



NEWSLINE

March 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.

TO LIFE! OPENS NEW OFFICES OFFERING SERVICES TO BREAST CANCER PATIENTS



To Life! officially celebrated the grand opening of their offices in the New York Oncology Hematology Amsterdam Cancer Center at 1700 Riverfront Center with a ribbon-cutting event last month. This new location will allow *To Life!* the opportunity to provide mastectomy fitting services to individuals in the Montgomery, Fulton and Schenectady Counties. *To Life!* supports those dealing with a breast cancer diagnosis, in treatment and survivorship. Special Thanks to Megan Ryder and [Megabites Catering](#) for providing refreshments free-of-charge for the event!

15TH ANNUAL WALLEYE CHALLENGE DRAWS HUNDREDS TO REGION



Pictured from top left: Lou Stutzke announces prize drawing winners from the deck at [Lanzi's on the Lake](#). View from the crowd of the deck at [Lanzi's](#). Beaver Ross (left) and Lou Stutzke (right) flank the side-by-side winner Mary Pat McMahon of Broadalbin.

Other big prize winners for 2 four-wheelers were Justin Rodriguez of Broadalbin and Gregory Warner of Mayfield. Blake Bradt of Gloversville won the 12 and under kids 4-wheeler. THANK YOU to Lou Stutzke, Beaver Ross, Great Sacandaga Lake Fisheries Federation, Inc, [Fuel-n-Food](#), Saratoga Eagle, [Frank's Gun Shop](#), Wiggly Worm Bait Supply, Henry D Ross III Memorial Fund, volunteers, the [Fulton County Tourism Department](#), and Chamber staff for all your hard work and dedication putting this event together!! We appreciate ALL of you!!



Message from the Executive Director

Dear Chamber Members,

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, *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](#)

The National Women's History Month's theme for March 2024 celebrates "Women Who Advocate for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion." The theme recognizes women throughout the country who understand that, for a positive future, we need to eliminate bias and discrimination entirely from our lives and institutions. (source: <https://nationalwomenshistoryalliance.org/2024-whm-theme/>)

The Chamber's woman-based leadership is delighted to represent our members everywhere we go. We are so proud to have these positions where we can be a voice and make a difference. We are focused on your well-being and will continue to be the trusted resource providing relationship building, advocacy, resources, workforce initiatives, networking, and solutions.

We honor local women from the past and present who have taken the lead to show the importance of change. We celebrate leaders in the region who advocate for inclusion, equality, and fairness every day.

We have pioneers that grew up and fought for change right here in our backyard those many years ago. Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Rose Knox, Barbara McMartin and Mary "Molly" Brant are just a few important, historical women that changed the world and continue to live a legacy of empowerment and inspiration. Visit <https://www.ecstantonhometown.org/> for more information, and I encourage you to take the time to "Walk the Footsteps of Elizabeth Cady Stanton," a 1 hour, 1 mile cell phone tour, right in the heart of downtown Johnstown.

There are many grant opportunities and financing for women to live their dream and start and grow your own business. In this edition, The Business Resources You Can Use page has information about grants for women-owned businesses.

Business Expo and Chamber Award Winners Celebration : We are so excited at the Chamber for the March 21 event at HFM BOCES from 4pm-6:30pm!! This is going to be a fantastic celebration. A heartfelt congratulations to our award winners. We will be featuring their stories in this edition, in the April edition of *Newsline*, and of course in signage at the event touting the winners' accomplishments. As a guest for many years and being a former winner of the Young Professional of the Year Award, reading the award winner posters was my favorite display of the event, and the dedication and passion they have for the Chamber and the community.

Vendor space at the Expo is VERY limited with only a few tables remaining. To secure a table at the event to promote and grow your business please contact us ASAP at (518) 725-0641. All Chamber members and their employees are encouraged to join us free of charge, but for planning purposes, please RSVP by calling 518-725-0641 or emailing fultonmontgomeryny@gmail.com. Help us celebrate your fellow Chamber businesses, network, enjoy some great refreshments, and look at how our region is moving forward in so many positive ways!

Welcome New Members

February 2024

PARK OUTDOOR ADVERTISING

(315) 724-6138 | www.parkoutdoor.com

2429 Chenango Road, Utica

Media, Out of Home Advertising, Billboards (Static & Digital) Park Outdoor Advertising is an advertising media company operating over 1,500 billboards in upstate New York and northern Pennsylvania. Including over 45 static billboards and 1 digital billboard throughout the major arteries of Fulton & Montgomery Counties

AMSTERDAM CLOCK TOWER

(518) 774-2920 | amsterdamclocktower.com

37 Prospect Street, Amsterdam

The Amsterdam Clock Tower has space available for your storefront, business, office or studio. Each space is custom designed to fit your needs.

TOTAL TECH SOLUTIONS

(518) 620-6416 | www.totaltechsolutions.org

Total Tech Solutions helps businesses grow through technology. We specialize in business security camera & alarm systems, website design and optimization, technology hardware installation & maintenance, IT consulting, internet & network upgrades and off-site cloud storage. We also offer residential services.

HELOU INTERNATIONAL REALTY CORP.

(518) 844-2447

138 E. Fulton Street, Gloversville

Full-service real estate brokerage serving upstate New York at the Gloversville location and serving downstate at the Brooklyn location providing market expertise and assisting clients in buying and selling offering property valuation, marketing and negotiation to ensure successful real estate transactions.

CALDERWOOD TRAINING SOLUTIONS

(518) 265-0778 | calderwoodtrainingsolutions.com

110 Calderwood Road, Amsterdam

Calderwood Training Solutions provides fire, hazmat, emergency management, OSHA and CPR training. Calderwood can work with your team to create site specific training programs that allow for your agency to focus on topics and concerns specific to you

NBT BANK OF FORT PLAIN

(518) 993-2393 | nbtbank.com

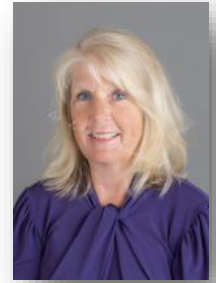
41 Canal Street Fort Plain

NBT Bancorp is a financial services holding company with its roots firmly planted in community banking.

