



NEWSLINE

September 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.

THE CHAMBER HELPS BOOST BUSINESS IN SEPTEMBER PREPARING FOR A BUSY AND PRODUCTIVE FALL



Top left and directly above: The Chamber spent the first day of August celebrating two important ribbon-cutting events at [Schwalbacher Brewing](#) (top photo above) at 30 E. Main Street in Amsterdam and at [44 Lakes Customized Gifts & Décor](#), 15 N. Main Street in Gloversville. Schwalbacher Brewing has already hosted

some great events such as Trivia Nights, Live Music, Taste & Paint, and our Young Professionals Speed Networking Event. The 44Lakes Customized Gifts & Décor is an Adirondack style vendor filled gift shop including customizable gifts. Something for everyone. You dream it and two crafty girls can make it! Above left and directly above: Two photos from the Business After Hours at [River Ridge Living Center](#) where Chamber members networked, enjoyed great refreshments and took tours of the newly-renovated spaces.



Top right: [One Church Street](#) in Johnstown celebrated the finish of Phase I of their renovation with the grand opening of a food pantry available to our community! The Food Pantry is already disbursing two tons a food per week to those who need their foodstuffs. Find out more on Facebook and help One Church Street with Phase II of the project, which will construct a commercial kitchen and dining room to provide hot, nutritional meals to those who need it in our community!

Directly above: [WellNow Urgent Care](#), one of the country's leading urgent care providers, opened the doors to its newest center in Amsterdam on August 20. Located at 4942 NY-30 the new facility offers treatment for non-life-threatening injuries and illnesses, including flu, COVID-19 and RSV, as well as occupational medicine services, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. EST. Patients can simply walk-in or, if preferred, [schedule an appointment online](#).

Left bottom: A third ribbon-cutting event this year was held for Megan Ryder, owner of [Megabites Events and Catering](#), [The Bridge Walk](#), and now [Anthony's Deli & Market](#) by Megabites located at 1451 State Highway 5S in Amsterdam. The Deli & Market is named for Megan's son, Anthony. Anthony's Deli & Market carries Italian specialties, salads, sandwiches, pizza, and breakfast items for pick up, or eat in on the covered patio. They also carry locally-produced food stuffs, as well as gift items. Visit Anthony's on [Facebook](#) or call (518) 212-2023. **SEE MORE EVENT PHOTOS ON PAGE 12





Message from the Executive Director

2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair—Geoff Peck, *Nathan Littauer Hospital & Nursing Home*

Vice Chair—Elizabeth Bridge, *Liberty ARC*

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Ashley Capobianco, *Townsend Leather Company, Inc.*

Ashley Delaney, *The Wesson Group*

Janine Dykeman, *Mental Health Association in Fulton & Montgomery Counties*

Dan Fogarty, *SUNY Fulton-Montgomery Community College*

Ryan Heck, *Alpin Haus*

Colleen Ioele-DeCristofaro, *Howard Hanna Real Estate*

Peter Lawrence, *The Family Counseling Center*

Jeffrey Methven, *St. Mary's Healthcare, Amsterdam*

Mike Schaus, *THNK Tank Media/WENT Radio*

Janet Stanley, *Lee Shops at Wagner Square*

David Ziskin, *HFM BOCES*

CHAMBER STAFF

Anne Boles, *Executive Director*

Mark Bolebruch, *Finance*

Janet Davis, *Director of Membership & Member Services*

Jennifer Hammons, *Special Projects Assistant*

Natalie May, *Business & Education Partnership Coordinator*

Terry Swierzowski, *Newsline Editor/Reporter*

Nicole 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](#)

Dear Chamber Members,

Hello! I hope you had a nice summer.

The busy season doesn't end, as Autumn continues to be busy with events and programming. We have some new inaugural, FREE programs in September and October!

These programs are designed to support and engage YOU, our members, and enhance your experience, and achieve business goals.

We hope you can join us at these upcoming events (more details provided in this edition of Newsline)

On Thursday, September 26th, learn the latest in the semiconductor industry at "Everyone CHIPS In" - an interactive Semiconductor informational & networking event in the Allen House at SUNY FMCC!

The program will include: |

Keynote speech from featured speaker Jennifer Waters, Senior Director of Industry Development & Strategic Business Development at Empire State Development—
Updates on the evolving Semiconductor industry -
Conversations to strengthen your business
Meet state and local workforce partners
Recognize opportunities for local students and educators
Impact of Semiconductor and Advanced Manufacturing Industry on Upstate NY

<https://business.fultonmontgomeryny.org/events/details/everyone-chips-in-seminar-43569>

CAREERCON!

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.

