

NEWSLINE August 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.

BUSINESS IN OUR REGION IS LIVELY AS WE CONTINUE TO ENJOY WARM WEATHER AND WELCOME NEW BUSINESSES AND VISITORS







Left and above: THANK YOU to the <u>Amsterdam Mohawks</u> for hosting us for a Chamber night on July 22! A great time was had by Chamber members and their families!



Top left: <u>Chad Majewski</u> <u>Real Estate</u> has expanded to Fulton County and has located in a great new space in downtown Gloversville at 51 N. Main Street! Chad celebrated his new location with Gloversville and other elected officials, Chamber staff and members at a ribbon cutting event on July 18.





Above: New Chamber member <u>Candids with Emily Rose</u> was welcomed to downtown Johnstown by the Chamber and elected officials in July. Located at 32 West Main Street, Emily offers photography services as well as a lovely event space for intimate parties of up to 50 people. Check out the business on Facebook at the link above!

Left middle: Second Act Spirits, located in the historic Sanford Clock Tower in Amsterdam held an open house and ribbon-cutting event on July 26. Owner Rich Michaels is excited about his career's "Second Act" as he was a beer brewer for 30 years and is now bringing his talent to distilling vodka, gin and more using local, New York farm products. Check them out online at <u>secondactspirits.com</u> or stop in and try a delicious cocktail!

Left bottom: <u>Pluchino's Marina</u> is a full-service marina located at 234 Houseman Street in Mayfield on the Great Sacandaga Lake. They offer a wide-range of services including deep water slip rental, shore power, shore water, bathrooms with showers, wifi, rentals, fuel station, waste pump out, ship store, beverages and ice. Summer and winter storage options are also available. At their ribbon-cutting event on July 19, elected officials, Chamber members and staff were treated to a beautiful day and some great food and beverages courtesy of the Marina. Thank you to all!



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

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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 Walrath, *Director of Workforce Development*

THE FULTON MONTGOMERY CHAMBER IS A MEMBER:

- Business Council of New York State
- <u>Center For Economic Growth–Capital Region</u>
- <u>Chamber Alliance of New York State</u>
- <u>Fulton County Center for Regional Growth</u>
- <u>Fulton County Farm Bureau</u>
- <u>Montgomery County Farm Bureau</u>
- <u>New York State Farm Bureau</u>



Message from the Executive Director

Dear Chamber Members,

You may have heard that the Chamber is considering moving part of our operations to the SUNY Fulton-Montgomery campus that sits at the border of Fulton and Montgomery Counties. And you may be thinking...Why?

Well, let me tell you!

The Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber is considering a move to SUNY F-M Campus, as we have partnered with HFM BOCES and SUNY F-M for many years. There was an opportunity for funding from NYS Empire State Development to potentially create a workforce/economic hub at SUNY FM with our regional partners. Since the Chamber supports Fulton and Montgomery Counties, it made sense to open the door for conversations to be more of a presence on the FM campus with this opportunity at our regional college.

Currently, we already have a presence on campus with our Business Education Partnership (BEP).

BEP connects HFM BOCES school districts and programs with our regional businesses to help support a wellprepared, capable and adaptable workforce, which continues with SUNY Fulton-Montgomery.

Our Partnership with HFM BOCES started in 2013, and began with Pathways in Technology Early College High School (PTECH) in 2014, with the addition of Pathway Programs in 2017 and Career & Technical Education (CTE) in 2019. We are proud of this partnership with Dr. David Ziskin, Dr. Gregory Truckenmiller, and their teams to continue to keep this partnership strong for our business community's future.

The Chamber currently has our Business Education Partnership Coordinator on the SUNY F-M campus to be a support to the 4th-6th year students in the PTECH program. Not only do we have this partnership but we have collaborated with HFM BOCES and SUNY F-M on events such as HR Consortiums, Job Fairs, Apprenticeships, and support for events such as the celebration for the dual admission with UAlbany and the just unveiled Cyber Range. *(continued on page 13)*

Welcome New Members

July 2024

CAPITAL CITY COFFEE ROASTERS

274 S. Main Street, Gloversville 1-866-585-1245| <u>capitalcityroasters.com</u> Wholesale craft coffee roasters using premium, high altitude-grown Arabica coffees for cafes, coffee bars, high-end restaurants. Online subscriptions for home delivery. Espresso machine sales/service.

U.S. LIGHT ENERGY

8 British American Boulevard, Latham (518) 288-7800 uslightenergy.com

Founded in 2018 and operating from Latham, NY, U.S. Light Energy (USLE) is recognized as a pivotal force in the solar energy industry, harnessing the expertise of our dedicated professionals. USLE excels in developing large-scale, ground-mounted solar projects for wholesale, community, and remote net metering applications.

GIDDY GROW SHOP

3549 State Highway 30, Gloversville 300 N. Comrie Avenue, Johnstown (757) 570-1792 | <u>Facebook</u>

Retail garden centers providing Fulton County with education, affordable equipment, and an atmosphere that caters to the customer. Upstate New York's premium grow shop.

MILEPOST HOBBIES

4207 State Highway 30, Amsterdam (518) 928-9655 | <u>mileposthobbies.com</u>

Anything railroad oriented or themed, we have it. If you're looking to create your own railroad world, we have lots of items for creating a beautiful scene. Our train shop also carries books and magazines about railroading. With 25 years of experience, we are the hobby shop that understands our clients. When you need new or used model trains and accessories, Milepost Hobbies in Perth, NY is the train shop you should visit.

LIPPERT

93 South Boulevard, Gloversville

(518) 773-9268 | <u>lippert.com</u> Lippert[™] is a leading, global manufacturer and supplier of highly engineered products and customized solutions, dedicated to shaping, growing and bettering the RV, marine, automotive, commercial vehicle and building products industries.

(New Members continued on page 10)

MEMBERSHIP MESSAGE Janet Davis, Director of Membership &

Member Services



Ribbon-Cutting Events and More—Great Ways to Promote Your Business through Your Chamber

We have yet another reason why businesses should join the Chamber, "live" ribbon cuttings. This is just one more opportunity for our businesses to introduce themselves to our community. We have done several and have received over 1000 engagements on many of these. You will still get all the perks we always offered, we are just taking it to the next level. When you have a ribbon cutting we still eblast it, put it on Facebook, put an article in *Newsline* and include the press. You can invite your employees and friends to join the festivities. We will also invite elected officials for the location of your business and the people you request that you want included It's one of the best ways to get the most out of your membership.