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MEMBERSHIP MESSAGE

Janet Davis, Director of
Membership &
Member Services



WELCOME CHAMBER AMBASSADORS FOR 2024

- **Debra Hall**- NBT Bank, Fremont Street
- **Sherry Suits**-NBT Bank, Fort Plain
- **Megan Ryder**- Megabites Catering, The Bridge Walk, MJ Hospitality
- **Zackary Kriskern**- SFCU Sidney Federal Credit Union
- **Jennifer Donovan**- Fulton County Center for Regional Growth
- **Pete Lawrence**- Family Counseling Center of Fulton County
- **Colleen Ioele-DeCristofaro**- Howard Hanna Real Estate
- **Carl Marucci**- Community Bank, Canajoharie Business Development

First of all, I would like to thank all of you for your time and for supporting the Chamber. Our Ambassador Committee is here to support our new and existing members. Ambassadors are often the first link new members have with the Chamber. They do this by attending ribbon cutting ceremonies to welcome new businesses and by contacting new members to answer any questions they may have. They are also official hosts at Chamber events, where they pay special attention to first-time attendees, meeting them and introducing them to other members. Ambassadors have the responsibility to be Chamber advocates for all members.

Our first breakfast meeting is on March 7, 2024 at the Railside Café in Johnstown at 8:00am. I really appreciate the support and time our volunteers are giving to help our Chamber.

Congratulations To Debra Hall from NBT Bank for being Ambassador of the Year for 2023! She has been an Ambassador for a number of years and has helped us yearly with the Golf Tournament, Events and Ribbon Cuttings!



MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

February 2024



Thank you for your continued support!

51-60 YEARS

Virginia M. Mackey Real Estate—53

41-50 YEARS

Walrath & Stewart Funeral Home - 50

31-40 YEARS

F-M-S Counties Private Industry Council - 40
Amsterdam Housing Authority - 36

21-30 YEARS

Gloversville Economic Development Corp. - 30
Fulmont Community Action Agency, Inc. - 28
Roser Communications Network, Inc. - 26
Harold's Restaurant and Lounge - 25
Glove Cities Veterinary Hospital, PC - 24
Family Ear, Nose & Throat Services - 22
Home Health Care Partners - 21
Northville Central School—22

11-20 YEARS

Great Sacandaga Lake Association - 20
Salvione Insurance Agency, Inc. - 19
Dunlap Chiropractic - 18
Buanno's Custom Body Shop - 17
Spirits of the Adirondacks - 17
T & T Storage, Inc. - 15
Frank's Gun Shop, Inc. - 14
Sam's Seafood Steakhouse - 14
South Shore Marine - 14
Zanella's Market Hill Service & Auto Sales - 13
Bethany Schuman-McGhee, Attorney at Law -12
Stephen Miller General Contractors, Inc. - 12
Hales Mills Country Club - 11

1-10 YEARS

Flooring Authority, Inc. - 10
NBT Bank - Fonda - 8
Adirondack Harley-Davidson, Inc. - 7
Stump City Brewing, LLC - 7
Advanced Cleaning & Restoration Services - 6
Rogers' Cideryard LLC - 6
Lisa Queeney - 3
Mingo's Moving - 3
1st Look Photography - 2
Adobe - 2
Dygart Farms Creamery - 2
County Wide Paving - 1
Megabites Catering/MJ Hospitality - 1
Pilot Travel Center - 1

NEW MEMBERS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

INDUSTRIAL ACROPOLIS

(518) 774-2820 | industrialacropolis.com
37 Prospect St, Amsterdam

A elegant space in a historic mill that is available to everyone, so they may celebrate and make lifelong memories in the community they live in. Our 4375 sq. ft. venue can hold 350 people and accommodate 250 seated guests. It's an ideal place for weddings, parties, community and ticketed events!

POWERHOUSE MOTOR SPORTS

(518) 661-7787 | powerhousems.com
2493 State Highway 30, Mayfield

Sales and service of recreational equipment. ATVs, snowmobiles, watercraft, utility vehicles and motorcycles.

CYNTHIA GIFFORD—HOWARD HANNA

(518) 669-4481 | howardhanna.com
122 Bridge Street, Northville | *Real Estate Associate*

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!*

CHAMBER ANNOUNCES ITS 2024 AWARD WINNERS

Awards to be presented at March 21 Business Expo

The Chamber is proud to announce its 2024 Award Winners who will be honored at the March 21 Business Expo at HFM BOCES. If you haven't RSVP'd yet, please do so by emailing fultonmontgomeryny@gmail.com or calling (518) 725-0641. Here is a preview of our award winners—the remaining winners will be featured in our April issue. CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!

HERBERT T. SINGER COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD—JOYCE ROYAL, Joyce Royal Real Estate

Joyce Royal started her real estate business in 1992 as Century 21 – Joyce Royal Real Estate. But her tenure with being involved with the Chamber started even before that. She joined because she always wanted to be involved with other businesses, and felt that as a realtor you really have to be involved in the community, to help it prosper and bring in new people and to constantly improve our neighborhoods. And she has done just that for over 30 years.

Joyce is no stranger to involvement with businesses and in the community. She received the Fulton County Chamber's Jenny Award in 1995, an award presented for over 20 years in memory of Jenny Ketchum, owner of the former Glove Inn, who was a volunteer extraordinaire in the community. The Jenny Award was the precursor to the Ambassador of the Year and Community Service Awards. Also for the Chamber she was on the Board of Directors for a number of terms during which she served as the President of the Board. One of the most important roles that she plays for the Chamber is the Chairwoman of the former Fulton County Clean Up Day which now takes place throughout the region. She personally leads the charge and spearhead cleaning up a stretch of Gloversville's Main Street, where she picks up and hauls away hundreds of pounds of trash to make our area look great for the summer tourism season.

She has real estate honors and her participation ranges from local levels to national. For the Fulton County Board of Realtors (which is now part of the Greater Capital Area Realtors) she was Realtor of the Year several times and held the President's position for this group twice. She has been a member of the state Realtor Association's Realtors Honor Society since 2015. For the Greater Capital Area Realtors, she has served on many of their committees, and has served on the Ethics Committee of the National Association of Realtors.

Under the former Fulton County Economic Development Corporation, Joyce served as president of the Crossroads Incubator Corporation. When that entity dissolved, she became involved with the GEDC where she served as President for over 10 years. The Gloversville EDC provides loan funds for businesses throughout the city of Gloversville.

She is now involved with the Glove City Coalition and its Neighborhood Engagement Unit that recently put on a



hugely successful Winterfest – the group's 2nd annual. The event is a wonderful collaboration of 30 service organizations and the Gloversville Public Library who enjoyed standing room only at the February event. In addition, she is also the part-time pastor of the North Main Street United Methodist Church. Among the other services the church provides, they have an active food pantry that Joyce oversees that opens its doors to anyone in Fulton County who needs the service. She is also proud of her service to the Community Development Agency for Nick Zabawski. The group did a lot of grant administration for people buying and rehabbing houses in Gloversville.

As you can see, Joyce is most deserving of this Community Service Award. We hope she stays as involved with our community, and with the Chamber for years to come. She says, "The most important thing for me is to get out and meet new people and get to know the other business people and collaborate and partner. That's why I love the Chamber's Business After Hours events – that's how you get to know people as well as keeping up on the pulse of the business landscape in the entire region."

