



# NEWSLINE

April 2024

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.

## SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS EXPO AND AWARDS PRESENTATIONS HIGHLIGHT CHAMBER MEMBER BUSINESSES



From top: HFM [Career & Technical Education](#) Culinary Arts Students and Chef Todd Harper take a bow as a Thank You for the wonderful hors d'oeuvres they prepared and served for the event. The crowd listens to the awards presentations. Below from left: Award winners Megan Ryder, [Megabites](#) Catering; Norm Bollen, [Fort Plain Museum & Historical Park](#); Joyce Royal, [Joyce Royal Real Estate](#) and the Dygert Family from [Dygert Farms Creamery](#). Photos: Osama Mustafa



Top: WELCOME! Chamber representatives join Johnstown and Fulton County elected officials and restaurant managers and staff at a ribbon-cutting event at the new [Popeye's](#) restaurant, located at 252 N. Comrie Avenue, Johnstown. At right: Governmental Affairs Committee Chair David Jankowski joined Chamber Executive Director Anne Boles at Small Business Lobby Day in Albany last month (story on page 13)





## Message from the Executive Director

Dear Chamber Members,

We hope you enjoy this month's edition of *Newsline*!

Not only is this newsletter sent to every Chamber member, but it is also distributed to community members. If you would like to receive our newsletter, please email [info@fultonmontgomeryny.com](mailto:info@fultonmontgomeryny.com).

To our members, THANK YOU for making an investment in your business, and in our region, with your Chamber membership. To our "future" members, we hope you can see the value that our Chamber offers to you, your business, and our communities.

In addition, we communicate our messages via our website, [www.fultonmontgomeryny.org](http://www.fultonmontgomeryny.org), our popular Facebook page, on Instagram, on our monthly radio show on WENT AM 1340, and at in-person events and meetings. And don't forget our tourism resources for Fulton and Montgomery Counties, where we show off all there is to do in our region at [www.44lakes.com](http://www.44lakes.com) and [www.visitmontgomerycountyny.com](http://www.visitmontgomerycountyny.com).

Even with all these different ways that we tell our story, *Newsline* continues to be a locally produced, local news communication resource for our members.

Please utilize this member benefit and use this avenue to promote to over 2000 email subscribers and over 4000 followers on social media! News about your business can be sent to [newsline@fultonmontgomeryny.org](mailto:newsline@fultonmontgomeryny.org).

I'm happy to report that the Young Professionals group has a revitalized energy, with an event coming up at The Bridge Walk on April 25. We also have long-standing events continuing such as Clean Up Day on April 20 and our Annual Job Fair with SUNY Fulton Montgomery and FMS Workforce Solutions on April 18. We are proud to have well-attended ribbon cuttings and events, with two taking place this month. Networking is something we pride ourselves on, and we are happy to bring these events to you to help promote your business and meet others.

It was an amazing evening at the Business Expo and awards event on March 21. We are so proud to partner with HFM BOCES and continue our amazing Business Education Partnership. Thank you so much to HFM BOCES, to Dr. Dave Ziskin, Christine Eaton and the maintenance and IT teams for all the help with planning and executing the event. I hope you enjoyed the comradery, networking and of course the food! The Students from the CTE Culinary Arts team prepared a wonderful spread and were so impressive. Thank you, Chef Todd Harper and team! Thank you sponsors, chamber staff, board members, ambassadors, and members for your support. Congratulations to all our partners to have also had successful events this past month, which you will read further about in this edition. We are so proud to be apart of your events and initiatives.

As always, thank you for your continued support!

### 2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair—Geoff Peck, *Nathan Littauer Hospital & Nursing Home*  
Vice Chair—Elizabeth Bridge, *Liberty ARC*  
Secretary—Carl Marucci, *Community Bank*  
Treasurer—David Jankowski, *Joley Re Holding Corp.*  
Immediate Past Chair—*Vacant*

Seth Brown, *Brown's Ford*  
Ashley Capobianco, *Townsend Leather Company, Inc.*  
Ashley Delaney, *The Wesson Group*  
Janine Dykeman, *Mental Health Association in Fulton & Montgomery Counties*  
Dan Fogarty, *SUNY Fulton-Montgomery Community College*  
Ryan Heck, *Alpin Haus*  
Colleen Ioele-DeCristofaro, *Howard Hanna Real Estate*  
Peter Lawrence, *The Family Counseling Center*  
Jeffrey Methven, *St. Mary's Healthcare, Amsterdam*  
Mike Schaus, *THNK Tank Media/WENT Radio*  
Janet Stanley, *Lee Shops at Wagner Square*  
David Ziskin, *HFM BOCES*

### CHAMBER STAFF

Anne Boles, *Executive Director*  
Mark Bolebruch, *Finance*  
Janet Davis, *Director of Membership & Member Services*  
Jennifer Hammons, *Special Projects Assistant*  
Natalie May, *Business & Education Partnership Coordinator*  
Terry Swierzowski, *Newsline Editor/Reporter*  
Nicole Tennant, *Executive Assistant*  
Nicole Walrath, *Director of Workforce Development*

### THE FULTON MONTGOMERY CHAMBER IS A MEMBER:

- ◆ [Business Council of New York State](#)
- ◆ [Center For Economic Growth—Capital Region](#)
- ◆ [Chamber Alliance of New York State](#)
- ◆ [Fulton County Center for Regional Growth](#)
- ◆ [Fulton County Farm Bureau](#)
- ◆ [Montgomery County Farm Bureau](#)
- ◆ [New York State Farm Bureau](#)

## Welcome New Members

March 2024

### FULTON STREET LIQUOR

86 E. Fulton Street, Gloversville

(518) 773-4040 | [fultonstreetliquor.com](http://fultonstreetliquor.com)

*Wine and liquor sales; specializing in hard-to-find bourbon and scotch.*

### RIVERSIDE PIZZERIA

10 E. Main Street, Amsterdam

(518) 842-0033 | [riversidepizzany.com](http://riversidepizzany.com)

*Established in 1992, we offer great pizza for pickup or delivery. Open six days a week.*

### NBT BANK—VAIL MILLS

3711 State Highway 30, Amsterdam

(518) 883-3418 | [nbtbank.com](http://nbtbank.com)

### NBT BANK—JOHNSTOWN

142 N. Comrie Avenue, Johnstown

(518) 762-1998 | [nbtbank.com](http://nbtbank.com)

### MY PAW PLACE DOG GROOMING & HOTEL

9 North Main Street, Broadalbin

(518) 332-4192 | [facebook.com/my paw place](https://facebook.com/my paw place)

*We pamper your pooch with the best care and service they deserve—a one-on-one special treatment! Our services include bath & brush with blueberry facial; tidy trim and full grooming for various breeds of dogs regardless of size. We also offer nail clipping, de-shedding, flea & tick treatment, teeth brushing, mud spa and spawdicure. We offer hotel suites for dogs or just a day of relaxation while you are at work.*

### LEE NEWSPAPERS, INC.

6113 State Highway 5, Palatine Bridge

(518) 673-3237 | [leepub.com](http://leepub.com)

*We offer a diverse mix of commercial and business-to-business publications and trade publications. We also produce industry trade shows and offer commercial printing and direct mail services.*

### 518 RENOVATIONS

117 Van Road, Gloversville

(518) 641-9400 | [www.518renovations.com](http://www.518renovations.com)

*Provides home renovation and remodeling services including kitchen and bath renovations, decks, flooring, additions, basement renovations, sunrooms, garage builds and more.*

## MEMBERSHIP MESSAGE

Janet Davis, Director of  
Membership &  
Member Services



### Chamber Members—Take Advantage of the Many Ways to Advertise Your Business and Services

As the leading source of business solutions in our area, the Chamber makes sure our members are well-equipped for all the facets of commerce. Numerous measures of exposure and marketing opportunities are available. Opportunities include ad space in *Newsline*, heightened exposure on the Chamber website, event sponsorships, community marketing, networking opportunities, free publicity opportunities and Destination One advertising slots at the Fulton County Visitors Center in Vail Mills.

*Newsline* is a great way to advertise. By advertising with these low-cost opportunities provided ONLY to members of our Chamber, your marketing message will be sent directly to over 1,000 regional businesses and their representatives, included on our website with each issue archived there.

Destination One is located on the outside of the Fulton County Visitor's Center in Vails Mills and is an important detail of this destination that sees over 10,000 people annually. Destination One has two display cases offering large, full-color ad spaces as well as specially-designated spots for your rack cards and brochures.

Sponsorship is another great way to advertise your business. Sponsoring Chamber events is the perfect opportunity to advertise your business to Chamber members and the community as these events are heavily publicized, promoted, and so well attended.