Whether a new member or long-term member we invite you to submit articles about your business for use in Newsline. Newsline is directly sent to over 1000 people and businesses, and is available online to the world. It's your opportunity to introduce yourself and let us know all the great work your business does. Simply send press releases or any updates to your business (new products, new locations, new hours, etc.) to newsline@fultonmontgomeryny.org. Of course, all members are listed on the Chamber website, and have the benefit of their own mini website on the Chamber's that can be updated and personalized to best promote your business. Another advantage to being a member is we only refer members. The Chamber receives several calls per day asking us to refer businesses, services and products to them. We have a large amount of new people and businesses in our area that depend on the Chamber to help them with their needs. We only recommend/ refer our member businesses.

We also offer impactful advertising opportunities to our members, in *Newsline* and at Destination One which is located at the Vails Mills Visitors Center. Once again we are here to help our members, and urge you to take advantage. Please contact me if you are interested in any of these opportunities- 518-725-0641 or membership@fultonmontgomeryny.org



MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES July 2024 Thank you for your continued support!



31 – 40 YEARS

Mountain Valley Hospice & Palliative Care—36

21 – 30 YEARS

Sacandaga Veterinary Clinic—29 L&L Embroidery, Inc.—21 Catholic Charities of Fulton and Montgomery Counties—21

11 – 20 YEARS

Geesler's—18 Empower Federal Credit Union—18 Adirondack Mechanical Corporation—18

Shults Insurance Agency—17 Microtel Inn & Suites, Johnstown— 16 New York Oncology Hematology, PC—15 Fulton County Historical Society & Museum—15 Sacandaga Protection Committee— 14 Hotel Broadalbin—14 GPO Federal Credit Union—13

GPO Federal Credit Union—13 Kwiat Eye & Laser Surgery—12

1 – 10 YEARS

Runnings—9 Taco Bell, Johnstown—9 DHL Supply Chain—8 Target Distribution Center—7 Centro Civico of Amsterdam—7 Loopie's Irish Pub—7 Upstate Coffee Company—5 The Fort Plain Museum—3 Northern Rivers Family of Services—3 Chad Majewski Real Estate—2 Brian's RV Repair & Service, LLC—2 George Landis Arboretum—2 Soroptimist International of Fulton & Montgomery Counties—1 Jay Blendz Barbershop—1 Healthy Families Montgomery & Schoharie Counties—1 Lorenzo's Southside—1



Business Resources You Can Use:

The Workforce Development Board, Herkimer, Madison, Oneida Counties' Regional Apprenticeship Development & Readiness (RADAR) grant program is pleased to announce recently approved Apprenticeship programs concomitant with the U.S. Department of Labor's efforts to expand and modernize Registered Apprenticeship by increasing the number of programs and apprentices, diversifying the industries that use Registered Apprenticeship and improving the access to Registered Apprenticeship Programs for underrepresented and underserved communities. These individuals receive career guidance, assessment and training in a chosen field, such as manufacturing, IT, human services or the trades at no cost to potential employers. This grant program operates in Onondaga, Cortland, Oneida, Madison, Chenango, Herkimer, Otsego, Delaware, Fulton, Montgomery, and Schoharie Counties.

RADAR Program Manager Sommer Edwards says, "We are thrilled to share our active involvement in facilitating the launch of 17 new registered apprenticeship programs for businesses in our area. Our excitement stems from the profound impact these programs will have on fostering skill development, enhancing career opportunities, and bolstering our local economy. We are committed to supporting businesses every step of the way as they embark on this journey, ensuring they receive the necessary guidance and resources to create meaningful apprenticeship experiences. Together, we look forward to building a robust network of skilled professionals who will contribute to the growth and success of our community."

According to the Department of Labor, employers who utilize apprentices report higher productivity, higher retention rates, and a substantial return on investment.

Apprenticeship programs help employers:

- Recruit and develop a highly-skilled workforce that helps grow their business.
- Improve productivity, profitability, and an employer's bottom line.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD ANNOUNCES NEW REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS

- Create flexible training options that ensure workers develop the right skills.
- Minimize liability costs through appropriate training of workers.
- Receive tax credits and employee tuition benefits in participating states.
- Increase retention of workers, during and following the apprenticeship.

Sitrin Health Care Center Vice President Foundation & Communications Marc DePerno says, "The Sitrin Health Care Center is excited to be recently approved as a New York State Registered Apprenticeship Program in Building Maintenance Mechanics. The apprenticeship program provides a unique opportunity to enhance workforce development and creates a learning environment that breeds success. Upon approval, we immediately identified two apprentice candidates who are currently completing the enrollment process."

If you would like to learn more about the benefits of hosting an apprenticeship or starting an apprenticeship program, please contact RADAR Program Director Sommer Edwards at 315.207.6951, ext. 133 or sedwards@working-solutions.org

The RADAR grant project is 100% funded by a United States Department of Labor - Employment and Training Administration's (ETA) award of \$2,999,993. Equal Opportunity Employer/Program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.



ST. MARY'S HEALTHCARE PRESENTS 48TH ANNUAL GALA

Please join the St. Mary's Healthcare Auxiliary and Foundation for their 48th Annual Gala. The mission of St.

Mary's is to care for all with compassion and excellence, with special attention to the poor and vulnerable. Funds raised this year will meet the needs of patients who have limited resources and provide much-needed enhancements to their emergency and urgent care services. St. Mary's is hosting this night of casual elegance for the second year at the historic <u>Sanford Stud Farm.</u>



WHEN Thursday, August 15, 6-10pm

WHERE Historic Sanford Stud Farm Corner of Route 30 & Tessiero Square, Amsterdam, NY

ATTIRE Black & white dressy casual attire is requested. Please wear flat, comfortable dancing shoes.

AUCTION Silent auction, raffles and wine pull

COCKTAILS Cash bar opens at 6pm

MUSIC Grand Central Station

Tickets and sponsorship opportunities are available at <u>smha.org/gala</u>. See you there!