Thank you, Joyce, for your committed service to the Chamber and to our entire region.

YOUNG PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR AWARD – SHELBY MEAD, Finance Director, The Family Counseling Center

Shelby Mead, Finance Director of the Family Counseling Center, is the Chamber's Young Professional of the Year. In the nomination for this award, Jennifer Jennings from the Family Counseling Center said "Shelby Mead has brought a level of professionalism, stability, and excellence to the role since joining the organization in 2019. She has been a participant in the Chamber's Executive Training Program, a past board member of MCT Credit Union, and an active community volunteer. Shelby's role as Finance Director is not an easy one and she joined us after a period of turnover in the position. Her steadiness, skills at business projection, and insight have helped the Family Counseling Center grow in untold ways. Her sense of humor, commitment to the community, and leadership adds so much to our organization and we are a better organization with her in the role."

Shelby holds a bachelor's degree in accounting and a master's in business administration from LeMoyne College. In her final two years at LeMoyne, she was a program lead and preparer for the VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program. This was her first exposure to community-based work as a professional and she took great pride in organizing and managing the organization's



Shelby Mead—continued on page 6

Shelby Mead—continued from page 5

volunteer days. She found it amazing to see the impact that this service had on the community for, it seemed to her, such a small act of kindness. She also interned at Turning Stone Casino during her graduate work and was an accountant there after graduation. The size of that organization and the diverse lines of business in which it is involved provided her with a well-rounded experience in her early career.

When Shelby learned that The Family Counseling Center was looking for a Finance Director while she had also become interested in moving back to her hometown, she was excited about the opportunity. She relates that she is so grateful that the Family Counseling Center board and leadership team selected me as their Finance Director even though her supervisory and non-profit experience was somewhat limited. She feels that they did so knowing that she shared their passion and commitment to serving this community. She feels that she has grown with the agency as she has grown in her role. She prepares the organization's annual budget, interim financial statements, oversees billing operations, day-to-day accounting functions and works closely with the board and leadership on financial projections and strategic planning. She says that in an often-challenging fiscal environment, she has gained confidence in her abilities as a professional and leader, but feels also that she is simply a better person working for the agency. She says, "In my experience, The Family Counseling Center is a safe space for people who don't have easy access to other providers. We are also willing to get creative to meet people's needs. Our smaller size gives us the ability to be unique and flexible in our services. We are truly a unique, client-centered organization."

Shelby lives in Canajoharie with her partner, Mark, and their 9-month-old daughter, Lainey. Her parents, Barry and Tracy Mead, still reside in Shelby's childhood home in Canajoharie. Her dad has worked on the family-owned dairy farm for Shelby's entire life and she feels strongly that both her parents taught her the value in working hard and giving 100% to anything she did.

Shelby says of this award, "I turned completely red when Anne Boles called me about the award. I have devoted a tremendous amount of time to making myself the best person I can be. I am an accountant by trade – a numbers girl, not in a traditionally warm and fuzzy role – but I still wanted to be able to make an impact. And doing that in the community I grew up in is a bonus. I feel that this award echoes that for me. I feel very honored."

THE THOMAS B. CONSTANTINO ENTREPRENEURIAL AWARD – MEGAN RYDER, The Bridge Walk, Megabites Catering

The Thomas B. Constantino Entrepreneurial Award is given to a Chamber member who embodies the entrepreneurial spirit by organizing, managing and assuming the risks of building a business then persevering to see these efforts come to fruition. In memory of Thomas B. Constantino, founder of The Noteworthy Company in Amsterdam, who exhibited exemplary leadership skills, determination, creativity and vision. The winner of this year's award, Megan Ryder, is very deserving of this award, as she has renovat-

ed, revised and rethought the Bridge Walk in Perth to its glory as a premiere event space in our community, as well as to envision and bring to life Megabites Catering, the food truck that has burst on to our community scene and is seemingly everywhere bringing a diverse, personalized menu to each event where anyone is lucky to catch it.

In her nomination for this award, submitted by Tina Rodriguez, she adds: Megabites Catering, founded by Megan Ryder, embodies community by lifting other businesses up with their daily business practices. Megan is never too busy to help a community business or family in need when the opportunity arises. She donates to needy families all year round and to local businesses that empower local families. She thrives on the idea of helping other small businesses rise with her business and creates continual opportunity in the community to help other businesses prosper.

Anyone who knows Megan and her work ethic would be hard pressed to name anyone who works harder, is more positive and enthusiastic about her business, but is also so positive and forward thinking about our region and what it can, and should, be.

A graduate of Broadalbin-Perth Schools, Megan also attended Fulton-Montgomery Community College as an early admit student. She has been in the hospitality industry all her life – she has been working in restaurants and the catering industry since she was 11 years old when she worked at Ferrandi's Restaurant with her aunt and uncle. She then went on to work at Brown's Beach in Saratoga, and back in our region at such mainstays as Jackie's Diner and Fritz's Pizza. She really honed her skills when she started as a 16-year-old with Mazzone Hospitality at the Hall of Springs. She worked directly with Mark Delos, who is now Mazzone's Vice President of Culinary. Under his tutelage she worked in event design, and off-premise catering where she worked her way up from line cook to management. She considers Mark Delos and Angelo Mazzone important mentors in her journey – both in the business venue as well as in her personal life. She said that Mark introduced her to specialized, off-premise catering with special clients. He taught her how to provide THE BEST customer service and that the client was always the most important. Working for Angelo Mazzone and Mark Delos gave her "the experience of a lifetime."

She started her own business at 17, when she leased a deli/pizzeria from her parents in Wallins Corners which she ran for about 2 1/2 years. She left there and started at Charlie's where she helped expand the catering end of the business which became Black Tie Events & Catering. With Black Tie, she worked at Shorty's, Rolling Hills Country Club and Top Notch Tavern in 2016, and then took over The Bridge Walk in 2019 until the world shut down in 2020. During this time, her entrepreneurial spirit never waned and she started thinking about and researching the possibility of a food truck during the pandemic. She was able to find a trailer that would work for the project and started experimenting in 2022...and then it just took off.

When talking about Megabites, she says, "What's cool



about it and why I think it took off so well is that
Megan Ryder—continued from page 6

everything we do with it is customizable – decorating, menu and more – making each event that we do a unique experience.” Everyone who knows Megan has had great experiences wherever Megabites has been. They served 500 at Amsterdam Schools during a Teacher Appreciation event; did a wedding with a personalized taco truck, including vegan, vegetarian and gluten-free options, did a great event at June Farms, partnered with Mohawk CoWorks in Amsterdam for a series of Food Truck Fridays, did the popular Business After Hours/Open House at Chad Majewski Real Estate in Amsterdam last fall, and much more. She does a lot with the Amsterdam school district and loves to be able to support teachers and the community and has catered 15 lunches to 100. Word of mouth and the support of the community are important to Megan, and she delivers the goods to warrant it.