Website listings are for all members listed on the Chamber's website, [www.fultonmontgomeryny.org](http://www.fultonmontgomeryny.org). These listings have the benefit of a free hyperlink to their own site from the Chamber's, as well as a mini web page that can be updated and personalized to that business. The Chamber's website enjoys an average of 47,000 hits per month, with a higher number of visits during the summer months. The site is being accessed by people across the country, and across the globe. You can make sure your business comes up first with an enhanced listing when prospective customers are seeking businesses within your category OR you can have a more static ad throughout the site.

These are just some of the great ways to take advantage of advertising through the Chamber. Please give me a call at (518) 725-0641 or email me at [membership@fultonmontgomeryny.org](mailto:membership@fultonmontgomeryny.org) if you have any questions or to sign up to advertise your business through the Chamber!



# MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

## March 2024



**Thank you for your continued support!**

### 41 – 50 YEARS

Fulton-Montgomery Community College - 50  
NBT Bank - Gloversville Financial Ctr. - 50  
Salmon Law Firm, PLLC - 46  
Shrine of Our Lady of Martyrs – 41

### 31 – 40 YEARS

Fulton County Center for Regional Growth - 40  
Albanese & Albanese, Attorneys – 36

### 21 – 30 YEARS

Judith Ann Realty, Inc. - 29  
Lou's Electric of Amsterdam, Inc. - 29  
DWL Brand - 28  
Electro-Metrics, Inc. - 28  
Wal-Mart DC #5096 - 24  
Carpe Canem Inc. - 23  
AccuStaff – 21

### 11 – 20 YEARS

Sanders Motorsports, Inc. - 19  
School House Treasures - 19  
Schwartz Law Firm - 19  
Security Supply Corporation - 19  
Amsterdam Printing - 18  
Pavlus Orhards - 18  
Perfection Cleaning - 17  
Allan MacVean, CFP - 17  
Spinnaker Management & Realty Sales - 17  
Elizabeth Cady Stanton Hometown Assn. - 16  
R&A Waite, Inc. - 16  
River Ridge living Center, LLC - 16  
Adirondack Septic Tank, Inc. - 15  
Amsterdam Mohawks - 15  
Distinct Home Designs, Inc. - 15  
Hearing Doctor, The - 15  
Pickett Memorial Co. - 14  
SW The Spa - 14  
GIANT Solutions, LLC - 13  
L&M TV & Appliances, LLC - 13  
Lamont Engineers – 13

### 1 – 10 YEARS

Beacon Insurance Agency Group, Inc. - 10  
Insight Payroll Solutions, inc. - 10

Olson, Joanna of Howard Hanna Real Estate - 10  
Miller's Ready Mix Concrete and Block - 10  
Outdoor Motor Sports & Trailer Sales - 10  
Wesson Group, LLC, The - 10  
Benson's Pet Center - 9  
Mohawk Valley Collective, Inc. - 9  
Golden Sand Asian Spa - 5  
Hugh Johnson Advisors - 5  
NextEra Energy Resources, LLC - 5  
Southside Square, DomAdi's Deli, Southside Beverage - 5  
Boralex - 2  
Classic Auto Wash - 2  
Deli Master, LLC/Adirondack Country Market - 2  
AD Lakeview Orchard - 1  
Gateway Construction Solutions/Gateway Property Solutions/Gateway Realty Solutions - 1  
This is Bliss Massage Therapy - 1  
Veteran's Time To Thrive, Inc. - 1

**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!*

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CHAMBER'S 2024 AWARD WINNERS

### Winners Celebrated at Business Expo on March 21

Continued here are the profiles of the Chamber Award Winners. All were celebrated at the March 21 Business Expo at HFMBoces. Thank you to all who helped make that event such a success and CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF THESE GREAT PEOPLE AND BUSINESSES!

#### SMALL BUSINESS AWARD – Advanced Cleaning & Restoration

There is no doubt that this business is successful – they have over 2000 customers, and a great new location at 363 N. Perry Street in Johnstown where their unmistakable signage and logo appear on the front of the building are well represented. Bryon Flood and Elizabeth Mendetta are all in with their successful business and it really shows!

If you want to breathe life back into your home or enhance your business, the team at Advanced Cleaning and Restoration is available with the care and expertise to provide you with quality service with whatever you may need.

Their mission is simple: to create clean and healthy environments through their remarkable service experience. They are proud to serve a wide and diverse service area, dedicated to meeting the needs of their valuable customers. To date, they service over 2000 clients in the region and beyond and have a strong commitment to excellence.

They take immense pride in their work and stand behind it with their 100% satisfaction guarantee. These are just some of the reasons that Advanced Cleaning and Restoration is the 2023 Small Business of the Year.

To back up their dedication to delivering top-tier services, and commitment to staying updated and at the forefront of the industry, their team has a comprehensive range of certifications from the Institute of Inspection, Cleaning and Restoration. Their list of services in cleaning and restoration includes water damage clean up, mold remediation, pathogenic cleaning, carpet and area rug cleaning, hard surface cleaning, upholstery cleaning, commercial cleaning, duct cleaning, hoarding services, and housekeeping services for your home or office.

They constantly learn from their customers, but also value what they learn from coaches and mentors and it helps drive their business and finds them success.

The business really started when Bryon Flood, co-owner, moved to Florida at age 19 and started to work as a carpet cleaner. Over time, he learned the trade, and eventually launched his own carpet cleaning venture. It was a tough start, out of the trunk of his car, taking up odd jobs to supplement his income, but he made it work. Door to



door and telemarketing ramped up sales but Bryon was not able to keep up with it alone. He closed the Florida location and moved back to Fulton County. Running a business in NYS proved to be no easier. After 18 years, Bryon partnered with Elizabeth Mendetta and together they identified what needed to change if the business would succeed.

In February 2013, five major mind shifts took place. First, they realized they could not do it alone! They hired their first set of business coaches and attended a weeklong business training. This realization that they needed to follow, learn from, and surround themselves with people who were where they wanted to go has propelled them over the last decade. Currently they have a team of almost a dozen coaches that they meet with daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly, and annually and this has been a game changer for them.

Mind shift number two happened on the way to Georgia to attend the business training. They listened to *The E-Myth* by Michael Gerber, and quickly realized that they didn't own a business, they owned a job! They also recognized that as "the lid" of their business, many problems began with them. The business reflected who they were! This was exciting and great news for the partners because they knew that if they were part of the problem, they were also part of the solution. Change needed to happen. A life lesson for their business was that change is hard, but change is possible!

Mindshift number three happened during the training when they realized that at the time, they were doing it all wrong. They believed that it's okay to humble yourself and take a step backwards before you go forward. They returned from the business training in Georgia and started over. Not clear about any specifics, they knew it was time to learn and implement.

Over the last decade, the team got knocked down, got back up, dusted off, but most importantly learned the lessons, and course corrected. Every problem was considered an opportunity, and the outcome generated a need for a process: "the way we do things around here." Written procedures and processes were created for every position in the company so they could focus on creating a remarkable experience for their customers.

Mindshift number four came on the road trip home from Georgia, listening first to Zig Ziglar talk about goals and then to a CD they got from their training, Howard Partridge summarizing his "Seven Secrets of a Phenomenal L.I.F.E." They realized their business direction had to become clearer at the time they were "a wandering generality rather than being meaningful specific." Bryon and Elizabeth wrote their first set of business and personal goals that week. Today, the goal writing process is part of onboarding. They write goals, create action steps, and create accountability for individuals through monthly one-on-one meetings. A weekly huddle is centered around measuring progress towards their business goals, forecasting, and shifting when needed.

Mindshift number five came on that same ride. Zig Ziglar said, "You can have everything in life you want if

you help enough other people get what they want.” From that day forward their focus would always be to find out what people want, get it for them and deliver it best! This philosophy changed everything for their business.

Through a series of transformative mind shifts and dedicated efforts, their journey has been one of profound growth and realization. They related, “By embracing the wisdom of mentors and committing to continuous learning, we forged invaluable connections and insights that propelled us forward. Reevaluating our roles and acknowledging our own limitations allowed us to transcend the boundaries of self-imposed constraints. Each setback became a steppingstone, driving us to refine and innovate, laying the foundation for a culture of resilience and adaptability. As we embraced the power of purposeful goal setting and the mindset of service, our trajectory became guided by clarity and intention. Today, our success stands as a testament to the profound impact of embracing change, humility, and the unwavering commitment to enriching the lives of others.”

The business enjoyed a phenomenal year in 2023! They have been really working on growing a team of leaders. Their team is working with Dave Ramsey’s team to gain financial literacy, Ziglar legacy coaches to learn personal growth, and John Maxwell coaches to learn leadership along with their continued technical growth. As leaders, Bryon and Elizabeth are now working directly with Michael Gerber that they have found amazing and they have come full circle! The business recently had three team members become DISC (model of human behavior) certified. They said of this growth, “We are creating a team that we are hoping can help other local businesses as they grow and scale. We want to be more, do more and have more (Zig Ziglar) so we can ultimately GIVE more (Howard Partridge). The entire team is part of a coaching program that provides us access to the top business coaches in the world and a strong supportive community led by Howard Partridge.”