CAROGA HISTORICAL MUSEUM AUGUST EVENTS

The Caroga Historical Association and Museum is pleased to pay tribute to Paul Bransom with an exhibit entitled "Paul Bransom: Encountering the Wild." Bransom, a long-time summer resident of Canada Lake, was known as the Dean of American Animal Art. His works appeared on the covers of magazines like *The Saturday Evening Post*, *The Country Gentleman*, and *Field & Stream* and illustrated books like *The Call of the Wild* and *The Wind in the Willows*. The exhibit has been curated by Allen Farber and Dick Loomis. The exhibit will feature a selection of Bransom's works from local collections while telling the story of his career and the connection to this area. The exhibit runs from August 1 through September 1. On August 6, the museum will feature an evening of country/barn dancing from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. The museum is pleased to have Anita Mason returning as caller with her husband, Pat Mason, providing the music for the evening. Participants are encouraged to wear comfortable shoes for dancing on the lawn. Ice cream sundaes will be served at the conclusion of the dancing.

The museum offers a final workshop of the season on Thurs-



day, August 8. Colleen Mosenthin will lead a workshop on basket weaving. Participants will have the option of making a small gathering basket or a small basket with beaded



rim, which is limited to 12 participants. There is a \$15 registration fee for this workshop payable to the museum. To register, call Jean Griffin, (518) 835-4022. Please specify which basket you are interested in making when you register. Bring your lunch and an addition \$25 fee for materials, payable to the workshop lead-

er, on the day of the workshop.

To supplement the August Paul Bransom exhibit, the museum features a guest speaker on August 15 at 7pm. Allen Farber will present "Encountering the Wild in the Artwork of Paul Bransom." Allen was a professor in the SUNY-Oneonta Art Department. Refreshments will be available.

The final event of the season will be a program by Don Williams on Thursday, August 25 starting at 7 pm. Don is an Adirondack guide, lecturer, story teller, and author. His works include 18 books of the Adirondacks and local history.

Other than the basket weaving workshop, all events are free and open to the public. The Caroga Historical Museum will be open Thursdays through Sundays from 1 to 4 pm through September 1. For further information on the events and workshops, please visit the museum's website at <u>www.carogamuseum.org</u>.



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

Contact membership @fultonmontgomeryny.org

THE FAMILY COUNSELING CENTER ANNOUNCES 2024 FALL GALA HONOREES



The Family Counseling Center of Fulton County is excited to announce their 2024 Fall Gala will be held on Thursday, September 26 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Lanzi's on the Lake Restaurant and Marina in Mayfield. Tickets are \$100

per person. The event will welcome community members, partners, and others in a celebration of the organization's nearly 50 years of working with clients in the Mohawk Valley and Southern Adirondacks. All proceeds from the event will go toward supporting and expanding the programs of The Family Counseling Center.

The Family Counseling Center was founded in 1976 by a dedicated group of community members who wished to help individuals and families seeking mental health guidance. Today, the Center works with over 5,100 individual clients, providing nearly 100,000 services per year.

The Fall Gala will honor two key partners and supporters of the local community:

The Dr. David and Ann Lee Clough Award recognizes an individual or group for exceptional contributions to the field of behavioral health and is given to an outstanding honoree who has demonstrated continued excellence in direct or indirect services to the behavioral health field. The 2024 honoree is **Rachel Truckenmiller**, Executive Director of the HFM Prevention Council.

The Mary Ann Harzinski Outstanding Community Service Award honors the legacy of Mary Ann Harzinski, a dedicated teacher and long-time member of The Family Counseling Center Board of Directors. The award is given to an individual or organization who has a recognized record of volunteerism across organizations or has worked in close partnership with organizations. The 2024 honoree is **Donald Fleischut**, former owner of Somerset Industries and past Board President of The Family Counseling Center.

Tickets are now available for the Center's Fall Gala. Information on the event, ticket sales and sponsorship information are available on The Family Counseling Center's website at

www.thefamilycounselingcenter.org/2024gala/. Tickets are \$100 per person, tables of ten are available.

FULTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY EVENTS

Fulton County Historical Society's Hands On History for Kids: The Circus is Coming to Town; A Visit to The Glove Theatre Museum; and Living History: The Great War Join the Fulton County Historical Society on special Thursday mornings for Hands on History at the museum! Each week, they will focus on a different theme and use our exhibits and collections to explore these themes in local history. We'll finish the morning with a craft activity. This program is geared toward ages 5-10. On Thursday, August 1st at 10am, they are heading to the Big Top! Can you imagine elephants parading down Main Street in Gloversville? That's just what happened when the circus used to come to town! Explore what you might find at a circus in the 1900s and discover how circuses traveled all over the country and advertised their shows. Then design your own circus poster using inspiration from historic images and items from the museum's collection

The Fulton County Historical Society is located at 237 Kingsboro Ave. in Gloversville. Free on-street parking is available along Kingsboro Ave. and Academy Place.

On Friday, August 2 from 5-7pm, visit the Glove Theatre Museum and discover Gloversville's fascinating entertainment history! The museum was recently reorganized and reopened in the summer of 2023. Theatre volunteers will be on-hand to answer questions and discuss ongoing projects. This is a must-do for anyone interested in film, the arts, and the revitalization of the city's historic downtown. The museum is located next to the theatre at 42 N. Main St. in Gloversville.

Saturday, August 3 from 11am-4pm for Living History: The Great War. From 1914-1918, the world was thrown into total war in a way that it had never before seen. The experiences of the soldiers who served – from America, Germany, France, and elsewhere – were varied and com-

plex. Join us at the museum for this special living history event, featuring a select group of re-enactors and historians who have delved deep into researching the lives and experiences of men from both sides of the conflict. For more information on these or any other events,



visit https://fultoncountyhistoricalsociety.org/events/



P:518-842-4350 www.sarahjanesanfordhomeforwomen.com



ONE CHURCH STREET'S "NOURISH TO FLOURISH" DINNER TO BE HELD AT SHERMAN'S PARK, THURS-DAY, AUGUST 22.