For 2024 and beyond, she is looking to expand her catering division in general...and her new venture, a full-service, full bar truck is now available to accommodate events of any kind and size.

At the same time, if any of you have been to The Bridge Walk lately, you can see the fruits of Megan’s labor – she has really brought the venue back to life in new and exciting ways. “Getting the Bridge Walk property back was a game changer for me,” she says. She has booked a number of weddings, corporate retreats and a “ton” of community-based events and fundraisers for organizations like the SPCA, Habitat for Humanity and more.

“Giving back” runs through Megan’s veins. Besides being able to help the community with events and fundraisers, she single handedly adopted four families this past Christmas – looking for input from the community as to which families were most deserving and needed the most support. She is hoping to expand this adopt a family program this holiday season and to get more of the community and businesses involved. Says Megan, “My big thing is wanting to give back to the community as much as possible. I have three teenage children who I also want to get involved. If you need help with a fundraiser, with anything that is going on in the community, I want to be able to help. I always see a way where we can help you.”

In closing, Megan wanted to give a special shout out to the Chamber. “They helped me so much with my vision and really supported me and helped build my dream through the connections she made with the Ambassador program that she is involved in. “It has taken what we are doing right now to another level,” she added. She has received business from Chamber referrals and really believes that the Chamber supports its individual business members. “Anne Boles has really stepped up the level of the Chamber and I feel it is getting its confidence back. I really didn’t understand the value of the Chamber, but I do now.”

AMBASSADOR OF THE YEAR

DEBRA HALL - NBT Bank –

Branch Manager, Fremont Street

The Ambassador of the Year Award is presented to a person who participates in Fulton Montgomery Chamber’s Ambassador Program who exemplifies volunteerism, attends Chamber functions such as ribbon-cutting events,

Business After Hours, Grand Openings, Open Houses, seminars, and more, volunteers for Chamber activities such as the annual Golf Tournament, and is willing to help with any activities for which we may need assistance. This person helps us carry out our mission, promoting a thriving business climate in the region and supporting the well-being of our members. Their role is also to keep the Chamber informed by being the eyes and ears of the community, which helps us to serve each of you better. Debra Hall exemplifies this description; and is being celebrated for her outstanding dedication and commitment to the community, as well as for her work fostering relationships with other businesses while representing the Chamber well.



Debra has been in banking for 36 years. She started with Amsterdam Federal Savings & Loan in January 1988 as a teller. She stayed with the same bank for 30 years (although the name changed four times) and worked up the corporate ladder to assistant manager. She left that bank in June 2018 and began her tenure at NBT as an assistant manager. She is now the branch manager at the Gloversville Fremont St office. Shortly after she started working for NBT Bank, she was asked to join the Chamber Team as an Ambassador. She does her best to go to all the Business After Hours events, ribbon cuttings and open houses. She has referred many new businesses to the Chamber for membership and represents the Chamber well in the community.

Debra grew up in Mayfield and was educated at Mayfield Central School, graduating in 1984. She also attended Fulton-Montgomery Community College. She is very involved with her church, the Mayfield Central Presbyterian Church where she is a church elder. At the church, she also works in the tech department to stream church services on Facebook and Zoom. Debra has two grown sons. Baylee is married and has given her a beautiful granddaughter. He graduated with his bachelor’s degree in accounting and works in the finance department at Liberty. Nolan graduated from Utica College with his doctorate in Physical Therapy.

Janet Davis, Director of Membership and Member Services for the Chamber says of Debra, “She goes to every event in my recent memory and makes new members feel welcome while in attendance. She goes out of her way at events to search for new members and introduce them to Chamber staff, to existing members and to other new members. Whenever we ask her to do ANYTHING – attend a ribbon cutting event, help new members feel welcome by reaching out to them, or helping at the golf tournament – whether it’s greeting golfers, or minding a hole all day - she’s willing to do it and makes herself available to us. She has referred a number of new businesses to me when they come into the area for membership, and really has been an active and working Chamber ambassador – even through the COVID-19 pandemic. We are so grateful to Debra for all she does for us, and for our members.”

Business Resources You Can Use:

GRANTS FOR WOMEN-OWNED AND WOMEN-RUN BUSINESSES

According to the Small Business Administration, women own over 12 million businesses and employ more than 10 million workers, but women still face hurdles when it comes to accessing business financing. According to Harvard Kennedy School, there is a significant gender gap in venture capital funding. In 2022, companies founded solely by women received only 2% of all venture capital (VC) investment. In 2021, companies established by all-male teams received more than 82% of the funding.

Private Business Grants for Women

Private grants are funded by private entities, such as corporations, foundations, or other non-governmental agencies. Because the money in a private grant can come from any private organization, your chances of securing one much higher than with a public grant.

AMBER GRANT – Business Type: Any | Grant Amount: \$10K | Application Timing: Monthly
<https://ambergrantsforwomen.com/>

The first Amber Grant was given in 1998 in honor of 19-year-old Amber Wigdahl, who died before her business dreams could be realized. Today they award three \$10K Amber Grants each month, and three of the 36 monthly winners receive an additional \$25K year-end grant. Each month, Amber Grant judges review all applications then select 10 finalists. One of those finalists will be the monthly \$10,000 Amber Grant grant winner. All business categories, including non-profits, are eligible for the Amber Grant each month. Applications and instructions available at hyperlink above.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE SELF-EMPLOYED (NASE) – Business Type: Any | Grant Amount: \$4K | Application Timing: Quarterly | <https://www.nase.org/become-a-member/member-benefits/business-resources/growth-grants> | Must be a member of NASE to apply – membership starts at \$12 monthly

Grants can be used for marketing, advertising, hiring employees, expanding facilities and other specific business needs. Since 2006, NASE has awarded \$1M to their members through the Growth Grants program by providing these small business grants. Business plans are needed for application, and criteria includes a review of identifiable business need, detailed use of the grant proceeds, potential of the grant to satisfy the identified business need, potential impact of the grant on overall business growth and success. Go to the link to apply.

THE TORY BURCH FOUNDATION: Business Type: Any | Grant Amount: \$5K | Application Timing: September to November | <https://www.toryburchfoundation.org/fellows/>

The Tory Burch Foundation Fellows program selects 50 women entrepreneurs for a yearlong program designed to grow their businesses through workshops, coaching sessions, network-building, and financial resources. The program ends with a company presentation and trip to New York City. Criteria include women entrepreneurs

who own the largest or equal stake in a qualifying business that is majority (50% or more) owned and controlled by women. Business has to be a for-profit entity, from any industry in early-stage (one to five years of operations preferred), operating in the U.S. Follow hyperlink for details.