Bryon and Elizabeth and team have cherished their relationship with the Chamber. They report that this relationship “has offered us support and resources over the years, provided visibility and promoted us and constantly provides networking opportunities. The greatest part of being a chamber member is access to community involvement. We love our community and really hope that we continue to give back. One of our goals has always been to give back. We were blessed this year to be afforded the opportunity to do so.” In 2023, donations were made to various organizations including Mountain Valley Hospice, SPCA, St. Jude’s, Class of 2024 to sponsor a Senior, church organizations and wherever we could at a local level from donating a bed and bedding to a local child in need to paying for funeral expenses and everywhere in between. They also encourage give back from their team – they gave them a half-paid day to give back in 2023 and this year they will offer the same.

### **EXECUTIVE OF THE YEAR— RICK FRASIER, [Frasier Enterprises](#)**

The Executive of the Year Award is presented to a regional business executive who demonstrates a vision, commitment, and passion not only for the advancement of their business, but also for the community as a whole. Rick Frasier truly demonstrates this award in so many ways.

Rick Frasier is the President of Frasier Enterprises

Inc. Frasier oversees 16 corporations with 560 full-time/part-time Hearing Aid Dispensing offices and more than 1100 employees across the United States. Frasier Enterprises Inc. is currently the largest franchise owner within the Miracle-Ear Corporation.



Before all this success, Rick was born and raised as a dairy farmer in Fulton County. At the age of 26, he answered a blind ad in the paper for a Hearing Aid Dispenser. Within a year and a half, he became one of Miracle Ear’s top consultants in the country. Rick spent the next five years as the owner and operator of 40 Hearing Aid Dispensing offices throughout several states. Within the next five years, he went on to become the corporate national sales manager for Miracle-Ear. In his position as a national sales manager, he taught and hired over 400 Hearing Aid Dispensers. Rick went back into the private sector in 2002, maintaining stores in four different states, reaching sales of \$4 million dollars.

With over 40 years of experience, he currently maintains stores in 27 different states and has reached sales above and beyond \$250 million dollars annually. Rick has had the pleasure of sharing his knowledge at numerous conventions on the topics of Dispensing Hearing Aids from the Heart; How to Keep the Customer Happy for Life; and How to Run a Successful Dispensing Practice. At this time, he holds his Hearing Aid Dispensing license in New York and Massachusetts and is Board Certified by the National Board for Certification in Hearing Instrument Sciences, where he has been awarded the Hearing Review Professional Leadership award. He currently sits as the President of the Franchise Advisory Board of Miracle-Ear.

Another of Rick’s passions is giving back to the community – both in our region, and beyond. For the past 15 years, Rick and his team have held the Frasier Miracle Ear Foundation Golf Tournament that benefits the Miracle-Ear Foundation, providing underprivileged children and adults with hearing instruments. Rick and his business partners are also supporters of the Miracle-Ear Foundation, a Minneapolis-based non-profit organization. To date, the Miracle-Ear Foundation, working with Miracle-Ear centers across the country, has donated more than 13,000 hearing aids to nearly 7,500 individuals nationwide. In 2016, Frasier Enterprises was responsible for 14 percent of all foundation fittings helping 188 individuals in our community. In August 2023 they hit a milestone of raising \$1million to date from the golf tournament to help support people with hearing needs in the Fulton Montgomery region and across the country. This tournament is held locally each year and brings golfers to our region from all over the country.

Rick and Frasier Enterprises also support myriad organizations and events across the region with sponsorship and participation, including the Chamber, and we are so grateful to Rick and the Frasier Enterprises team for their support. Some of the other grateful organizations that

have received support from Rick and Frasier Enterprises include Johnstown Football, Fonda sports teams, Johnstown Little League, Regional Animal Shelters and SPCA. Regional foundations that he sponsors include the Parkhurst Foundation, Mountain Valley Hospice & Palliative Care, FMCC Foundation, and The Family Counseling Center. Nationally he donates to the American Cancer Society, St. Jude's, and Make a Wish. He is obviously very generous and thoughtful about the contributions that he makes.

Rick is married to Mary Fox-Frasier and is the proud father of four children, and ten grandchildren. His hobbies include hunting, golfing, and spending time with his family. As a lifelong resident of Johnstown and someone who has been able to travel the world, Rick has always found that there is nothing like coming home to his small town in Fulton County.

### **THE EDWARD L. WILKINSON INDUSTRY OF THE YEAR AWARD – RIVER RIDGE LIVING CENTER Rehabilitation and Nursing**

The Edward L. Wilkinson Industry of the Year Award is given to a Chamber member business or industry that has made a positive contribution to the economic growth and well-being of our region as well as extraordinary support and/or participation of Chamber programs. In memory of Edward L. Wilkinson, a prominent attorney and economic development leader, who was a strong believer in the potential of our region. River Ridge Living Center is a great example of a company, whose owners and staff believe in the potential of our region and the people and businesses in it. Michael Braunstein, owner of River Ridge Living Center, says of the award, "It is so special to be acknowledged for our 10 years of service to the City of Amsterdam and to the Fulton Montgomery region and we are really honored."

River Ridge Living Center located in the southside of Amsterdam on a magnificent 30-acre campus in a quiet, residential neighborhood, is a family-owned and operated facility with 120 beds that included nursing and rehab beds. They specialize in subacute care, long-term care, orthopedic rehab, cardiac rehab, pulmonary care, wound care, and short stay/respite care. Their comprehensive services include orthopedic, cardiac, pulmonary, physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy. They also offer outpatient coverage for dialysis patients, feeding tubes, wound care, wound vacs, and IV antibiotics administered by a dedicated wound nurse.

The staff at River Ridge Living Center is professional and compassionate – they are a dedicated team of healthcare professionals trained to offer the highest quality of care and deliver it with genuine compassion. Their patients are in the hands of experienced caregivers who truly prioritize their well-being.

Formerly Montgomery Meadows, Susanne and Paul Guttenberg purchased the facility from Montgomery County in 2007. They owned it until Michael Braunstein and his partners "were lucky enough to have the opportunity to purchase River Ridge" on March 1, 2014. And since that day, River Ridge has been a big part of the Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce, as well as the community.

## **RR** RIVER RIDGE LIVING CENTER *Rehabilitation & Nursing*

The group undertook multi-million-dollar renovations that were completed in 2023 – they have really taken the facility to the next level, investing in creating modern, inviting spaces that reflect their commitment to their patients and staff, from upgraded common areas to cozy patient rooms, every corner is designed to enhance comfort and sense of home.

The group started to plan the renovations to this premier nursing home and rehabilitation center before the COVID-19 pandemic. They undertook these renovations because they felt some of the spaces were dated and wanted to upgrade, to keep it a state-of-the-art facility for its residents and for their staff. They feel that the quality of the facility reflects the quality of patient care. The group continues to invest in its residents and staff, its community, and Montgomery County.

Almost the entire facility was touched by these upgrades – every resident's room is brand new from beds, televisions, furniture and lighting to nurses' stations, the lobby, bathrooms and more.

Giving back to the community has always been a signature of River Ridge, its owners and its staff which started 10 years ago. It is a big sponsor of Chamber programs, the Amsterdam Mohawks (note the River Ridge dugout deck at Shuttleworth Park), Little League baseball, soccer, and basketball teams, Amsterdam's Italian Fest, attended West Fest, were at the Trunk or Treat event at The Sentinel, participated in The Recorder's Newspapers in Education and more – anything going on in the community. They also hold a special carnival for River Ridge's residents and their families to which they also invite community members. Over the years many elected officials and dignitaries have attended and were able to socialize with patients and those near and dear to them. Michael Braunstein lives by this motto, by Winston Churchill "We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give." Braunstein says, "We love the region, the City of Amsterdam community, and the Chamber. Whatever we can do to give and support, we do it. It's an important part of who River Ridge is."

In addition, the number one goal of River Ridge continues to be patient care – they strive for all residents to be happy, safe, comfortable in a beautiful setting, so that they and their families know they will be taken care of.

Of the Chamber, Braunstein says, "The Chamber is an important part of the community helping to connect businesses to one another, and to support one another. It's an integral part of the community. I believe it's vital that we support one another and support the Chamber by being a member."



*Credit: Osama Mustafa*

## AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR—**DYGERT FARMS CREAMERY**

Dygart Farms is a 13<sup>th</sup>-generation dairy farm located in the beautiful Mohawk Valley in Palatine Bridge. The farmhouse sits on the original 50 acres that was deeded to the Dygart family back in 1723 from the



Queen of England. Their farm is one of the very few operational Tri-centennial farms left, and they celebrated this ground-breaking Tri-centennial anniversary last year!

In 2009, Robby and Shannon Dygart moved back to the family farm and began their journey by milking 50 cows in the tie stall barn on the property. Over the years they have added four children to the family (Dylan, Olivia, Tucker and Cassidy) while also expanding the dairy farm.