The "Nourish to Flourish" fundraising dinner, an entertaining way to learn about the One Church Street project and its impact on our community, will be held at Sherman's Park in Caroga Lake, Thursday, August 22. Cocktails will be from 5:30 to 6pm, with dinner from 6 to 8pm. Music will be provided by Caroga Arts Collective musicians, and the event will be hosted by Sun-



day and John Blackmon. Tickets for the event are \$65, with entire tables going for \$520. Tickets can be purchased at the Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce at 2 N. Main Street in Gloversville.

One Church Street is the iconic building that previously served as the Johnstown YMCA in downtown Johnstown. It is physically located at One Church Street, which is on the corner of Church and North Market Streets. The first floor of the newly renovated building will be opening this summer. It will serve as the new handicapped -accessible Johnstown Food Pantry, as well as a launch pad for One Church Street's "Food is Medicine" program. The final phase of fundraising will enable the NOAH Free Community Meals to be moved from the St. John's Episcopal Church basement to One Church Street, and provide a commercial kitchen and meeting space for a variety of community events. More information can be found at onechurchstreet.org or contact them at info@onechurchstreet.org or call (518) 762-9210.

CAROGA LAKE AREA NAMED TO REAL-TOR.COM'S "10 MOST AFFORDABLE TOWNS IN AMERICA FOR BUYING A LAKE HOME"

<u>Caroga Lake, NY</u> was named to Realtor.com's list of most affordable places in the US to buy a lake home. It also mentions how Caroga Lake Music Festival brings world-class musicians to our area each year. Read the article, and see the list, <u>here.</u> GREAT news for our region!



BERKSHIRE FARM CENTER BECOMES TOGETHER FOR YOUTH

together

In May of 2024, Berkshire Farm Center embarked on an exciting transition into their new identity as **Together for Youth**. The organization not only changed its name, but they evolved their mission and vision to better reflect their commitment to the youth and families in the communities they serve. Over the years, under the organization's previous name as Berkshire Farm Center, they established themselves as a cornerstone of support, providing vital programs and services to uplift and empower those in need. Now, as Together for Youth, they are taking that legacy forward with renewed energy and purpose, embracing a fresh perspective that underscores the unity and collaboration at the heart of their work.

With their new name and identity, Together for Youth is signaling a shift towards a more inclusive and unified approach to serving their communities. Together for Youth embodies the spirit of partnership and collective action, highlighting their belief in the power of collaboration to drive positive change.

This new identity serves as a beacon of hope and solidarity, uniting the entire organization under a common mission to foster resilience, growth, and opportunity for every individual they serve. This success is made possible by the collective effort of community partners, foster parents, donors, volunteers, board members, and committed staff.

For more information visit their new website at <u>https://www.togetherforyouth.org/</u>. Watch a video about the organization's history and rebranding <u>here</u>.



TO LIFE! IS THE CAPITAL REGION'S PERSONAL SOURCE FOR BREAST CAN-CER SUPPORT AND WOMEN'S HEALTH EDUCATION—GET INVOLVED WITH SOME GREAT EVENTS COMING SOON! To Life!, with offices in Delmar, Saratoga Springs

and now Amsterd



and now Amsterdam, provides personal support, empowers informed decisionmaking and enhances the quality of life for those affected by breast cancer in the Capital Region. The organiza-

tion, now in its 26th year, began in 1998 as a grassroots organization for two-time breast cancer survivor Mara Ginsberg, who had also lost her mom and aunt to the disease before the age of 40. At the time, she sought supports and education, and that's how the organization came to be—as a result of her need for these services.

Current Executive Director of To Life! Eileen Howe Bird tells us that the organization wants to help people to make informed choices about treatment and services, and to help people thrive in their pre- and post-treatment lives. There is an abundance of information out there about breast cancer, and To Life! helps people prioritize and make good treatment decisions. Some of the programs they have include an upcoming educational forum, the 26th Annual "Beat the Odds" Education Forum on Breast Cancer, taking place on August 13 at the Excelsior Springs Event Center in Saratoga Springs, from 9am to 12:30pm. The forum features speakers Edward M. Liebers, MD, Medical Director of Saratoga Hospital Oncology; Fiona Ginty, Ph.D., Senior Scientist in Precision Diagnostics at GE HealthCare, and Debra Nozik, LCSW, a therapist, and Metatastic Breast Cancer Thriver. You can register for this free event here.

To Life! also supports patients with a number of different products for pre- and post-cancer treatment, including free wigs, mastectomy products and more. Lillian Johnson, a certified mastectomy fitter and Boutique Associate at To Life and also a Healing Touch Practitioner, has an office in the new Amsterdam location where she provides fitting services to women in Montgomery and Fulton Counties. The Amsterdam office also offers a support group for breast cancer patients on the third Tuesday of every month at 4:30pm. You can read about the group's programs and services through their newsletter, which you can sign up for <u>here</u>. Although open to everyone, To Life! Amsterdam is located within the NYOH offices in Riverfront Center, where the organizations support one another and provide referrals and provide outreach.

In Fulton County, there are currently over 1,000

breast cancer survivors and in Montgomery County just under 1,000 so the new Amsterdam office has already become such a great resource for those needing services in these areas. Both Eileen and Lillian emphasized that To Life! Wants to be the resource in our area for breast cancer education, advocacy and program and they hope that those in our region take advantage of all they have to offer.

To Life! is looking for people to get involved as volunteers, as event underwriters, or as event attendees and more. Two big events that are taking place are SATURDAY, SEPT. 21—TEE-OFF FOR TATAS an annual Charity Golf Tournament at Hales Mills Country Club, Johnstown—18 holes of golf/cart and lunch with players feast and awards taking place at Village Pizzeria in Middle Grove. More information, registration and sponsorship can be found <u>here</u>. Proceeds benefit To Life!

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18—THE PINK BALL at Glen Sanders Mansion. To Life!'s premier fundraising event where they celebrate select community members for their distinguished service to women and families affected by breast cancer. This formal affairs includes a cocktail reception, dinner and a "Survivor Art" showcase that includes unique pieces created by talented members of the local breast cancer community. For more information about the event, to purchase tickets, or to sponsor, visit To Life!'s website here

To Life! Has a number of volunteer opportunities, including helping with wig and other fittings in the offices and off-site, help with clerical work in the offices, be a To Life! Representative at health fairs and community expos, at events, educational forums, and more. For more information or to sign up to volunteer, please visit <u>https://tolife.org/about-us/</u> volunteering

The Amsterdam To Life! office information: 1700 Riverfront Center, Amsterdam; Phone (518)439-5975. Visit To Life! online at <u>tolife.org</u> or on <u>Facebook</u>.