Eighth grade students in component schools of HFM BOCES will be invited to attend and visit with businesses in a variety of career pathways. SUNY FMCC students will be invited to attend as well! More details in the BEP section of this newsletter, but I encourage you to become a vendor, and showcase your business!

FREE AI WEBINAR FOR MEMBERS!

An AI seminar can be an excellent way to educate members about the latest advancements in artificial intelligence and how these technologies can be leveraged for business growth. Members, this FREE webinar will help you understand how to unlock the power of AI to transform your business. RSVP/more info [here](#)

Continued on page 4

Welcome New Members

August 2024

VISCOSI PHOTOGRAPHY

296 Albany Bush Rd., Johnstown
(518) 762-2780 | viscosiphotography.com
Professional photography for weddings, portraits, events, commercials. Volume photography for schools and sports. Full-service indoor and outdoor studios, photo restorations, and prints.

ALOE CONSULTING ASSOCIATES, LLC

31 E. Fulton Street, Gloversville
(518) 620-0993 | mosselcounseling.com
A counselor specializing in the unique challenges faced by commercial drivers and trades people, provides space for individuals navigation their professions. Whether you're struggling with stress, anger, relationship issues, or life-changing trauma, I provide a safe and confidential space to explore these challenges and my priority is protecting your commercial license and career.

PARKHURST RODENT & PEST SOLUTIONS

221 Pleasant Ave., Johnstown
(518) 310-7600 | parkhurstsolutions.com
Customized solutions for rodents, pests and wildlife. Protection against unplanned events from rodent, wildlife and pest elimination to exclusion, prevention and maintenance.

WISHES N DREAMS PAST N PRESENT

11 West Fulton Street, Gloversville
(518) 332-1830 | [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/wishesndreamspastnpresent)
Mother and daughter boutique, carrying new and used clothing, shoes and clothing, shoes and jewelry. All new cosmetics bath and body items. We make homemade soaps as well. We carry toys, purses, wallets and other home goods; also carry Scentsy products.

ONE CHURCH STREET

21 N. Market Street, Johnstown
(518) 762-9210 | onechurchstreet.org
A community center in Johnstown that sponsors the NOAH (No One Alone or Hungry) Free Community Meal and the Johnstown Food Pantry. Their mission is to continue to be a vital resource by nourishing the community in body, mind and spirit.

MEMBERSHIP MESSAGE

Janet Davis, Director of
Membership &
Member Services



SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESSES: HOW YOUR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CAN HELP YOU SHOP LOCALLY

As the Membership Director of the Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce, I'm excited to share how our Chamber can play a pivotal role in supporting you as you shop locally. Our diverse membership base includes funeral homes, banks, contractors, agricultural businesses, automotive repair shops, and so much more. Here's a closer look at how our Chamber can facilitate and enhance your local shopping experience across these sectors:

1. Funeral Homes: Compassionate and Professional Services

Navigating funeral arrangements is a delicate process. Local funeral homes, members of our Chamber, offer compassionate and personalized services during challenging times. By supporting these businesses, you not only honor your loved ones with care and dignity but also contribute to the local economy. The Chamber connects you with reputable funeral homes that are dedicated to serving our community with professionalism and empathy.

2. Banks: Personal and Community-Focused Financial Services

Banking needs vary from everyday transactions to significant financial planning. Our Chamber member banks provide personalized service and community-focused solutions. Whether you're seeking a mortgage, a small business loan, or everyday banking services, local banks offer competitive rates and a commitment to customer service. By banking locally, you invest in your community's financial health and growth.

3. Contractors: Quality and Reliability for Your Projects

From home renovations to new construction, local contractors are crucial for any building or remodeling project. Chamber-member contractors are known for their expertise, reliability, and understanding of local building codes. They offer a range of services from general contracting to specialized trades. Supporting these local professionals ensures that you receive high-quality work while keeping your dollars within the community.

4. Agriculture: Fresh and Local Products

Agriculture is at the heart of our regional economy. Chamber-member farms and agricultural businesses provide fresh, locally-grown produce, dairy, meat, and more. By purchasing directly from local farms, you enjoy fresher products and support sustainable practices. The Chamber

Continued on page 10



MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

July 2024

Thank you for your continued support!