Their cows are milked twice a day at the dairy in a double-8 parallel parlor. They also raise and grow 90% of feed for their animals. They have been named a Dairy of Distinction in New York and have received several Super Milk Awards for the quality of their Milk – including best Chocolate Milk last year!

In 2015, Robby and Shannon decided to start diversifying the farm and delivering fresh, local, glass-bottled milk from a nearby dairy to businesses and homes in the area with the goal to bottle their own in the future. In 2019 they started building their own processing plant on the farm and in April 2021 began processing their own milk. Visitors are welcome to visit the farm, see the cows and where this great-tasting milk comes from.

Dygart Farms milk is truly some of the richest, freshest tasting milk you can buy! Their milk is from one dairy farm, is 100% antibiotic-free and the cows are not treated with artificial bovine growth hormones. They offer Whole, Reduced Fat, Skim, Half & Half, Heavy Cream, Chocolate.

They take pride in the fact that their milk is offered in glass bottles which keeps the milk colder and helps retain its fresh taste. Glass is also more environmentally-friendly than paper cartons or plastic jugs. Their bottles can be washed and reused as many times as they are returned. This “greener packaging” results in less waste in local landfills.

Their delivery area includes Fonda, Amsterdam, Johnstown, Gloversville, Little Falls, St. Johnsville,

Caroga Lake and the surrounding areas.

2023 was a year unlike any other as Dygart Farms celebrated turning 300 years! There are very few farms in the country that have accomplished this milestone and they are beyond proud! In 2023, they hosted Montgomery County Sundae on the Farm, also using the event as their 300-year celebration, and enjoyed over 3,000 people that visited the farm that day. In 2023 both their creamery and customer base grew. The customer base has grown about 30% and at the creamery they doubled the walk-in cooler space to allow for more product, built a walk-in freezer and also built a new farm store which they love!

Last year they also won the #1 chocolate milk award for NYS, a well-deserved accomplishment for the Dygerts! This award is based on Cornell University's Voluntary Shelf Life program which collects samples twice a year from all the processing plants including the likes of Hood, Byrne Dairy, Stewarts, etc. The award was presented at the New York state fair. Last year they also won the Leopold Award which is a National Conservation Award, and were named Farmer of the Year for Country Folks.

As well you can imagine, the Dygerts are extremely busy with their farm and family. Their children are actively involved in 4-H where they have project animals. Shannon is a member of the Farm Service Agency for Montgomery County. They provide many donations to community organizations throughout the year in milk and sponsorships. They also host a variety of school groups, Future Farmers of America groups, 4-H and other people and organizations where they give tours of the dairy and show what they do on the farm, and help connect people to where their food comes from.

The Dygerts are also part of a Dairy Discussion group with fellow farms around NYS – the group gets together a couple of times a year to compare business numbers, etc. to learn from each other and see where individual farms can make improvements. Robby and Shannon are also members of the Farm Bureau and work closely with Montgomery County Soil and Water to be stewards to their land and implement best practices. In addition, they work with several local farms and partner/purchase their products to sell to over 100 stores, to their home delivery customers and in their farmstand.

Robby and Shannon Dygart are honored to receive this award and are grateful to the Chamber for helping them advertise/promote their events that they host like the Halloween tractor-treat, Sundae on the Farm and many other events. Through diversifying and bottling their own milk their goal is to produce a high-quality product that everyone loves – and we think they have certainly accomplished that! They love hosting people at their farmstand to see where their milk comes from, see the cows and the hard work and dedication that goes into producing that product. They are also thankful to their wonderful team of employees and family that help make all of this possible! Robby and Shannon say that farming nowadays is not easy but it's a way of life and they are proud to raise their kids in the family tradition.



**CENTENNIAL AWARD –  
Catholic Charities of Fulton and  
Montgomery Counties**



Catholic Charities serves and empowers persons in need, advocates for a just society, calls forth and collaborates with women and men

*Credit: Osama Mustafa*

of good will in fulfillment of its mission. The organization recognizes human need at all stages of life, responds to all people regardless of race, creed or lifestyle, with special emphasis on the economically poor and the vulnerable.

Catholic Charities of Fulton Montgomery Counties welcomes all people and works to engender respect within the organization(s) and individuals they serve. This is done through being cognizant of health equity needs and the distribution of resources and opportunities across communities it serves in a manner that results in equitable access to opportunities regardless of social, physical, or structural inequalities. CCFMC also recognizes that diversity, equity and inclusion can only be accomplished through an ongoing, intentional and dedicated effort at all levels of the organization.

Catholic Charities has been serving our region for over 100 years. Catholic Charities Fulton Montgomery Counties is dedicated to serving people in our communities with special emphasis on children, those struggling with mental illness and/or substance abuse, those who are economically disadvantaged, food insecure, abuse victims and homeless. They have continued to expand their services to meet the growing needs of our communities. The organization is a part of Catholic Charities, the Diocese of Albany, and is one of the largest, private, social service agencies in the region, helping an estimated 100,000 people each year in the fourteen counties of the Albany Diocese.

Catholic Charities of Fulton Montgomery Counties has 60 staff members located at different locations throughout the two counties. Their services include Domestic Violence/Crime Victims Services, Community Residences – operates two 24-hour rehabilitative community residences; Reality Check which is a youth-led program that exposes the tobacco industry’s manipulative and deceptive marketing practices and prevents the youth of NYS from becoming future tobacco users; Substance Abuse Prevention to youth grades K-12 throughout the two county area; Advancing Tobacco-Free Communities promoting tobacco-free environments anywhere Hamilton, Fulton or Montgomery Counties residents live, work and play; Reality Check - Emergency Assistance that helps with medical, eviction or utility costs; a Food Pantry serving residents of Montgomery County.

During the height of the COVID pandemic, Catholic Charities of Fulton Montgomery Counties’ Food Pantry began contactless, free food distribution to anyone who may have needed it. The stories of people struggling and losing their jobs, struggling financially and emotionally, and the fear people had during this time was beyond

heartbreaking. CCFMC was able to provide free food (2) times a month through the help of the Food Bank, to over 300-500 people each time there was a give-away day. Mass Food giveaways still occur to this date, one time per month to anyone who needs food, and it continues to be free and contactless through the help of community volunteers.

In 2023, the organization celebrated a big milestone.



They were approached by the then acting commissioner of the Department of Social Services, Tom

Lippey, who asked them to create a warming center for the homeless and vulnerable. They were granted money from the state for the project. They took the fourth floor of their building, which was being used for storage, renovated and rehabbed it and is now a successful overnight warming center for 10 individuals per night. It is open from November 15 through April 15, 7 days a week from 5pm to 7:30 am. People are served there on a first-come, first served basis with five beds designated for the homeless through DSS. Every morning, these individuals are provided with a bus pass to go to other places to receive what they need, or they go to DSS. In the center, not only are they kept warm and out of the weather, but they are also welcome to wash their clothes, which is so important for their well-being.

Mary Carpenter, Executive Director of Catholic Charities Fulton Montgomery Counties said that this award is meaningful for them in so many ways. “This means that we are well-versed in what we do and have been around for so many years it shows that there is a need that we are meeting and the good work that we are doing. It also means that, luckily, we have a good reputation, and that we go above and beyond with whatever programs we are providing. This also means so much to our staff, knowing that they are really helping our community and that their good work does not go unnoticed. It is so important that they be recognized. They all care beyond belief.”

She also commented on the importance of the organization’s relationship with the Chamber. “Being a member of the Chamber gives us awareness of what’s going on in the community, whether it’s finding through them about events that we can table at to get out the word about our programs and other outreach opportunities, or to find where there may be a need that we are not reaching, that relationship is so important. All the information the Chamber gives us through their communications is useful and having these communication vehicles to help get our message across to businesses is also helpful.”

**BARBARA V. SPRAKER TOURISM PARTNER AWARD-Ft. Plain Museum and Historical Park**

The Fort Plain Museum and Historical Park is this year’s Barbara V. Spraker Tourism Partner Award for so many reasons. This award is given to a Chamber member who has excelled in the past year at bringing visitors to our region while promoting the positive aspects of our community. The award honors Barbara V. Spraker for her efforts in support of area tourism including spearheading initiatives such as the Canajoharie Information Booth, the bicycle path, and having served as commissioner for the Mohawk Valley Heritage Corridor Commission.



The Fort Plain Museum began operation in 1961 as the Fort Plain Restoration

with an emphasis on rebuilding Revolutionary War Fort Plain. The Museum is located in the Village of Fort Plain and Town of Minden. The village of Fort Plain was originally named after the fort, an important military outpost in the Revolutionary War.