The Tory Burch Foundation Women of Color Grants Business Type: Any | Grant Amount: Up to \$20K | Application Timing: April | <https://www.toryburchfoundation.org/women-of-color-grant-program/>

The Tory Burch Foundation selects 75 women of color-owned businesses to receive \$10K and \$20K grants and access to education and community in partnership with the Fearless Fund. Businesses must be at least 51% woman of color-owned, and operate for-profit. Application and details at hyperlink.

IFUNDWOMEN UNIVERSAL GRANT APPLICATION: Business Type: Any | Grant Amount: UP to \$50K | Rolling applications | <https://www.ifundwomen.com/grants/apply-for-grants>

IFundWomen is an online platform that connects businesses with grant funders such as Comcast, Neutrogena and Visa. Businesses submit a general application to the online database, and then IFundWomen matches you to partner grants that are a good fit. To get started, women-owned businesses register on the IFundWomen website, link included above.

GALAXY GRANTS: Business Type: Any | Grant Amount: \$2750 | Application Timing: February and March
<https://galaxyofstars.org/galaxy-grants/>
Galaxy Grants' mission is to help women and minority entrepreneurs succeed throughout their small business journey by providing important resources, tools, funding and business knowledge. Deadline is March 31 and winners will be announced the following week. Takes only 30 seconds to enter; send to a friend and if they win, you both win – each of you will receive a \$2750 grant. Application and details at link.

HERRISE MICROGRANT: Business Type: Any | Grant Amount: \$1K | Application Timing: Monthly | <https://www.hersuitespot.com/herrise/>
The HerRise MicroGrant offers financial support to innovative Women of Color who struggle to secure funding for their community-impacting small businesses. These small business grants are useful for financing a particular small business need. Past recipients used their grants for computers, equipment, marketing materials, software purchases, website creation and more. Application and details at link.

ENTHUSE FOUNDATION: Business Type: Food, Beverage or CPG (consumer packaged goods) | Grant Amount: \$5K | Application Timing: June <https://www.enthusefoundation.org/grants>
Offers a series of financial grants to assist women entrepreneurs with critical business needs. Application and

details available in March at link.

WOMEN FOUNDERS NETWORK FAST PITCH PROGRAM: Business Type: Any | Grant Amount: \$25K | Application Timing: April and May | <https://www.womenfoundersnetwork.org/about-fast-pitch>
Eligibility requirements include that the Founder/Co-Founder/CEO must be a woman or business must be majority owned by women. No applications from Life Sciences, nonprofit, or cannabis/CBD companies. Must attend in person and participate in the annual Fast Pitch event in October. Application and details at link above.

HIGH FIVE GRANTS FOR MOMS: Business Type: Any | Grant Awards: Up to \$10K | Application Timing: September | <https://themamaladder.com/grant>
The longest running-business grant program for Mom entrepreneurs. Since 2018, The Mama Ladder and has helped mom business owners build confidence, clarity and community through this High Five Grant program. In 2023, they gave \$38,500 in grants to 24 deserving mom business owners. The 2024 grant details have not yet been announced – please check back via link above.

EMPOWHER GRANTS: Business Type: Social Impact | Grant Award: Up to \$30K | Application Timing: Quarterly | <https://boundlessfutures.org/our-impact/>
The Boundless Futures Foundation offers EmpowHER Grants of up to \$30K to women-owned businesses that address social issues in one of the following categories: Poverty and Hunger | Public Health | Equal Rights and Opportunities | Sustainable Communities and Development | Climate and the Environment
This grant funding is provided as reimbursement for business expenses, with proof of payment. Funds must be used in a way that aligns with proposal. Business must prioritize social impact, been operational for fewer than three years, and you must be a female entrepreneur who is at least 22 years old.

FEDERAL BUSINESS GRANT RESOURCES
[Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) is a central database where grant opportunities are listed with agencies like the Departments of Agriculture and Education. You can filter opportunities by business category or eligibility and the site also includes educational resources and tools. There are also grant writing tips and get ways to help while navigating through the website. Eligibility varies by grant opportunity, but businesses must meet the Small Business Administration's size standards.

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION'S SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION RESEARCH (SBIR) AND SMALL BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER (STTR) PROGRAMS

The [SBIR and STTR](#) programs award federal grants to businesses focusing on research and development; the programs look to support underrepresented groups in business, including women. To qualify, your business must employ fewer than 500 employees. You must register your company with the SBIR. Grant amounts vary but may be worth up to several hundred thousand dollars.

USDA RURAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT GRANTS
Rural Business Development Grants are offered through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to qualifying businesses in rural areas that can be used for growth opportunities. They help small businesses create jobs in rural areas and grants range from \$10K to \$500K. Non-profit organizations, government entities and American Indian tribes are all eligible for funding. You must service an eligible rural community with a population below 50,000 and the business must have fewer than 50 employees.

PROGRAM FOR INVESTORS IN MICROENTREPRENEURS (PRIME)
This SBA program typically doesn't offer grant funding directly to small businesses, but the [PRIME program](#) through the SBA provides federal grants to microenterprise development organizations so that they can offer programs to disadvantaged small-business owners. Programs that can be offered include training, technical assistance and coaching. These grants are available to non-profit, private, state, local or tribal-run organizations, including those that focus on working with women-owned small businesses. For more information, follow the link above.

STATE RESOURCES FOR WOMEN

WOMEN'S BUSINESS CENTERS
The SBA sponsors more than [100 Women's Business Centers](#) nationwide, designed to help women entrepreneurs with business development and access to capital. Some lend money directly while others help businesses find small business grants and loans. These offices are overseen by the SBA's Office of Women's Business Ownership (OWBO). Our region's district office is the [Syracuse District Office](#) located at 224 Harrison Street, 315-471-9393.



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THE SUNFLOWER SHOPPE TO DONATE TO NYOH

The Elizabeth Cady Stanton Hometown Association's [Sunflower Shoppe](#) will be donating 10% of the January through March sales to the New York Oncology and Hematology Cancer Foundation. The donation will help women in need of wigs or mastectomy bras. Additional donations can be made to ESCHA, P.O. Box 753, Johnstown, NY 12095. Please note NYOH in the memo line. In-person donations may be given at the Sunflower Shoppe.



The Sunflower Shoppe is also holding its annual Prom Event on Thursday, March 7 from 4pm-8pm for gown sales and rentals. Donations of prom dresses/outfits are also appreciated with a special need for larger sizes (12 and up). Contact the Sunflower Shoppe for details.