Welcome New Members

July 2024 (continued)

CANDIDS WITH EMILY ROSE

32 W. Main Street, Johnstown (518) 448-2961 | <u>Facebook</u> Photography Studio and Event Space

SECOND ACT SPIRITS

37 Prospect Street, Amsterdam (Sanford Clock Tower Building)

(518) 212-7808 | secondactspirits.com

As a farm distillery, we are committed to using New York sourced ingredients. Supporting local agriculture is paramount to the operational success of a farm distillery like Second Act Spirits. By sourcing ingredients locally, we not only help ensure the quality of our raw materials but also actively contribute to the economic health of the surrounding community.

WELLNOW URGENT CARE

4942 State Highway 30, Suite 100; Amsterdam (518) 627-6336 | <u>wellnow.com</u>

Quick, quality care for non-life-threatening injuries and illnesses. From coughs and colds to sprains and strains, we are healthcare at its most convenient. Most locations are open 7 days a week – schedule online, walk in or access virtual care 24/7.



FULTON FRIENDSHIP HOUSE AND HELIO HEALTH MERGER COMPLETE

In March of this year, two of New York's nonprofit behavioral health systems-Helio Health and Fulton Friendship House-formally merged as Helio Health. This completes the affiliation process that began in June 2022 With this merger's completion both organizations have



proven that they are stronger together. They have established strong capacities in substance use disorders and mental health services, residential, housing and support services. They will do more as one agency to enhance service quality and develop more seam-

less access to services.

The combined resources are hard to ignore: 71 outpatient, inpatient, satellite and residential care centers, 1,500 beds, over 1000 colleagues, over 19,000 people served annually, millions of dollars in charity care, community benefits, substance use, mental health, and housing services.

Kathleen Gaffney-Babb, President and CEO says, "Helio Health is excited to continue our combined efforts with Fulton Friendship House and come together supporting our mission serving our communities. Fulton Friendship House has a longstanding excellent reputation of person-centered service provision in the region. Helio Health is grateful to partner together in this merger and continue meeting the needs of the community with inclusivity and integrity. "

Duane Miller, Vice President of Capital Region says, "Helio Health is the perfect fit for uniting under a shared value system dedicated to uplifting and empowering underserved populations in our area. The coupling of a local presence and the trusted legacy of Fulton Friendship House with the extensive statewide experience and resources of Helio Health amplifies our impact and will facilitate delivery of critical support to those in need." Helio Health's vision is to transform lives and help shape the future landscape of behavioral health care. We plan to remain vocal advocates for those who are vulnerable, more innovative healers inside our clinics and in the community, and more effective champions for healthy minds, bodies, and souls. A place where hope meets healing.

Helio Health's mission is to promote recovery from the effects of substance use and mental health disorders and other health issues. They provide services in Syracuse, Rochester, Binghamton, Utica, Gloversville, and surrounding counties in New York State. Since 1920, Helio Health programs have helped hundreds of thousands of individuals and families in Central New York. To learn more about Helio Health please visit our website at <u>www.helio.health</u>, follow them on LinkedIn, X, Instagram, and TikTok or like them on <u>Facebook</u>.

MOHAWK HARVEST CO-OP CELEBRATES ITS 15th ANNIVERSARY IN DOWNTOWN GLOVERSVILLE

Fifteen years ago, in 2009, a group of people interested in improving downtown Gloversville joined with others interested in bringing locallygrown produce and other food goods to the downtown area and together they came up with an idea that is now the Mohawk Harvest Cooperative Market. Now located at 30 N. Main Street, in its infancy, it was first located where the new Chad Majewski Real Estate office is now located, at 51 N. Main Street. The store soon outgrew its first location and relocated to 30 N. Main Street in July of 2011, more than doubling its grocery and produce space, and adding the café which serves coffee, tea and other beverages. The new space also allowed the Micropolis Artists Cooperative to join Mohawk Harvest in bringing art to the downtown area.

Mohawk Harvest is open to all, and is a community-minded, community-owned grocery store and more in downtown Gloversville. It is located in the historic Schine Building. Like other food co-ops, Mohawk Harvest is owned by its over 875 members (called member-owners) whose base is still growing at between 3-5 members per month. The benefits of membership in the Co-op are many-investing in the store and its location in downtown Gloversville, supporting local, small-scale, sustainable farmers and local producers AND receive a discount on all your purchases. In addition, you receive additional discounts for bulk or case ordering, including access to items not specifically carried on their shelves,, get a discount for educational classes and events, have a vote in Co-op businesss, and make a dividend on any profit the Co-op makes. It is a one-time/lifetime \$150 membership fee. For more information or to join visit mohawkharvest.org/membership/

The store carries local produce, groceries, cheese, fish and seafood, dairy and eggs, grab and go lunches, health and wellness products and has products for special diets of all kinds. One of the many things that sets the Co-op apart from other grocery stores are the spices available from all over the world that are packaged in one to two ounce easy packs. They also carry Upstate Coffee and have a Coffee Club where you get a discount for re-using your coffee bags when you come in for a refill.



As all businesses were adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, so was the Co-op. Not only did the pandemic hurt the Co-op's sales, but it almost put it out of business. The Co-op is still rebuilding from this devastating time, rebuilding relationships with farmers and producers, and more. But, the store also sees some positives coming from this time. They have been constantly changing their product base in response to what people are looking for. They have doubled their inventory in variety and quality. When customers come in looking for specific items, they make every effort to get what they're looking for. They have been looking to their vendors for ideas of where and how their products can be displayed in the store. They are finding more and more good seasonal products that customers are looking for at specific times of the year. They are also being very mindful of price points of what they are buying to sell in the store. They have purchased a new point-of-sale system that can directly track what people are buying and helping them connect better with customers to let them know about sales, new products and more. They are looking at other ways to increase their reach to the community with things like access to Door Dash, online ordering and more.

They are constantly striving to offer the community products that they might not ever see or purchase at the big box stores/grocery chains. And they will soon change the design of the store for a more customer-friendly experience.