At that time the museum began archaeological field work on the Fort Plain hilltop, unearthing 18<sup>th</sup>-century period artifacts relating to the fort's history. On April 26, 1963 the museum received a "Provisional Charter" from the State of New York and a designation as a 501C3 not-for-profit educational institution. Archaeology continued in 1964 as additional sites relating to colonial Fort Plain/Fort Rensselaer were unearthed. In 1968 the organization received an "Absolute Charter" from the State University of New York making the institution a permanent member of the museum community. Archaeological investigation and research continued in 1975 excavating the site of the original fort's stockade. The exploration uncovered barracks buildings, a dining hall, officer's quarters, a small blockhouse and sentry posts.

During the 1980s and 90s, the museum developed exhibits on the different eras of history of the village of Fort Plain. Currently the museum's exhibits span the 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries covering such topics as the Mohawk and Oneida Indians, German Palatines of the Mohawk, Victorian Era in the valley and the Erie Canal. The museum's Board of Directors decided the museum should refocus its efforts on the original colonial Fort Plain/Fort Rensselaer story. Research is again underway focusing on the fort's role in American history as the defender of the Mohawk Valley.

The museum property encompasses a park of approximately 75 acres and site and features include the Site of Revolutionary War Fort Plain/ Fort Rensselaer; the Stone farmhouse of David Lipe built in 1848; the excavated site of a 3-story square blockhouse; ¾ mile of original Otsquago Trail Road; the foundation of Revolutionary War-era bridge; site central cook house on fort hill; the site of blacksmith shop which served the fort; the reconstructed farm house of Johannes Lipe ca. 1780; and mill dam ca. 1860. In 2009 the museum debuted new indoor and outdoor exhibits on Fort Plain's role in the Revolutionary War and the defense of the Mohawk Valley.

In a nomination for the award, it states, "The Fort Plain Museum continues to develop and promote heritage tourism across our region. The museum's successful Conference on the American Revolution has resumed after the COVID-19 pandemic once again drawing visitors to our area from across the nation. During the Covid shutdown the museum launched an online bookstore featuring 18<sup>th</sup>-century colonial history and it has quickly become the largest specialty bookstore of its kind. In 2023 the museum added an additional Conference on the French & Indian Wars again drawing visitors from a dozen or more states. Also in 2023 the Museum held an Independence Day celebration dubbed "4<sup>th</sup> at the Fort" drawing hundreds of local visitors to the museum's historic grounds where they enjoyed a variety of food vendors, artisans and family oriented games and music.

Heritage tourism is such an important economic driv-

er for our region – it is a \$5 billion industry and the Fort Plain Museum and Park is such an integral part of not only the important history of our region, but also as an economic driver in the heritage tourism arena. In addition, the museum's planned expansion will propel this nationally significant historic site to the forefront of the history community and bring much needed tourist dollars into our communities.

The expansion plan was developed by Saratoga Associates and plans are to implement it in two phases – which will add 10K square feet to the museum to develop exhibits which will enhance their offerings and position it as a museum of Mohawk Valley and Upstate New York history beyond the boundaries of Fort Plain and Montgomery County. There is a planned section on Native American History and the Iroquois tribes, as well as the revolutionary war in upstate New York and the colonial period development here, among others that will be developed with this important expansion.

The museum has already seen what its current exhibits can draw. For the first time, the museum was open this winter. In January alone there were visitors from Germany, Australia and France as well as from other U.S. states. The volunteers who run the museum and park are amazed at the visitors they have seen at the facility even at this time of year. And these visitor numbers will do nothing but grow as we near the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our country in 2026. More and more attention will be centered on heritage tourism that will attract more people to tour areas and to understand the history of our region and of our nation. There are many high-tech "entertainment" pieces that are planned to be added to the collections to attract a younger audience. Already there is a section on the hundreds of paintings of Rufus Grinder from the New York State Museum that can be scrolled through and viewed. All of this work is being driven by a few volunteers led by Norm Bollen. The expansion will also allow the group to hire, beyond the volunteers, professional museum staff to develop exhibits and work at the museum and park.

An aggressive schedule for 2024 for the Museum and Park has already been announced with a kickoff from May 4 through May 6 with Willets Levies reenactors camping on the site. Then the Revolutionary War Conference 250 from June 14-16 conference. Planning has already begun for events on August 2 which is tye anniversary of the Fort and Raids and battles around Ft. Plain. There will also be an important archaeology dig that will commence May 1 that will reveal some important artifacts. And there are plans for a Fall Art Show. All this work has been done and is being done with volunteers.

Norm Bollen who heads the Ft. Plain Museum Board of Trustees is so thankful for the volunteers who have worked so hard to make this museum and park what it is today – "bootstrapping from almost nothing" to make it the showplace that it is. But, as he puts it, "there is a proven strong audience and story there." His love of the history of this region began when he was a 10-year-old dressed up in a pioneer outfit visiting the museum. He has had family ties with local history since he was young. This knowledge of local history and his experience running and building businesses has gone a long way in making the Fort Plain Museum everything that it is today, and hopes to be for tomorrow. "When I feel like it's too much of a job, I know it's time to get out," he says. We are thankful that he doesn't yet see this as a job...it is still a love of his that he has fostered for so many years and continues to love into the future.

## CHAMBER FAMILY AWARD

### Gabriel Contractors of Amsterdam



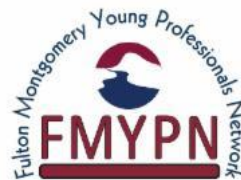
Gabriel Contractors of Amsterdam, Inc. is a third-generation, family-owned business that has been serving Montgomery, Fulton and Saratoga Counties with exceptional paving services since 1957. Their commitment to excellent customer service, meticulous attention to detail, and personalized service sets them apart in the industry. Their team is dedicated to providing the highest standard of workmanship in all of their projects.

Gabriel Contractors offers a comprehensive range of services including asphalt paving, concrete services, excavation and demolition. They understand that each project is unique, and they tailor their services to meet their customers' specific needs.

They are experts with residential and commercial asphalt paving solutions, including parking lots, private drives, and small roads. They do repair and patchwork, asphalt resurfacing, utility cuts and access, full dig-outs, driveway extensions and conversions (such as from stone to asphalt), and installation of driveways, parking lots and farm lanes. They can also meet all your concrete needs, from loading docks and patios to sidewalks and garages, they are your concrete experts. They also offer comprehensive excavation services such as land and lot clearing, land leveling, construction prep and catch basin and sewer work. And finally, when you choose their demolition services, they are comprehensive – residential and commercial demolition, expert removal of load-bearing components, structural alterations done with care and professionalism, comprehensive site preparation and efficient land clearing and excavation services.

Kristy Vertucci is currently the Vice President and Co-owner of the business. She takes care of the business side and also works on-site as a laborer. She has an Associate Degree in Business from FMCC, a Bachelor's Degree from SUNY Albany, and an MBA with a concentration in management from Empire State College. She is the first female to be part of Gabriel Contractors. Her father, Terry, is the owner/president of Gabriel Contractors.

*Photo Credit: Osama Mustafa*



## PLEASE JOIN US!

**THURSDAY, APRIL 25 | 4:30pm—7:00pm**  
**@THE BRIDGE WALK | 135 Perthshire Drive, Amsterdam**

A group for professionals 40 and under  
 A FREE event for Chamber members to network and meet with like-minded professionals in the region!

**FREE HEAD SHOTS WILL BE AVAILABLE IN ADDITION TO OTHER BUSINESS RESOURCES TO HELP YOU SUCCEED!**



Lite Fare sponsored by Megabites Catering—Cash Bar available

Event sponsor



Scan for more information or to RSVP

## **Business Resources You Can Use:**

## **NYS DEPARTMENT OF LABOR- HIRING TAX CREDITS FOR NYS EMPLOYERS**

### **YOU CAN LOWER YOUR LABOR COSTS WITH THE NYS DEPT OF LABOR**

Employers that do business in New York State can trim their labor costs through several workforce and economic development program through the [New York State Department of Labor](#). . Employment-based tax credits may save your business money by cutting federal or state tax liability.

### **WORK OPPORTUNITY TAX CREDIT**

The Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) offers employers up to \$2,400 in federal tax savings for hiring individuals with barriers to employment. Qualified individuals must complete at least 120 hours of work to qualify for the partial WOTC credit of \$1,500, and over 400 hours for the full \$2,400 credit. To qualify businesses for the credit, individuals must be verified as members of a targeted group. The groups include:

- People who receive Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Veterans who:
- Receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits
- Have a service-related disability
- Have been unemployed for at least four weeks in the previous calendar year
- Ex-felons
- People (age 18-39) who live in a federal empowerment zone or rural county
- Disabled persons receiving rehabilitation services
- Youth (age 16-17) who live in a federal empowerment zone (summer employment only)
- People (age 18-39) who receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits
- People who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- People who receive Long-Term Family Assistance
- Long Term Unemployment Recipients (LTUR)

### **WORKERS EMPLOYMENT TAX CREDIT (WETC)**

Businesses that employ people with disabilities who currently receive vocational rehabilitation services (or people who received them up to two years prior to hire) may earn \$2,100 more in state tax credits. You get the credit during the second year of employment and can combine it with the WOTC credit.