***Editor's note: This month July anniversaries are listed because last month we mistakenly listed August anniversaries under the July headline. Sorry for any confusion this may have caused*



41-50 YEARS

United Way of the Greater Capital Region—48
Greater Amsterdam School District—43

31 – 40 YEARS

HFM BOCES: Hamilton-Fulton-Montgomery Board of Cooperative Educational Services—34
Betz, Rossi, Bellinger & Stewart Funeral Homes—33

21 – 30 YEARS

Ricmar Design & Print Shop, LLC—30
Park Marine Base, Inc.—29
Crystal Grove Diamond Mine & Campground—28
Countryside Fuels—25
State Farm Insurance Scott Beatty Agency—25
Brown's Ford of Amsterdam and Johnstown, Collision and Coachworks—25
Mangino Chevrolet—23

11 – 20 YEARS

Hill & Markes, Inc.—16
Gehring Tricot Corp., DBA Belmont Mills—14
Employment Resources—15
Jim's Odd Jobs and Jim's Bait Shop—13

1 – 10 YEARS

Hometown Health Centers—10
The ShoeLeather Express—9
Paul Nigra Center for Creative Arts/Transitions—9
Craftsman Auto Glass & Detailing—8
G. Jeremiah Ryan—8
Fonda Fairgrounds—8
Nick Stoner Inn & 19th Hole—7
Liberty Tax Services—5
Glove City Graphics N More LLC—4
Great Point Publishing LLC—4
Logan Propane LLC—4
Lakeside Motel—2
Leatherstocking Region Federal Credit Union—2
James Chevrolet—2
T-Mobile Johnstown—1
ZenBusiness—1
Interactive Cyber Control—1
Leslie Farrell, Travel Agent—1
EnergyNext, Inc.—1

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY - GOLF IS A GREAT SUCCESS!

We have 120 golfers, over \$35,000 in generous sponsors and raffle donations, thanks to YOU! I am forever grateful for your support, financial sponsorship, volunteerism or participation, which is significantly contributing to the overall success of the tournament. We will be at Antlers on Friday, September 13th for fun, networking, and more!

Have a wonderful September! TONS of Chamber member events are on the calendar: check them out at <https://business.fultonmontgomeryny.org/events/catgid/12>

RIVER RIDGE LIVING CENTER
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If you are a team player, compassionate and reliable,
a career at River Ridge Living Center is for you!*

Business Resources You Can Use:

EMPIRE STATE DEVELOPMENT DIVISION OF SMALL BUSINESS

Small businesses make up 98 percent of New York State businesses and employ 40% of New York's private sector workforce. Empire State Development's Small Business Division supports the development and expansion of businesses with under 100 employees – directing an array of programs and initiatives supporting small business growth and helping entrepreneurs maximize opportunities for success. Explore all they offer, plus a custom business checklist of NYS programs and services that match your goals: This month we will take an in-depth look at the Empire State Development's SSBCI program:

NEW YORK STATE SMALL BUSINESS CREDIT INITIATIVE (SSBCI)

New York State has been awarded more than \$500 million in federal SSBCI funding to help small, and traditionally disadvantaged, businesses succeed— with a focus on post-pandemic recovery. The SSBCI is a program through the American Rescue Plan Act and is managed by the U.S. Department of Treasury. SSBCI provides funds to support programs for small businesses, including socially and economically disadvantaged individual (SEDI) owned businesses and very small businesses (VSB), to recover from the economic effects of COVID-19 and allow them the opportunity to succeed in the post-pandemic economy. With this funding, Empire State Development (ESD) has developed a suite of capital access and equity programs to help New York State small businesses recover from the economic effects of COVID-19. These programs include:

[Initiative for Inclusive Entrepreneurship \(Supplier Innovative Finance Program\)](#). This program provides an intentional path for suppliers to increase their capacity, gain awareness of innovative funding options, and access to capital through training, funder matchmaking, and a grant for select businesses.

[Capital Project Loan Fund](#): \$106M in SSBCI funding to provide direct loans for the growth of manufacturing and other eligible businesses by assisting in financing a portion of the cost of acquiring/renovating existing buildings, constructing new buildings, or purchasing equipment.

[New York State Small Business Revolving Loan Fund Round 2](#): \$55.5M in SSBCI funding to provide shorter-term microloans and loans typically under \$250K. Ad-

resses inequitable capital access by bridging the financing gaps facing new companies, under-banked communities and small businesses.

[Capital Access Program](#): \$29.4M in SBCCI funding for portfolio insurance for participating lenders designed to increase financing opportunities for New York State's small businesses, SEDI-owned businesses and very small businesses (VSB).f Loans provided via participating lenders.

[New York Forward Loan Fund 2](#): A \$150M expanded program offering qualifying small businesses and non-profits access to capital from mission-driven lenders, with loans of up to \$150K as well as free support services.

[New York State Surety Bond Assistance Program](#): \$22M in SSBCI funding to provide access to bid bonds, payment and performance bonds for contractors performing on publicly-funded projects throughout New York State via participating surety companies.

[New York State Contractor Financing Program](#): \$22M in SSBCI funding to provide to contractors in need of working capital to deploy and execute federal, state and local government-related contracts via participating lenders.