ST. MARY'S HEALTHCARE AWARDED \$1.1 MILLION FROM NYS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO PROVIDE FREE CANCER SCREENINGS

[St. Mary's Healthcare](#) has been awarded \$1.1 million from the state Department of Health to provide free cancer screenings to eligible New Yorkers through 2028.

The grant is funded under the DOH Cancer Services Program, which makes no-cost screenings—for breast, cervical and colorectal cancers—available in healthcare settings in every New York State county for uninsured and underinsured individuals ages 40 to 64.

St. Mary's has led the CSP of Fulton, Montgomery, and Schenectady counties since 2008, with grants renewed every five years. During 2018-2023, the most recent five-year period, St. Mary's and its 30 regional partners provided 960 free screenings for breast cancer, 205 for cervical cancer and 132 for colorectal cancer. They also provided free follow-up services for 500 patients and detected eight cases of breast cancer.

CSP also includes outreach, education and case management services. Its Medicaid Treatment Program provides full Medicaid coverage for treatment costs for eligible uninsured individuals who are diagnosed with breast, cervical, colorectal or prostate cancer. (CSP does not pay for prostate cancer screening or diagnostic services.)

Free CSP screenings are available from St. Mary's Healthcare, Nathan Littauer Hospital, Ellis Medicine, Bellevue Woman's Center and other healthcare partners.

For more information, go to [St. Mary's Cancer Services Program](#), [New York State Cancer Services Program](#) (ny.gov) or call 518-841-3726.

[SALUTE TO SERVICE VETERANS COALITION: UPCOMING EVENTS](#)

VENISON GIVEAWAY: This year's event will be held on April 22, 2024 from 11:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at Fulton-Montgomery Community College. We'll be giving away venison to seniors and veterans in need in our community, so please mark your calendars and participate in packing and distributing venison if you're interested.

SALUTE TO SERVICE INAUGURAL GOLF TOURNAMENT -Thursday, June 13th 10am shotgun start, \$125 pp, Hales Mills Country Club.

More information at: www.salutetoservice518.com

NEWS FROM THE PAUL NIGRA CENTER FOR CREATIVE ARTS

Fresh Perspective Art Show

[The Paul Nigra Center for Creative Arts](#), located at 2736 State

Highway 30, Gloversville, is proud to present its 2024 Fresh Perspective Art Show, displaying 113 works of varied media by 44 artists who hail from New York, California, Connecticut, Maryland, Oregon and Texas. The show will be open for public viewing

until March 16, 2024, weekdays 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. In addition, a virtual tour of the show has been posted on their website and Facebook page. Be sure to stop by the gallery before March 16 to help decide the last award winner – the Community Choice Award, voted on by visitors and sponsored by Kathy Marshall!

Pasta Class with Chefs Wally Hart and Mia Smith-

By popular demand, Chef Wally Hart is back on Thursday, March 7 from 5:30-7:30pm with another Pasta Making Class – this time with his niece, talented culinary artist Mia Smith! Wally and Mia will teach students how to make a variety of pastas from scratch, to be enjoyed at the end with some of Mia's delicious savory sauces. Beginners and experienced cooks alike will love this experience! This fun, hands-on class will sell out, so don't wait to reserve your spot. More information and registration at <https://bit.ly/48j5bRC>.

Easter Basket Weaving Class with Doreen Smith

Discover the art of basket weaving and unleash your creativity at the Paul Nigra Center for Creative Arts on Saturday, March 23 from 9am-1pm. Whether you're a beginner or an experienced weaver, this event is perfect for all skill levels. Learn techniques, tips, and tricks directly from Doreen Smith herself. Immerse yourself in the world of basket weaving and create beautiful, unique baskets that showcase your personal style. Don't miss this exciting opportunity to learn from a true master. Reserve your spot now at this [link](#).

Pysanky Easter Egg Decorating, Ukranian Style

Join Instructor Olya Szyjka as she teaches students how to make a pysanka, a Ukranian Easter egg decorated with traditional Ukranian folk designs using a wax-resist (batik) method. This beginner-level class is open to teens and adults and all materials will be provided. Advance registration is required; reserve your spot at this [link](#).

Links for registration for any of these classes is available in each description. For more information, call (518) 661-9932 or visit the website at www.pncreativeartscenter.org



Paul Nigra Center for Creative Arts

POWERHOUSE MOTOR SPORTS HAS NEW OWNER AND SCHEDULES OPEN HOUSE

Powerhouse Motorsports, 2493 State Highway 30 in Mayfield, is now under the ownership of Joseph Carbone, a trusted name in the industry and the proud owner of multiple successful dealerships including Adirondack Harley-Davidson, Harley-Davidson of Utica, and Pow-



ersports of Utica.

Originally established in 1999 by Greg and Mary Jo House, Powerhouse Motorsports has been serving the Fulton County, Montgomery County, and the Southern Adirondack area with top-notch recreation and powersports solutions. From repairs and service to sales and accessories, they have been dedicated to meeting your needs. Ken Williams is the new General Sales Manager, and Amanda, Donny, James and Billy are still a part of the Powerhouse team!

At Powerhouse Motorsports, they continue to work hard to continue those customer relationships and take pride in being locally owned and operated. Their experienced staff are enthusiasts themselves, ensuring that you receive expert advice and service every time you visit us. Whether you're into cruising on two wheels, tearing up the trails on an ATV or in a Side By Side, or hitting the water on a personal watercraft, we have something for everyone. Powerhouse Motorsports stand behind their products and services, striving to make every experience easy and enjoyable.

Visit Powerhouse at their **COLD SNAP Open House**, scheduled for March 16, from 9am-3pm. There will be refreshments and music and staff will be on hand to answer questions or give you information about all the great products they have to offer. There will also be in-house specials, prizes and giveaways—don't miss it!

Please contact the Powerhouse team at (518) 661-7787 or connect with the business on [Facebook](#).

HISTORIC BROADALBIN HOTEL HOSTS TWO CHILDREN'S EVENTS IN MARCH

The Historic Broadalbin Hotel, 59 N. Main Street, Broadalbin, has two March events for all the princes and princesses around:

Friday, March 22—an Olaf Meet & Greet Sleepover! Dress in your Superhero or Princess Best for a night of fun! Evening activities 6:30-7:30pm include individual visits from Olaf, with a Meet & Greet, coloring session, Olaf Freeze Dance/Hallway Parade. From 7-7:30pm guests will head to their rooms to await a special Olaf cookie and popcorn delivery and enjoy a photo opportunity. Each guest room will have individual time with Olaf for family photos. Room reservations are a must—book at historichotelbroadalbin.com and use event code: OLAF for 10% discount on room rate.