### **NEW YORK YOUTH JOBS PROGRAM**

The New York Youth Jobs Program helps young people entering the world of work have a successful start. The program encourages the hire of unemployed, disadvantaged youth. Businesses may earn tax credits of up to \$7,500 per youth for full-time employment, and up to \$3,750 per youth for part-time employment. To qualify, both businesses and youth must be certified by the New York State Department of Labor. Businesses may be eligible for certification if they are in good legal standing, and have a physical location in New York State. Youth may be eligible who are unemployed, between ages 16-24, live New York State and meet one of the designated risk factors.

### **HIRE-A-VET CREDIT**

The Hire-a-Vet Credit encourages the hire of qualified veterans. Businesses must employ a qualified veteran for no less than 35 hours per week for one full year. A qualified veteran is someone who served on active duty in the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Reserves, National Guard, New York Guard or New York Naval Militia, and was released from active duty by general or honorable discharge after September 11, 2001. Qualified veterans must attest that they were not employed for 35 or more hours in the previous 180 days. Businesses may earn up to \$15,000 for hiring a qualified veteran and up to \$20,000 for hiring a veteran who is disabled.

### **WORK FOR SUCCESS**

The Work for Success Program helps businesses earn up to \$2,400 in federal tax credits (WOTC) for each formerly incarcerated person they hire. This helps to reduce recidivism, promote economic development and improve public safety throughout New York State. Work for Success sends businesses only the most qualified and appropriately trained applicants for open jobs.

### **HOW TO APPLY FOR CREDITS**

Call the New York State Labor Department at 888-469-7365 or go to their website at [www.labor.ny.gov](http://www.labor.ny.gov).

**APPLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE FOR CHAMBER'S SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

Deadline: Friday, April 26, 2024

The Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce, together with its over 600 members and thousands of employees, is dedicated to our region's economic vitality and quality of life. The Chamber is committed to a sound economy and environment for those businesses and industries we represent and encourage our young people to pursue careers that will enhance the business, industrial, and technological resources of the area.

The Scholarship Program was established in 1986 to provide financial assistance and incentives for students interested in pursuing a course of college study. Since its inception 34 years ago, the Chamber's scholarship program has provided over \$130,000 in scholarships to deserving regional school students. This year's program will consist of five, one-time, \$1,000 awards.

Eligible applicants must be a high school senior graduating from a Fulton or Montgomery County high school in June 2024 or have previously graduated from a Fulton or Montgomery County high school. Applicants must be entering or attending a two- or four-year accredited college or university as of September 2024.

Academic winners will be chosen by the Chamber's Scholarship Committee, whose members will review applicants' qualifications in academic achievement, community involvement, school activities, and economic need.

Scholarship applications can be found [HERE](#) or by contacting your high school guidance office. The application and all accompanying materials must be received by the Chamber by 4:30 PM on Friday, April 26, 2024, by mail at 2 N. Main Street, Gloversville, NY, 12078, by email at [info@fultonmontgomeryny.org](mailto:info@fultonmontgomeryny.org) or fax (518) 725-0643. Questions can be directed to Nicole Tennant at (518) 725-0641 or [info@fultonmontgomeryny.org](mailto:info@fultonmontgomeryny.org).

**YOUR CHAMBER REPRESENTED YOU AT SMALL BUSINESS LOBBY DAY**

On March 19, Chamber Executive Director Anne Boles and Governmental Affairs Committee Chair David Janowski traveled to Albany to meet with our region's elected officials at Small Business Lobby Day with the NFIB (National Federation of Independent Business)

In the morning, they split into small groups by region to meet with legislators.

They met in-person with:

Assemblyman Santabarbara's Constituent liaison intern

Senator Walczyk's Constituent liaison James Corl

And met on Legislative FaceTime with:

Assemblywoman Pat Fahy

Assemblywoman Carrie Woerner

Assemblyman John McDonald

Senator Neil Breslin

Some of the items discussed with the legislators included:

- Retail Theft
- Sunsetting COVID Sick Leave
- Frequency of Pay Lawsuits
- Unemployment Insurance

Business owners were also present to talk about how these issues affect their day-to-day operations and the future of their businesses. Our group had small business owners from the Capital Region (The Asphalt Doctor from Troy, and Sarah Trop, Owner and interior designer at FunCycled) and also representatives from the Capital Region Chamber.

Legislators were engaged in conversations and supportive of NFIB's initiatives.

Dave and Anne were able to discuss how these issues affect Fulton Montgomery Region and our businesses and segue into issues we discussed at the Chamber's recent legislative breakfast, such as economic development, energy costs, and other regional business topics.

**LET'S TWIST AGAIN DINER - Ribbon Cutting & Celebration**

Tuesday, April 9, 2024 | 10:00 AM

1778 County Highway 107, Amsterdam

The Chamber is pleased to announce on April 9 a Ribbon Cutting for Let's Twist Again Diner, at 10 AM.

Please join us and help them celebrate their five-year anniversary!

They are located at 1778 County Highway 107, Amsterdam. We look forward to seeing everyone!

Please RSVP by emailing [membership@fultonmontgomeryny.org](mailto:membership@fultonmontgomeryny.org) or calling (518) 725-0641.



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**GREATER JOHNSTOWN LIONS CLUB TO HOST 8TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT ON MAY 18**

Mark your calendars for the [Greater Johnstown Lions Club 8th Annual Golf Tournament](#), scheduled for Saturday, May 18 at [Fox Run Golf Club](#) in Johnstown. Registration begins at 8:30am with shotgun start at 9:30am and tournament will be run in a scramble format.



Cost is \$125 per golfer (by 5/3/24) or \$145 day of tournament and includes 18 holes of golf, cart, lunch, dinner, prizes...and lots of great camaraderie and fun! There will also be great raffle prizes, 50/50 and chipping contest. Proceeds from the tournament benefit local food pantries and the Johnstown and Gloversville school district backpack programs!

Access the event flyer [here](#) to use for registration or for information about sponsorship opportunities. Questions? Contact Colleen Ioele-DeCristofaro at (518) 281-4467, John Huebeler at (518) 762-4710 or email [gjlions2ow@gmail.com](mailto:gjlions2ow@gmail.com).

**FULTON COUNTY YMCA OFFERS NEW CLASSES FOR APRIL**

The Fulton County YMCA is offering new classes for April—sign up today! Aqua Barre with Heather is scheduled for Thursday's from 10:30am to 11am. Focusing on core strength, stretching and balance in the pool. Utilizing the side of the pool like a ballet barre, this class incorporates isometric movements, Pilates, yoga, cardio and resistance training while still being low impact on bones and joints. Slow Flow Yoga with Tricia is now on Wednesdays from 10:30-11:30am and Thursdays from 11:30am-12:30pm. Slow Yoga is at a slow pace, with thorough instruction, flowing continuously from pose to pose, building strength and mobility throughout the entire body. Suitable for all levels. The class also begins and ends with relaxation and peaceful rest in savasana. For more information or for a class calendar, please visit <https://www.fultoncountyyymca.org/>



**CITY OF GLOVERSVILLE REC COMMISSION SCHEDULES SOUTHERN ADIRONDACK WINE & FOOD FESTIVAL**

Saturday, June 1 is the date for this year's Southern Adirondack Wine & Food Festival in downtown Gloversville. From 3pm-8pm there will be wine, beer, cider and spirits tastings, food vendors, art vendors and live music on North Main Street. Tasting entry is \$15 and the first 400 registrants will receive a free gift; non-tasting entry is free. For more information or event updates visit the Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/southernadirondackwineandfoodfestival>



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**TOTAL TECH SOLUTIONS HOLDS GOLF TOURNEY TO BENEFIT THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY**

Saturday, July 20 is the date for the Total Tech Solutions Golf Tournament benefiting the American Cancer Society. The tournament features a 9am shotgun start, with a foursome scramble format. Greens fees, cart, breakfast, lunch and prizes are included in the \$125 per player fee; \$115 per player if you register before June 1. Register yourself or your foursome at [totaltechsolutions.org/tournament](https://totaltechsolutions.org/tournament) or email [mallo-ry@totaltechsolutions.org](mailto:mallo-ry@totaltechsolutions.org). Don't play golf but want to support the cause? You can donate a raffle basket or volunteer at the event. Email for more information.