The message from the Co-op going forward is to Shop Mohawk Harvest first—come in to see their new products, local produce and more first, and then go to other stores if you can't find what you need at the Co-op. Help the store celebrate its anniversary with events taking place in mid-September. Please check their website <u>here</u>, and <u>Facebook page</u> for details and announcements and make sure you participate in these important celebrations! CONGRATULATIONS TO MOHAWK HARVEST on 15 years in business in downtown Gloversville!

GOVERNOR HOCHUL UNVEILS "SAIL-THRU SUMMER" INITIATIVE TO PROMOTE MWBE CERTIFICATION ACROSS NEW YORK STATE

Statewide Network of Entrepreneurship Assistance Centers and Small Business Development Centers to Help Streamline Certification Process

Enhanced Free Support With Certification Process Available Until August 30th, 2024

Participants May Receive Certification Determination in as Little as 90 Days

Builds on Governor's Continued Commitment to Supporting Small Businesses in Every Region

On July 11, Governor Kathy Hochul unveiled a statewide effort led by Empire State Development to advance Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprise (MWBE) opportunities across New York State. This "Sail-Thru Summer" initiative encourages applicants to collaborate with local Entrepreneurship Assistance Centers (EACs) or Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) in completing their New York State MWBE certification applications. These specialized centers provide free expert guidance throughout the application process, helping applicants navigate requirements efficiently and submit complete, accurate documentation for a potentially faster certification decision.

"This initiative marks a significant step forward in our commitment to foster a diverse and inclusive business environment in New York State," Governor Hochul said. "By streamlining the MWBE certification process, we're not just opening doors—we're actively empowering minority and women-owned businesses to play a larger role in our state's economic growth and success."

ESD Commissioner Hope Knight unveiled the initiative at the 2024 NYC MWBE Expo in Manhattan, marking a significant step forward in New York's commitment to fostering a diverse and inclusive business landscape. Applicants can <u>search for their local EAC</u> and <u>SBDC here</u>. Empire State Development President, CEO and Commissioner Hope Knight said, "By partnering with EACs and SBDCs, we're providing hands-on support to applicants, potentially shortening the certification timeline, and ultimately expanding opportunities for our diverse business community. This initiative reflects our customer service approach to the certification process and ongoing effort to further strengthen New York's nation-leading MWBE program." This streamlined process aims to expedite certification determinations, with eligible participants potentially receiving decisions in as few as 90 days. All businesses must meet the standards outlined in Executive Law Article 15-A and Title 5 to qualify for MWBE certification. Learn more about New York State's MWBE program.

This initiative further reinforces Governor Hochul's ongoing commitment to empowering New York's small businesses and strengthening local economies. During Small Business Month in May, the Governor announced that New York had not only met but exceeded its goal of reducing MWBE certification application response times to 90-120 days. Since August 1, 2023, Empire State Development has successfully certified and re-certified over 2,530 businesses. This progress builds upon Governor Hochul's robust support for MWBEs, including the landmark achievement of eliminating New York's longstanding MWBE certification backlog, made possible by an \$11 million investment in the FY 2023 Budget.

Watch a video about the MBWE Certification process <u>here</u>.



TOURS NEWS & UPDATES

MONTGOMERY COUNTY TOURISM NEWS-AUGUST AND BEYOND

LatinoAmericano Fest, August 10

Sponsor: Centro Civico a Division of Ibero Saturday August 10th | Riverlink Park Enjoy live music with Alex Torres & his Latin Orchestra! Plus salsa dancing, comida criolla, cultural events, celebrity guests, youth performances, children's activities, an agency fair and amazing food!

REMINDER: <u>Montgomery County Kayak-A-Thon,</u> <u>Saturday, August 24</u>

Kayaks, canoes, and stand-up paddle boards will be launching from the St. Johnsville Municipal Marina Launch at 1 Marina, Drive, St. Johnsville and travel east along the Mohawk River, through Locks 14 and 15, and conclude their paddle at the Riverfront Park in Canajoharie. Register for the event at: <u>https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/montgomery-kayak-a-thon-</u> <u>tickets-920206491387?aff=oddtdtcreator</u>

Fonda Fair, August 28 – September 2

The 183rd Fonda Fair, August 28th through September 2, 2024. Come out and see all the animals, truck and tractor pulls, 4×4 drag races, demolition derbies, Convoy for a Cause, Semi truck pulls and time trials, live music and delicious fair food. Tickets are \$12.

NEW EVENT:

Saturday, September 21 <u>Paranormal Investigation with Brian Cano, An</u> <u>Evening of History & Hauntings</u>

Saturday, September 21, 5pm-11:30pm Welcome to an unforgettable evening of History and Hauntings! At 5PM we will begin with a Research Workshop with County Historian Kelly Farguhar, Still realing over an

with County Historian Kelly Farquhar. Still reeling over an unexplained experience at your home? Learn how to conduct your own paranormal research utilizing a History & Archives Department and other available resources.

Bring your own bagged meal for a dinner break from 6:30 to 8PM. Mingle with with Brian Cano, the renowned paranormal investigator, who has made appearances on Most Terrifying Places in America (2010), Haunted Collector (2011-2013), Bermuda Triangle – Science of the

Abyss (2016), Paranormal Caught on Camera (2019- Current), The Curse of Oak Island – Drilling

Down (2019), Doomsday Caught on Camera (2020), and The UnXplained – with William Shatner (2020).

Join Brian as he conducts a paranormal investigation to discover the eerie secrets of the Old Courthouse, built in 1836. Experience the live investigation and uncover the ghostly tales of this historic site, including the spirit of "Linda," a woman in a blue Victorian dress. Don't miss this spine-chilling event! Secure your spot now! Session 1 includes workshop from 5 to 6:30PM, break and then investigation from 8 to 10PM. Session 2 from 10 to midnight is INVESTIGATION ONLY.

Due to the historical nature of the building, it is not wheelchair accessible. **Get tickets** <u>here</u>; **book now before this event sells out!**

Access information on all the great events taking place in Montgomery County at <u>https://</u> <u>visitmontgomerycountyny.com/events/</u>

FULTON COUNTY TOURISM NEWS

AUGUST 24 & 25, 2024 – <u>THIRD ANNUAL</u> <u>WHEELERVILLE TRAILS MOUNTAIN BIKE FES-</u> <u>TIVAL</u>

Join us on Aug 24-25 for a wild weekend of twowheeled fun in the southern Adirondacks.