Saturday, March 23—Frozen Princess Breakfast at 9am with Anna and Elsa from Arendelle. 9am and 10:30am seatings. Table reservations are for one hour. Tickets at historichotelbroadalbin.com/shop

FM FOUNDATION SCHEDULES SEMINAR

The Fulton-Montgomery Community College Foundation invites interested parties to their seminar “Essential Concepts for Non-Profit Boards” scheduled for Wednesday, March 6, 8:00am—9:30am with speaker B.J. Costello, Esq., Senior Counsel, Hinman Straub, PC. Costello will lead an interactive forum based on the legal issues and best practices for successful not-for-profit boards of directors based on his extensive experience leading such boards. RSVP is required; please contact mtambasc@fmcc.edu or call (518) 736-3622, x8020. A complimentary breakfast will be served at the event.

SUNY FMCC OFFERS NO COST EPA SECTION 608 CERTIFICATION EXAM

Attention HVAC technicians and contractors: SUNY FMCC is offering a NO COST EPA Section 608 Certification Exam; Saturday, March 16th, 2024 – 9am Study guides provided in advance; complimentary lunch provided. Space is Limited

Earn a Free SUNY Micro-credential by passing at least section 1. New York EPA Section 608 Certification The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires all HVAC technicians that work with refrigerants to be certified. Seating is limited to 30. Registration required [at this link](#)

VETERANS TIME TO THRIVE SCHEDULES FUNDRAISERS

Sponsorship Opportunities available for regional businesses

Veterans Time To Thrive is hosting its Third Annual Car Show Fundraiser in partnership with Amsterdam Waterfront Foundaitn’s Summer Concert Series on July 13 from 11am to 3pm on Bridge Street in Amsterdam’s Southside. There will be 40 trophies awarded for cars in different categories including Best of Show 1979 and older, and 1980 and newer, Chevy, Ford, Mopar, Foreign, Tuner, Pain, Supercar/Exotic, Truck, Hot Rod, Rat Rod, Motorcycle-Cruiser and Motorcycle Sport. There will also be special categories like

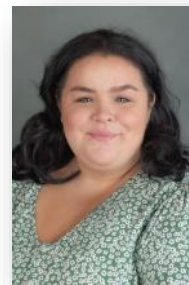


Veteran’s Choice, Mayor’s Choice, Kids’ Choice and more. In addition, the 2024 Honored Veteran will be announced at the show. Sponsorship and Vendor space is available. To register your vehicle, or for sponsorship information or vendor space, please visit <https://vt-3.org/2024>

The group’s second annual Golf Tournament fundraiser is scheduled for Friday, June 14 at Amsterdam Muni Golf Course, with registration beginning at 10am. Four-some fees are \$800, and single golfers are \$225. Fees include greens fees, cart, prizes and more. Entertainment will be provided by Amsterdam’s DJ Garassi. To register, or find information about sponsorship opportunities, please visit <https://vt-3.org/2024-1>

There is also a fundraiser to win a one-week stay at the Desert Club Resort in Las Vegas, NV during the 2024-F1 race week, November 17-24. Tickets are \$100 each and drawing will take place at the Car Show. Purchase tickets at <https://vt-3.org/>

Nicole Walrath,
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Natalie May,
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eryny.org

CANAJOHARIE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT TO LAUNCH HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIES

Last summer, the Chamber's Business Education Partnership (BEP) joined forces with Canajoharie Central School District to create the first ever Educator Residency Program. The Chamber's BEP found a total of four placements with local businesses that will host the two selected teachers during the 2023-24 school year. Currently the Chamber's BEP helps support the district through the Pathways Program but will ultimately shift to supporting students enrolled in academies with real-world opportunities being the end goal.

Starting next school year, Canajoharie High School will be offering a diverse array of specialized academies. The district will be providing students with unique opportunities for career exploration and skill development. Students will be able to choose from a diverse range of academies to help guide their future career choices. There are seven academies students can choose from to include:

- Digital Communication Academy: Bridging the gap between technology and communication.
- Education Academy: Nurturing the next generation of educators and mentors.
- Business Academy: Cultivating budding entrepreneurs and business leaders.
- Culinary Arts Academy: Unleashing creativity in the culinary world.
- CSI (Computer Science Internships) Academy: Delving into the dynamic field of computer science and technology.
- Tech/Trades Academy: Honing skills in various technical and trade professions.
- Pre College/STEM Academy: Bridging high school and college, focusing on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Presently, the academies are open for enrollment to eighth graders. Students will begin on their academy journey this spring with workplace tours facilitated by the Chamber's BEP. They are currently looking for businesses in the fields listed above to host the first cohort of students on a tour. Workplace tours allow students to research the company ahead of time, come prepared with questions and see firsthand the day-to-day operations.

If your company is interested in hosting students for a workplace tour, please contact Nicole Walrath, Director of Workforce Development at nicolew@fultonmontgomeryny.org.

LEAP OF KINDNESS DAY AT HFM PTECH

February is the perfect month to address all matters of the heart! For Valentine's Day and an early Leap of Kindness Day activity, HFM PTECH students took time to focus on both the physical and emotional needs of our most vital organ. Rick DePasquale, a retired firefighter and current Health & Safety Officer at HFM BOCES, taught students the importance of CPR and AED (automated external defibrillator) training; while our Positivity Club wrote kind messages and displayed them in the hallway for a heart-warming surprise for their peers.



CTE INTERNSHIPS FOR SENIORS

INTERNSHIP SITES WANTED

SENIORS AT HFM BOCES CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION WILL BE GOING ON INTERNSHIPS APRIL 15-APRIL 26.

If your company is willing to host a student, please contact Nicole Walrath at nwalrath@hfmboces.org.

CHANGES IN CREDIT CARD PROCESSING FOR NY BUSINESSES

The Business Council of New York State is offering a free webinar for all businesses on [New York State's Credit Card Surcharge Law: What You Need to Know](#)

The webinar explains the new law and how businesses can comply. The new Consumer Protection Law was effective February 11, 2024 and amends and clarifies New York's existing surcharge law. It provides greater transparency and protections for consumers and creates a more fair marketplace for businesses. To be compliant:

- Businesses are required to post the following in a manner that's simple and clear for consumers to read:
 - a. The total price of an item or service inclusive of the credit card surcharge before checkout, OR
 - b. A two-tiered pricing option that requires the credit card price to be posted alongside the cash price
- Limits credit card surcharges to the amount charged to the business by the credit card company

For clarification, you can also refer to this article, which also outlines the changes and how to comply:

<https://www.foxrothschild.com/publications/ny-state-mandates-disclosure-of-credit-card-surcharges#:~:text=Share%20on%3A,Signed%20into%20law%20by%20Gov>

FULTON COUNTY HOSTS LAST OPEN HOUSE SEEKING INPUT TO UPDATE AGRICULTURAL & FARMLAND PROTECTION PLAN

The [Fulton County Planning Department](#) is seeking public input on updating the county's Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan and will be holding the last open house will be held on Wednesday, March 6, Berkshire Volunteer Fire Department, 320 Steele Ave Ext, Gloversville, from 6 to 7:30 pm. Anyone that is interested in agriculture is encouraged to stop by and provide feedback.

