurance Solutions Made for Chamber Members

Gallagher has developed insurance options exclusively for the Chamber and its member businesses. Thanks to the company's national partnerships with all major carriers, members can choose from a broad range of coverage tailored to their needs, including:

- Health insurance (individual and group)
- Telehealth
- Vision insurance
- Dental insurance
- Critical care coverage
- Disability insurance
- Rx pharmacy discount programs
- Life insurance
- Additional supplemental health and wellness options

Get in Touch

Business owners seeking coverage for themselves or their employees will find solutions available year-round through Gallagher. To discuss your options, contact Eric Kane at 518-724-6741 or Eric_Kane@ajg.com.



Your Voice Matters

The Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce wants to ensure we are communicating with our members in the ways that are most useful, timely and effective.

We would appreciate your feedback about how you currently receive information from the Chamber, which communications you find most valuable, and how we can improve our communications in the future.

Take the Survey

Scan to begin

https://forms.gle/Kww1gYexrGKNZZcm8



Nicole Walrath VanAlstyne
Director of Workforce Development
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Alexis Beman
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BUILDING TOMORROW'S WORKFORCE:

Join Us for the 2nd Annual Workforce Summit

As the regional economy continues to evolve, the connection between our classrooms and local industries has never been more vital. Preparing students for life after graduation requires a collective effort, one that spans school districts, local employers, higher education, and community organizations.

To continue driving this important work forward, the Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce the 2nd Annual Workforce Summit, hosted in partnership with HFM BOCES Career & Technical Education.

- Date: Friday, December 4, 2026
- Time: 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM
- Location: HFM BOCES Conference Center (East Entrance), 2755 State Highway 67, Johnstown
- Admission: Free

What to Expect

This annual gathering brings together regional superintendents, business owners, economic development leaders, educators, and local officials to shape the future of our regional talent pipeline. Aligning our efforts with the New York State Portrait of a Graduate framework, this year's summit will feature targeted roundtable discussions aimed at turning shared vision into actionable regional strategies.

Here is a preview of the key focus areas leaders will be tackling during the summit:

- Defining "Thriving" in Our Region: Moving beyond standard employment metrics to explore what true graduate success looks like including financial stability, civic engagement, and long-term community retention across Hamilton, Fulton, and Montgomery counties.
- Durable Skills in an AI-Driven Workplace: Examining how artificial intelligence is transforming entry-level jobs and identifying the essential human competencies such as critical thinking, adaptability, and ethical decision-making that educators and employers must co-develop.
- Expanding Career Exposure and Work-Based Learning: Strategies to broaden equitable access to internships, workplace tours, and industry projects so every local student gains authentic career experience before graduation.
- Building a United Workforce Ecosystem: Establishing a coordinated, multi-organization model where education and industry share responsibility for talent development, credentials, and measurable workforce growth.

Reserve Your Seat

Whether you represent a small business, a large employer, a school district, or a community organization, your voice is critical to building a stronger economic future for our region.

Registration closes on November 23. Don't miss the opportunity to network with key partners and help guide the direction of our region's workforce. To register, visit our website at https://business.fultonmontgomeryny.org/events/details/annual-workforce-summit-at-hfm-boces-50201 or reach out to Nicole Walrath-VanAlstyne at nicolew@fultonmontgomeryny.org.



The HFM PTECH FBLA Third Annual Merry Market is taking place on Saturday, December 12, 2026, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM at PTECH (502 Glebe Street, Johnstown). Hosted in partnership with the Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber, this community craft fair is free and open to the public. Crafters and vendors can reserve a booth for $40 by registering at forms.gle/SmqpNRCoKHJ3Uomz6. For questions or additional details, contact Sandra Barkevich at sbarkevich@hfmboces.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 fultonmontgomeryny@gmail.com

Tuesday, November 3—11am
OPEN HOUSE AND RIBBON CUTTING AT CREMATION & FUNERAL SERVICES OF AMSTERDAM
4834 NY-30, Amsterdam
This new Chamber member invites its fellow members and their employees to this Open House and Ribbon-Cutting event. Come meet the business' staff, take a tour of the facility, find out about the services they offer, and more. Refreshments will be served. Join us!

Wednesday, November 4—4:30pm to 6:30pm
BUSINESS AFTER HOURS AT MOHAWK HARVEST COOPERATIVE MARKET
30 N. Main Street, Gloversville
Network, enjoy tasty treats, and see what the Co-op has to offer for the community! Stay for Open Mic Night at 6:30pm the same night!



Friday, November 6 – 4pm to 6pm; Ribbon Cutting at 4:30pm
RIBBON CUTTING AND OPEN HOUSE FOR THE NEW LOCATION OF CANDIDS BY EMILY ROSE
120 Harrison Street, Gloversville
Emily Munson of Candids by Emily Rose is pleased to announce her new location on Harrison Street in Gloversville. Attendees will be offered tours of new location, refreshments, networking and more.

Thursday, November 19 – 12:15pm - 1:15pm;
Ribbon Cutting at 12:30pm
RIBBON CUTTING AND GRAND OPENING AT POP ASIA
121 Sanford Farms Shopping Center, Amsterdam
Join us as we celebrate Pop Asia and welcome them to our community! Stop by to meet the team, learn more about their menu featuring noodles, rice bowls, wings and boba tea, and enjoy great refreshments!

Friday, December 4 – 9am to 11am
WORKFORCE SUMMIT
HFM BOCES Conference Center, East Entrance
2755 State Highway 67, Johnstown
The Chamber invites you to participate in this important event that will help shape a bright future for our region.Here is the chance to collaborate with industry, economic development, local government, and education professionals on the future of the workforce in the HFM BOCES region. Contact Nicole Walrath-VanAlstyne for more information at nicolew@fultonmontgomeryny.org.