**ATTENTION BUSINESSES IN THE CITY OF GLOVERSVILLE**

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

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY SPCA SCHEDULES 'PASTELS FOR PETS' SPRING GALA**

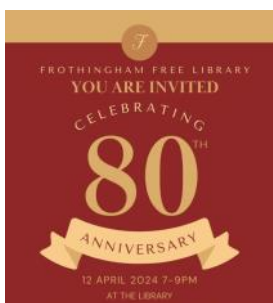
[The Bridge Walk](#) in Perth is hosting the [Montgomery County SPCA's Spring Gala](#) on Saturday, April 20 from 6pm-9pm. Dress to impress in your favorite spring pastel attire, enjoy music by Scott Simpson Acoustic and Eclectic Songs DJ Service, booksigning by Terry Bushey, author of



Peori's Journey in Search of a Home, beautiful grazing table with pre-dinner appetizers, dinner buffet and cash bar with proceeds to benefit the MCSPCA and animals in need. Steve Caporizzo is the special guest for the evening. Tickets are \$100 per person. Contact the MCSPCA for details at 518-842-8050 or email [info@mc-sPCA.org](mailto:info@mc-sPCA.org)

**FULTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY SCHEDULES COMMUNITY BBQ & ICE CREAM SOCIAL FUNDRAISER**

Friday, May 17, 5-7pm at the Fulton County Museum, 237 Kingsboro Avenue in Gloversville is the site for a BBQ and Ice Cream Social Fundraiser for the group. \$18 for a chicken dinner and make-your-own sundae, \$15 for chicken dinner ONLY and \$5 to make-your-own-sundae ONLY. Chicken dinner by Sturgess Family Catering and includes chicken, potato and roll. Beer will be available from Stump City Brewing for purchase; live music by Seaman and Marty and museum tours and exhibits are available during the event. Proceeds benefit the Fulton County Historical Society. Advance tickets are available at <https://fultoncountyhistoricalsociety.org/ice-cream-social/> or by calling (518) 725-2203.



**FROTHINGHAM FREE LIBRARY CELEBRATES ITS 80TH ANNIVERSARY WITH AN OPEN HOUSE**

Friday, April 12 from 7pm-9pm is the Frothingham Free Library's Open House and 80th Anniversary Celebration. Help the Library celebrate its past, present and future!

RSVP at the library or via their website at <https://frothinghamfreelibrary.mvls.info/> The Library is located at 28 W. Main Street, Fonda.

**TRANSITIONS AND THE ARC LEXINGTON PRESENT AUTISM EXPO 2024**

[Transitions](#) and [The Arc Lexington](#) are both sponsors of The Autism Expo 2024, scheduled for April 14 from 12Noon to 3pm at Saratoga Springs City Center, 522 Broadway, Saratoga Springs. Mark your calendars! Join them for a transformative day at the 11th Annual Autism Expo, now even bigger with the addition of the Life After High School Resource Fair. This free event is your go-to place in the Capital/Northern NYS region for connecting with a supportive community, exploring resources, and discovering new opportunities tailored for families, caregivers, and individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. Don't miss this incredible opportunity to access valuable resources, learn from experts, and celebrate the diversity within our community. Admission is free for all.



There will also be an interactive music session with the internationally acclaimed band, Flame, and you can also take advantage of:

- Free learning sessions with experts
  - Networking with over 65 exhibitors
  - A peaceful Sensory Space designed by Maria College's Occupational Therapy department
  - Quiet Consultation Lounge for in-depth discussions
  - Engaging children's activities by the Paul Nigra Center for Creative Arts and CDPHP
- Learning Session Highlights:
- Dr. Gina Cosgrove on supporting children with ASD
  - Ed Wilcenski, Esq., on financial management and advocacy planning
  - Dr. Priya Winston & Rhiannon Fralick on supporting neurodiverse teens and young adults

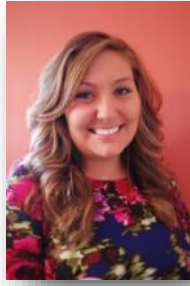


Registration is encouraged to help us plan for everyone. Visit [www.thearclexington.org](http://www.thearclexington.org) to sign up. For more info or to become an exhibitor, visit [www.thearclexington.org](http://www.thearclexington.org)

**HEALTHY FAMILIES MONTGOMERY & SCHOHARIE COUNTIES TO HOST RIBBON-CUTTING AND OPEN HOUSE**

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month and Healthy Families is spreading awareness of this message—and also decided to hold an Open House and Ribbon-Cutting Event on 4/15 to help spread the word. Chamber members and the public are invited to attend both events, with the ribbon-cutting at 2pm and the Open House directly following, both at their office at 1230 Riverfront Center in Amsterdam. For more details, check out their website at <https://ican.family/> or follow the Amsterdam office on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/healthyfamiliesOMSC>

**Nicole Walrath,**  
Director of Work-  
force Development  
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**Natalie May,**  
Business & Education  
Partnership Coord.  
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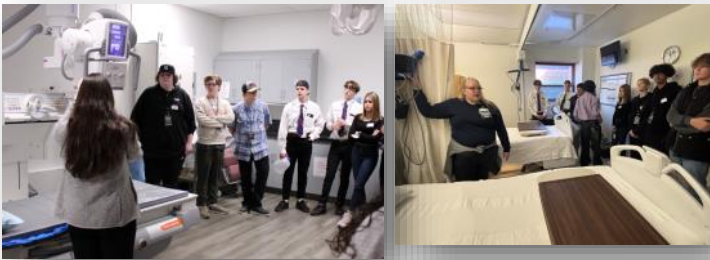
**Employability Skills Survey**

The Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce is always looking to align school districts in Hamilton-Fulton-Montgomery counties to the needs of the current workforce. We encourage businesses to complete our

annual survey by visiting <https://forms.gle/XEnUHMnsAik7jEhU7>. For more information, contact Nicole Walrath at nicolew@fultonmontgomeryny.org.

**HFM PTECH Students Tour St. Mary's Hospital**

During March's Workplace Wednesday at PTECH, ninth grade students were able to tour [St. Mary's Healthcare](#) in Amsterdam and learn about the many different career paths and departments that work together to make a hospital run smoothly. As an unexpected surprise, they were also able to meet Hannah, a CT Scan Technologist and former PTECH graduate. She explained the workings of the CT department and how her time at PTECH was what she needed for a successful start in the healthcare field. Thank you to Hannah and all the St. Mary's presenters and tour guides for making this workplace tour a great experience for our students.



**Cornell Cooperative Extension presentation at CTE**

Juniors and seniors in Construction Technology, Environmental Conservation and Skilled Trades classes attended a presentation on the Mohawk Valley Clean Energy Hub. Rebecca Walley and Tyler Folts from Cornell Cooperative Extension spoke about the evidence of climate change and initiatives New York State is taking.

They also focused on clean energy jobs available in the capital region including wind turbine technicians, solar technicians, energy auditors, graphic design & media communications, and many more.

**Skilled Trades and Engineering Career Fair**

The inaugural Skilled Trades and Engineering Career Fair was Broadalbin-Perth High School on March 27th. The Chamber was excited to participate, along with 40 different companies joining the day, and providing our regional students valuable information about industry and employment opportunities along with sharing insights, providing information, and offering hands-on experiences to engage, inspire, and captivate the students' interest.







**FEMA Industry Liaison Program (ILP) Advisory Presents: Region II How to do Business with FEMA Webinar**

Hosted by Office of the Chief Component Procurement Officer (OCCPO) and Region II

**Webinar Details:**

On Tuesday April 9<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to 12:30 pm Eastern Time, FEMA’s Chief Component Procurement Officer and FEMA Region II are facilitating a webinar for businesses in New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands that seek to learn more about [Doing Business with FEMA | FEMA.gov](#). Closed Captioning is available.

The webinar will review key steps on how to do business with FEMA, the Small Business Program, category management, contracting considerations for Region II, and regional coordination with Private Sector Liaisons. Kindly note this webinar is for industry exchange and participation does not imply preference for any contract award.

**Registration Information**

Register online at: [https://fema.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN\\_ewJ79GInSkuo4uP84QZa9g](https://fema.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_ewJ79GInSkuo4uP84QZa9g)

Kindly note that although the webinar is Tuesday April 9<sup>th</sup> from 10am – 12:30 pm Eastern Time, participants should register by C.O.B. Monday April 8<sup>th</sup>. Further, there is a maximum of three representatives per company and registration will close once capacity has been reached. For registration inquiries, contact: [FEMA-Industry-Registration@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-Industry-Registration@fema.dhs.gov)

Once you register:

You will receive an email confirmation from ZOOM ([no-reply@zoomgov.com](mailto:no-reply@zoomgov.com)) with a link and a private passcode. The link provided in your email confirmation should not be shared with others as they are unique to you.

On the day of the event, click on the link and enter the passcode to join the webinar. Upon entering the webinar, you will be prompted to enter your first and last name. Registered participants will not need a Zoom account to participate, but will need internet access or, if connecting via phone, the ZOOM app.

**Contact FEMA**

For registration inquiries, contact: [FEMA-Industry-Registration@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-Industry-Registration@fema.dhs.gov). To learn more about [Doing Business with FEMA | FEMA.gov](#) you may contact the FEMA Industry Liaison Program at [FEMA-Industry@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-Industry@fema.dhs.gov).

**UPCOMING WEBINAR THROUGH SCORE Northeast NY**

**HOW TO WRITE A BUSINESS PLAN—Your Roadmap to Success**

Live Event (Online) | April 4, 1:00pm

Cost: FREE

Duration: One hour

What is a business plan and why is it important? A business plan serves as a roadmap for your business venture, including your business objectives, strategies, and operational details.