Information on the open house can be found on the Fulton County homepage at fultoncountyny.gov, the County's Tourism Page at 44lakes.com or by calling the Fulton County Planning Department at 518-736-5660. For those who are unable to attend the open houses can stop by the Fulton County Planning Department by appointment and offer feedback at 1 East Montgomery Street, Johnstown.

THE CHAMBER HAS RENTAL SPACE FOR CHAMBER MEMBERS

The Chamber's office at 2 N. Main Street in Gloversville has available office space rental for Chamber members. For an inexpensive \$500 per month,

amenities include a large office space that can fit multiple people with desks, and a small office space for 1-2 people, meeting space access to a conference room that can seat anywhere from 10-50 people, private bathroom facilities, a kitchenette, and wi-fi access. Please note that this space is not handicapped accessible—it can only be accessed by a stairwell. For more information or to rent the space/s please contact Nicole Tennant at (518) 725-0641 or email info@fultonmontgomeryny.org Pictures of the spaces appear below.



We Want To Hear from YOU!

[CLICK HERE](#) for a short survey for Chamber members. We would appreciate it if you would take the time to fill it out and provide important feedback which will help us going forward this year with events, programs and more.

TOURISM NEWS & UPDATES

FULTON COUNTY TOURISM UPDATE - MARCH 2024

March is here and brings new and exciting things to do and try in Fulton County.

Kicking off the months activities on Friday, March 1 through Sunday, March, 3 – it's the 26th annual Food-N-Fuel 2024 Weekend-long Ice Fishing Contest on the Great Sacandaga Lake. All fish are measured at Wally's Driftwood Park, Vandenberg Point Road, Mayfield. Visit Food-N-Fuel, 3006 St. Hwy 30 for an entry, contest rules, and all updates. Prizes awarded on Sunday, 4 pm at Food-N-Fuel. Info at foodnfuel.com and on Facebook.

Bring on the green with St. Patrick's Day March 17. It is a great time to discover The 44 Lakes Beverage Trail. This Fulton County trail can feature a special craft beverage suited for everyone. Enjoy a proudly crafted NYS craft beer, cider, and spirits from our five taprooms on the trail: Great Sacandaga Brewing Company, Higher Ground Distilling Company, Rogers' Cideryard LLC, Stump City Brewing LLC and KBC Beer.

The luck of the Irish can be experienced all weekend long with special brews, ales, stouts, and some Irish fare, and Irish music. Be sure to wear green! The trail includes great stops in Montgomery County as well. Jump on The 44 Lakes Beverage Trail at 44lakes.com for more information.

NY Maple Weekends are on tap March 16 & 17, and 23 & 24, and Fulton County sugarhouses are open for business 10 am to 4 pm those weekends. Families are invited to come and experience first-hand the sights, smells and sounds of maple sugar-making. Most sugarhouses will offer samples and demonstrations. Many locations are hosting open house events that can include activities, music and pancakes! Visit 44lakes.com for more information and our Facebook page Visit Fulton County, NY for the latest updates.

Participating sugarhouses; Brower Road Sugar House, Gloversville; Frasier's Sugar Shack, St. Johnsville; Mud Road Sugar House, Ephratah; and Peaceful Valley Maple Farms, Johnstown.

Easter arrives in March the year. Fulton County businesses and organizations will be hosting Easter Egg Hunts, visits from the Easter Bunny and the best holiday breakfasts, brunches and dinners. Go to the 44lakes.com calendar for updates.

Saturday, March 9 will host the Mohawk Harvest Co-operative Market Soup Contest, the first ever Cowboy Up & Saloon Macaroni and Cheese Cook-off Fundraiser and the 7th Annual Charity Masquerade Ball for the Johnstown Fire Department at the Johnstown Holiday Inn.

Endless activities, arts, crafts and entertainment can be discovered all month long on our calendar at 44lakes.com, with updates at Visit Fulton County, NY on Facebook

MONTGOMERY COUNTY IN MARCH

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

Friday, March 8

Teen St. Patrick's Day Rock Painting at Arkell Museum

Saturday, March 9

Montgomery County SPCA Bowl-a-Thon

Wednesday, March 13

Adult Book Tasting—Women's History Month at Arkell Museum

Saturday, March 16

St. Paddy's Day Pub Fest in Amsterdam

Meet the Artists Reception at Arkell Museum

Sunday, March 24

Perry Ground: Master Storyteller & Cultural Educator at Arkell Museum

Friday, March 29

Spring Rainbow Painting for Kids at Arkell Museum

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- Banners
- Etc....



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“Joining the Chamber has given me the opportunity to be more involved with the community which in turn has led to a lot of leads and business relationships that have helped my business. Living in the community my entire life I felt I had pretty good connections and knew quite a few people. However, once I joined the Chamber, it opened doors to many new relationships, new acquaintances, business leaders and friends.”

Lana Ruggiero

Broker/Owner at Ruggiero Realty, LLC

GET INVOLVED WITH **YOUR CHAMBER'S** ADVOCACY EFFORTS

Join your Chamber and its Governmental Affairs Committee on Small Business Lobby Day in Albany to speak with your elected officials about issues important to your business. **Tuesday, March 19 from 9am to 1pm** join small businesses for the first time since the pandemic to gather in-person to speak with lawmakers face-to-face. Legislators need to fully understand the impact that regulations and mandates have on your business and they can only hear that from YOU! Invest in the future of your business by fighting for your right to independently own and operate today in the state of New York.

The National Federation of Independent Businesses (NFIB) Small Business Lobby Day is a free event, but pre-registration is required. Spots are limited—register today to reserve your seat! Register for the event [here](#) OR call Anne Boles at the Chamber for more details or how to join your Chamber that day.

AGENDA

- 9:00 AM: Registration and Breakfast (provided)
- 9:15 AM: Priority Issues Briefing
- 10:30 AM - 1:00 PM: Legislative Meetings

TOPICS

- Retail Theft
- Sunsetting COVID Sick Leave
- Frequency of Pay
- Plus more issues of importance to small business!

If you've never been to a Small Business Day, hear what it's about and why attendance is an investment that pays dividends. [Listen to the NFIB podcast here.](#)

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AT SUNY FMCC



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