This year will feature a return of the Live Free and Fly Downhill Race, Jump Jam, Height Competition, Wheelie Competition, guided rides, skills clinics, great food, music and outdoor gear raffle. We will showcase new trails, a new skills area for kids and bigger and better jumps. We're adding vendors daily, so please reach out to us if you'd like to participate or support the festival. Also hit us up if you'd like to volunteer, as we need parking assistants, ride guides and help with pre/post festival site prep. Learn more on their website at https://

www.wheelervilletrails.com/ or contact the Town of Caroga at (518) 835-4211.

President's Message– continued from page 2

We will continue our efforts to partner and collaborate with the Counties and our economic partners, as we have already enjoyed successful and innovative programming together. The Chamber will continue to assist with obtaining internships for students at HFM BOCES, SUNY F-M, SUNY Cobleskill through the Business Education Partnership, and schedule workplace tours and mentors for an on-site learning experience. We will also continue to work together on our long-standing events. The Chamber will remain in Gloversville as conversations continue, we don't intend to abandon that important building in the downtown area. We intend to continue to maintain the building and continue our presence there to serve our mission to the Fulton Montgomery Region, which supports our members and our region as a partner for business, workforce, and tourism development. A move may or may not happen, depending on a number of factors. For instance, if a qualified buyer wanted to have a conversation where they would invest in the building and align with Gloversville's future and revitalization goals, then we would possibly move forward. If the building was sold, the money received from a sale would go back into our community. We might use it to increase our scholarship funds (perhaps double or triple the funding) and invest in programs and opportunities for our Chamber members. It would be an exciting opportunity for our region, to have the money invested back into our local businesses.

For now, we are continuing our full operations from our Gloversville office, and are excited for new events, celebrations, ribbon cuttings, and business after hours scheduled for the summer and the fall that will connect and invigorate our regional business community.

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









SUMMER BRIDGE BUSINESS PARTNER MEET AND GREET FRIDAY, AUGUST 9, 2024 AT 8:45AM @ SUNY STUDENT UNION

A PANEL DISCUSSION WITH OUR INCOMING FRESHMEN STUDENTS!



ENGAGE WITH STUDENTS DURING A FUN AND INTERACTIVE ICE BREAKER ACTIVITY!



HELP OUR STUDENTS PRACTICE THEIR PROFESSIONAL SKILLS LEARNED DURING THEIR SUMMER BRIDGE CLASSES!



ANSWER STUDENT LED QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR BUSINESS, YOUR ROLE, YOUR CAREER PATH AND MORE!

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING, SCAN THIS CODE TO SIGN UP!: WITH ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT: NATALIE MAY (518)-725-0641 NATALIEM@FULTONMONTGOMERYNY.ORG





Natalie May, Business & Education Partnership Coord. nataliem@ fultonmontgomeryny.org

HFM PTECH Annual Business Partner Meet & Greet

The Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce our annual Business Partner Meet & Greet for incoming PTECH 9th graders on Friday, August 9, 2024, at SUNY Fulton-Montgomery Community College (2805 NY-67, Johnstown). This event is an introduction for new students to meet business partners in our region.

The schedule for the morning is as follows:

8:45am- Q&A with businesses & students at the Student Union Building (Large Lounge)

9:15am- Meet & Greet game at Clock Tower

To register, please visit <u>https://</u> <u>forms.gle/</u>

<u>nbSQtUixnFVW3Zmv6</u> or email Natalie May at nataliem@fultonmontgomeryny.org.

Career Con at SUNY Fulton-Montgomery Community College

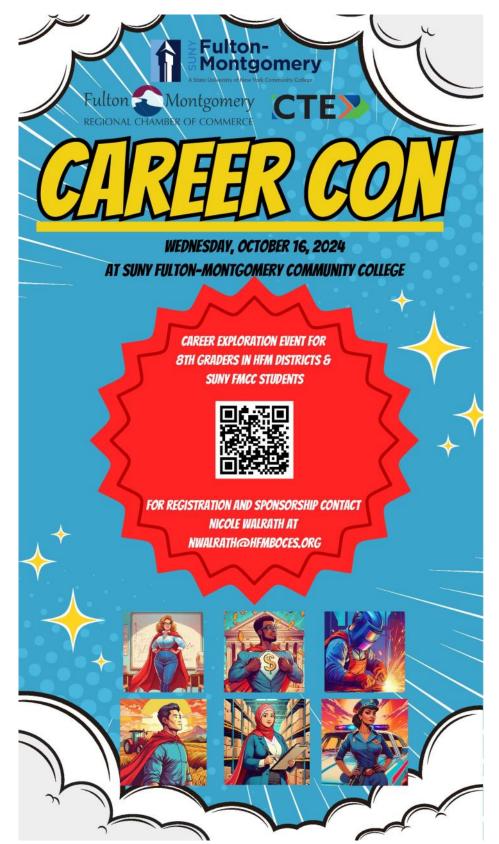
We're excited to present Career Con, a career exploration event on Wednesday, October 16, 2024, at SUNY Fulton -Montgomery Community College. This event is in partnership with SUNY FMCC, HFM BOCES and Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce.

8th grade students in the HFM region will be invited to attend and visit with businesses in a variety of career pathways. SUNY FMCC students will be invited to attend from 12-1pm.

Booth set up for industry partners will begin at 7:45am in the Gymnasium with the event running from 8:45am-1pm. Career & Technical Education culinary students will prepare lunch for guests immediately following the event.

We encourage all businesses who participate to make their booths interactive to maximize student engagement. Examples include but are not limited to engaging PowerPoint, videos, wheel of fortune, plinko board, etc. To register, please visit <u>https://forms.gle/</u> <u>rtLH3V6qzJKDMRBe6.</u>

Sponsorship opportunities are available with information included on next page. For inquiries, please contact Nicole Walrath, Fulton Montgomery Chamber Director of Workforce Development at nicolew@fultonmontgomeryny.org or visit our website at <u>https://</u> <u>sites.google.com/hfmboces.org/</u> <u>hfmbocescareer-con/home.</u>



August 2024



AMSTERDAM IS LOOKING FOR INPUT

Your voice is needed! The City of Amsterdam received a grant from the Department of State to prepare a City of Amsterdam Smart Growth Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan will establish the objectives that the community wants to achieve, and will guide future sustainable growth within our City, enhance the local cultural identity, and protect natural and cultural local resources.