In this webinar Jania Bailey, CEO of FranNet, will share her expertise on the key elements of a business plan, why it's important and how to construct a comprehensive business plan.

Key takeaways include:

- Understanding the significance of a business plan
- Exploring essential elements for a business plan
- How does planning for a franchise differ from other businesses
- Identifying stakeholders interested in reviewing your business plan

**Live attendees will receive free business resources and a link to this webinar recording.**

**REGISTER [HERE](#)**

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- Signage
- Promotional Products
- Banners
- Etc....

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**FM CHAMBER CLEAN UP DAY**

The Chamber and Joyce Royal Real Estate are excited to announce their annual regional wide clean up effort to coincide with their clean/green initiatives to be held on Saturday, April 20, 2024 from 9am-12pm. Volunteers can pick up garbage bags and gloves at the Chamber office (2 N. Main Street, Gloversville) the week of April 15. To register please visit <https://forms.gle/PBigwiJgn9vRLSHv9> or call the Chamber.

# TOURISM NEWS & UPDATES

## MONTGOMERY COUNTY IN APRIL

Here is a sampling of what's to do in Montgomery County in April—for full calendar and for details about these events, visit the website [Events calendar here](#):

**April 2–April 5**

[All Ages Spring Break LEGO Building Contest](#), Canajoharie Library, 2 Erie Boulevard, Canajoharie (all day—drop in)

**Saturday, April 6**

[Hagaman Historical & Preservation Society Meeting/Speaker](#)—Calvary Reformed Church, Hagaman (11am-2pm). Speaker Jerry Snyder will talk about trolleys in early Amsterdam/Hagaman.

[Guest Star Gallery Tour with Karen Quinn from the NYS Museum](#), Arkell Museum, 2 Erie Blvd. (2-3pm)

**Thursday, April 11**

[Resume Support at Canajoharie Library](#) (11am-12pm)

[Painting with Practice](#) (2pm), Arkell Museum—all skill levels welcome, registration requested (518) 673-2314, [info@arkellmuseum.org](mailto:info@arkellmuseum.org)

**Saturday, April 13**

[Erie Canal Songs with Cosby & Tom](#), Schoharie Crossing State Historic Site. Free and open to public.

**Saturday, April 20**

[Earth Day St. Johnsville](#) (11am-4pm), OESJ High School Gym, 44 Center St, earth-centered activities, vendors, food, raffles and more!

[Amsterdam's 5th Annual WINGFEST](#) (1pm to 6pm)—vendors throughout Amsterdam. Pick up a guide at any participating location. Enjoy different wings throughout the city...music, specials, entertainment and fun—vote for your favorite!

[Schoharie Crossing Confluence Clean Sweep](#) (9am-12pm). Meet at the Visitors Center/Museum to sign in, get supplies and instructions and then help clean the Aqueduct Boat Launch and Ft. Hunter Community Park.

**Sunday, April 21 (10am-2pm)**

[Fort Klock Clean Up Day](#)—Fort Klock, 7203 State Route 5, St. Johnsville—looking for volunteers!

**April 24–28**

[Take a Bite of Montgomery](#)—restaurants, bakeries and other eateries throughout Montgomery County will offer business specials of \$15 or \$25, highlighting their favorite dishes, pastries and so much more!

## FULTON COUNTY TOURISM UPDATE - APRIL 2024

On Monday, April 8, Fulton County will be on a partial path of the 2024 Total Solar Eclipse. A solar eclipse happens when the moon passes between the sun and Earth. To the north, our neighbors in the Adirondacks will be in the path of totality of this astonishing experience. This is not only an amazing sight but a rare occurrence. After 2024 the United States will not see another total solar eclipse for over 20 years.

Fulton County will only see a portion of the sun covered. Weather permitting around 3 pm that day, a portion of the sun will be obscured by the moon for a few short minutes. Safety first! Please have access to solar viewing glasses. The American Astronomical Society has a list of viewing suppliers.

On April 11 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm, you can enjoy the [Caroga Arts Collective Spring Residency](#): Concert & Season Preview at Karpeles Museum, 66 Kingsboro Ave. in Gloversville. Caroga Arts welcomes back its world-class musicians for a series of performances featuring major chamber music works. Featuring Aaron Schwartz (violin), Stephanie Price-Wong (viola), Ken Kubota (cello), Kyle Price (cello), and Chi Wei Lo (piano). Caroga Arts musicians will perform music by Arensky and Brahms, plus a mix of jazz and pop favorites. Expect a special season preview with Executive & Artistic Director, Kyle Price, unveiling the exciting 2024 Caroga Lake Music Festival lineup.

Two options for fun on Saturday, April 13; **A Cabin Fever Dinner Dance featuring Johnny & The Triumphs, 5 to 8 pm at [Sport Island Pub](#)**, Riverside Drive in Northville. Or join a **Free Line Dance Party at the [Johnstown Moose](#)**, This event is open to the public in the large banquet room. Food and beverages are available for purchase, starting at 6 pm.

Culminating April events on Saturday, April 27 is the 10th annual [Gloversville Recreation Commission's Youth Fishing Derby at Wohlfarth's Pond](#). This event is open to children of Gloversville 15 and under. Bring your own poles and earthworms. This will be a hook and worm, catch and release competition. No mealworms. No corn. No pheromones. Registration starts at 9 a.m. and will be open throughout the day. Trophies will be awarded for the most fish caught, largest fish caught in each age group, first fish caught and smallest fish caught. Each child who catches a fish will receive an award ribbon in recognition of their accomplishment.

Endless activities, arts, crafts and entertainment can be discovered all month long on our calendar at [44lakes.com](http://44lakes.com), with updates at Visit Fulton County, NY on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce

*Presents*

MONTGOMERY COUNTY EXECUTIVE  
**Matthew L. Ossenfort**  
**2024 State of the County Address**  
and  
Celebration of the **10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** as a  
COUNTY CHARTER FORM OF GOVERNMENT

*Special Guest*

NEW YORK STATE  
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES  
Executive Director

**Stephen J. Acquario**

**April 11, 2024 • 4:30 p.m.**

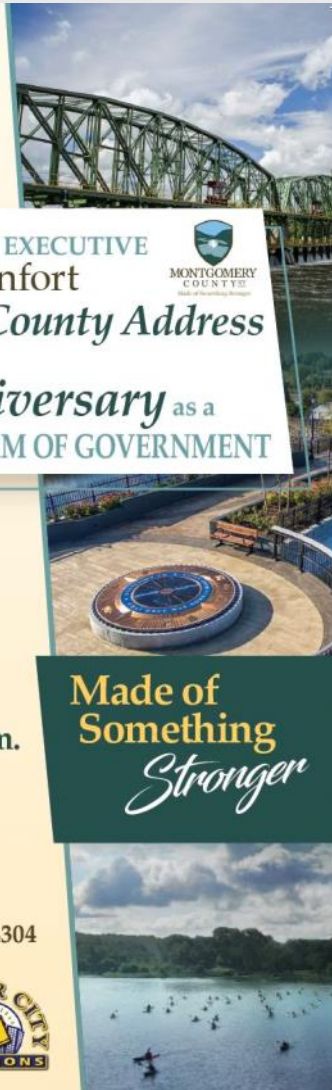
**Julian's**

26 River Street  
Amsterdam, NY 12010

**Tickets \$25 per person**

**RSVP by April 2 to 518-853-4304**

Fulton  Montgomery  
REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



## SUNY FMCC AND UALBANY PARTNER FOR STUDENTS IN OUR REGION

CONGRATULATIONS to [SUNY Fulton-Montgomery Community College](#) and UAlbany on a successful ribbon cutting on March 26, held to celebrate their new collaboration. The partnership will offer dual admission opportunities in over 20 programs, cross registration access, scholarships, and have dedicated support for these students is a partnership to be proud of.

The Chamber's partnership with SUNY Fulton-Montgomery is what helps make us innovative, stronger, and relevant for our business' needs. In the Fulton Montgomery Region we are extremely focused on creating a prosperous area that provides an opportunity to be successful for all. Our partners are committed to working together to create an environment for progress. A strong and aligned education system, and proven workforce development programs are critical so scholars from elementary to adult learning have access to quality education and skill development to be lifelong learners. The Chamber and partners advocate for education/workforce initiatives that align with our mission and this new partnership is certainly one of them.



## MORE PHOTOS FROM THE BUSINESS EXPO/ AWARDS PRESENTATION



*Thank you to the 34 Chamber member businesses that participated and promoted their products and services at the Expo!*



# COMMUNITY JOB FAIR 2024

THURSDAY, APRIL 18  
12-3 PM  
AT SUNY FMCC



To register,  
please [click here](#)  
or scan QR code




A State University of New York Community College



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*Colleen Opens Doors*

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