Please take a few minutes and take the City of Amsterdam's Comprehensive Plan Survey and let your voice be heard:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Amsterdam-CP -Survey



YOUR MEMBER WEBPAGE WITH THE FULTON MONTGOMERY CHAMBER

Your response and participation in the online opportunities offered through the Chamber website is appreciated thank you.

Our mission is to enable the success of our business community. One of those avenues in our execution is to provide members with exceptional results by highlighting and targeting all our wonderful businesses when consumers visit the Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce's <u>Online Business Directory</u> pages. We offer **targeted**, **affordable**, **exclusive**, **trackable and changeable marketing**. Online visitors look to our Member/Business Directory for information about businesses in our area. It is about utilizing the web and the Chamber name to promote your business and services. Each member has a unique MIC (Member Information Center) portal, basically your own member webpage within the Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce website. It is a personal online, password-protected website location to perform members-only tasks that can be accessed through the Chamber's website, <u>fultonmontgomeryny.org</u>, and by going to the <u>MemberLogin</u> page where you would enter your username and password. If you don't know your login credentials, please <u>click here</u> to retrieve your password.

Your personal MIC portal pre-populates with your business name, address and phone number, but **requires your attention** to update your **business description, key word/search terms, hours of operation and driving directions.** This is the listing information that is visible on the Chamber's <u>Online Business Directo-</u> <u>ry</u>.

If you didn't get a chance to speak with our Internet Marketing Consultant, **Jason Moengen**, and would like **more information about the online marketing options and opportunities**, please connect with Jason by clicking on the link below and submitting the online request form.

Click here to request more information.

Thanks again for all you do to support your FM Chamber!



ATTENTION BUSINESSES IN THE CITY OF GLOVERSVILLE

The **Gloversville Economic**

<u>Development Corporation</u> 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

GET INVOLVED WITH YOUR CHAMBER

All events offer FREE admission for Chamber members and their employees. Unless otherwise indicated (highlighted), please RSVP to (518) 725-0641 or email fultonmontgomeryny@gmail.com.

RIBBON-CUTTING EVENT AT 44 LAKES CUS-

TOMIZED GIFTS & DÉCOR Thursday, August 1, 9am 15 North Main Street, Gloversville

RIBBON-CUTTING EVENT AT SCHWALBACHER BREWING

Thursday, August 1, 3pm 30 E. Main Street, Amsterdam

RIBBON-CUTTING EVENT AT ONE CHURCH STREET

Monday, August 5, 2pm | 21 N. Market Street, Johnstown—Tours and Refreshments

RIBBON-CUTTING EVENT AT WELLNOW UR-GENT CARE IN AMSTERDAM

Tuesday, August 20, 12pm 4942 State Highway 30, Amsterdam RSVP link: https://wellnow.formstack.com/forms/ amsterdamaug20

RIBBON-CUTTING EVENT AT ST. ANDREWS HEATING AND COOLING

Wednesday, August 28, 11:30am 212 Stoner Trail Road, Johnstown

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS AT RIVER RIDGE LIVING CENTER

Wednesday, August 21–4:30pm-7pm 100 Sandy Drive, Amsterdam Join us for a Business After Hours event at River Ridge Living Center. Enjoy delicious refreshments, take a tour of the facility, and network with your fellow Chamber members!

REGISTER NOW FOR THE FULTON MONTGOMERY CHAMBER GOLF CLASSIC

Friday, September 13-Shotgun start at 11am; Registration begins at 9:30am

Antlers Country Club, 2258 State Highway 5, Fort Johnson

The Chamber is looking for golfers, sponsors, and volunteers to participate in this GREAT golf tournament featuring beautiful fall golf at Antler's Country Club in Fort Johnson. Don't miss the Craft Brew and Margarita holes, fantastic prizes and giveaways—and the chance to benefit the Chamber's Scholarship Program and mission. Call to register or for more details (518) 725 -0641. Cost of the tournament for golfers is \$150 and \$600 per foursome. Access the flyer that includes registration and sponsorship information here.

HFM PTECH 10TH ANNIVERSARY **CELEBRATION**

Thursday, October 3, 4:30pm-6:00pm SUNY Fulton-Montgomery-The Allen House 2805 State Highway 67, Johnstown The Chamber's Business Education Partnership program helps to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the HFM PTECH program and our partnership with the school. A free event for Chamber members and their employeesall are invited! RSVP required for planning purposes. See details in the headline above.

CAREERCON

Wednesday, October 16

Fulton-Montgomery Community College A career exploration event for regional 8th-grade students and SUNY FM students, Chamber members are invited to participate with a free booth at the event to speak with students about your business and career paths to employment. Sponsorship opportunities also available for Chamber members. Please contact Nicole Walrath for more information or to register for the event: nwalrath@hfmboces.org. Sponsorship and event information can also be found on pages 14-16.

Working together to build your business.

- Graphic Design Business Printing
- Direct Mail Brochures
- Signage Promotional Products Business Cards
- Catalog Creation Letterhead
- Annual Reports Menu Creation
 - Envelopes
 - Etc....

Banners

Multiple Part Forms



THANK YOU to the following Chamber Members who have sponsored our Golf Classic

To register a foursome, or for additional sponsorship opportunity information, email fultonmontgomeryny@gmail.com or on page 18.

Presenting Sponsor



Apparel Sponsor

Dinner Sponsors





Lunch Sponsors







Specialty Drink Hole Sponsors



RUILDING A HEALTHY COMMUNIT

Cocktail Hour Sponsor



Snack Cart Sponsor

DOLLAR

GENERAI

Beverage Cart Sponsors









Bill and Roberta Winsman

Hole and Tee Sponsors



Strengthen your work force.



Discover the advantages of partnering with SUNY FMCC today! Learn how investing in education can lead to a more skilled and motivated workforce, driving innovation and growth. Let's talk about your future success together.

fmpartner@fmcc.edu