[Emerging and Regional Partner Program Fund](#): \$102M in SSBCI funding for investing in diverse fund managers with first, second or third time funds, or with managers who will use the funds to invest in areas of NYS where venture capital is less readily available.

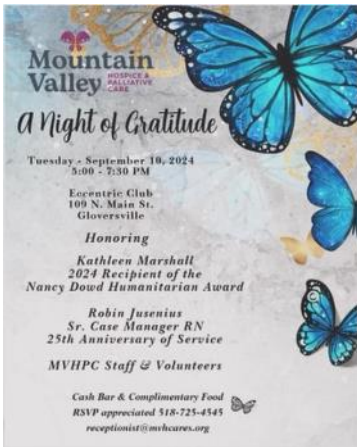
[Community and Regional Partner Program Fund](#): \$52M in SSBCI funding for partnerships with accelerators or other similar mentor-based programs to provide equity investments for high-growth NYS companies that are participating in those programs.

[Pre-seed and Seed Matching Fund Program](#): \$30M in SSBCI funding for equity investments in venture-backable start-up companies at the earliest states of their development. This program is via a competitive application process with applicants evaluated to assess likelihood of venture scalability.

[New York State Innovation Venture Capital Fund](#): \$35M in SSBCI funding for equity investments for Seed through series B technology companies across NYS.

Find out which SSBCI Programs can help you [here](#).

NIGHT OF GRATITUDE PRESENTED BY MOUNTAIN VALLEY HOSPICE & PALLIATIVE CARE



Mark your calendars for a Night of Gratitude, presented by Mountain Valley Hospice on September 10, 5pm-7:30pm at The Eccentric Club, 109 N. Main Street, Gloversville. The event will honor this year's Nancy Dowd Humanitarian Award winner, Kathy Marshall and celebrate the 25 years of service of our Sr. Case Manager RN, Robin Jusenius! RSVP by calling 518-725-4545 or emailing receptionist@mvhcares.org. There will be a cash bar and complimentary food provided.

Help us honor these deserving individuals for the work they do providing exceptional care to those at Mountain Valley Hospice.

HARNESSING NATURE: AN INTERACTIVE DISCUSSION ABOUT THE GREAT SACANDAGA LAKE

Join the Fulton County Historical Society at the Gloversville Middle School Auditorium, 234 Lincoln Street on Saturday, September 14 from 4-6pm for "Harnessing Nature: An Interactive Discussion About the Great Sacandaga Lake." In 1930, the Great Sacandaga Lake, then called the Sacandaga Reservoir, was created with the construction of the Conklingville Dam. Using clips from the documentary "Harnessing Nature: Building the Great Sacandaga," local historians will discuss more in-depth the stories of their hamlets, the way the lake affected them, and how our community has changed since the lake's creation. A Q&A session with attendees will follow. Fulton County Historical Society programs are made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.



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MONTGOMERY COUNTY OFFICE FOR AGING PRESENTS "AN EVENING OF PERFECT PAIRINGS"

Thursday, September 12, from 5pm-8pm, please join us at Amsterdam Municipal Golf Course Banquet Room and enjoy wine, craft beer and spirit tastings, decadent sweets & coffee, and raffles and musical entertainment to benefit the Office for Aging. Tickets are \$50 per person and can be purchased at the Office for Aging at 135 Guy Park Avenue, or call (518) 843-2300 to reserve yours today!





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@fultonmontgomeryny.org

THE FAMILY COUNSELING CENTER OFFERS ADVICE ON DEALING WITH CHILD ANXIETY AND RETURN TO SCHOOL

September marks the start of the school year and for area school children an all-too-common sense of anxiety. The Family Counseling Center has worked with children in and around Fulton and Montgomery Counties for over 48 years and is offering some advice on how to help ease anxiety as the first day of school approaches.



Laressa Slater, LMSW, an Outpatient Mental Health Therapist at the Center, regularly works with children and notes that fears and anxieties can often manifest as physical symptoms. “Children may not have the awareness to directly speak about what they are worried about, but their bodies know. A child may complain of a stomach ache, headache, or dizziness. It’s important to recognize that these symptoms are very real to them.”



Setting a New Routine

Getting children acclimated to their new school routine early is helpful in reducing day-of anxieties. “Routine helps to set a pattern of understanding for children,” notes Slater. “When routines change, it can feel as if their world has changed as well, so a great way to get children ready for school is to ease them into their school-year routine a

week or two before the first day. Your child may only need a bedtime and wake-up routine, but they may also benefit from scheduling a playdate with a classmate the week before school begins. This would include waking up at the same time they will be when school starts, getting out the door when they will need to leave the house, and meeting up with their friend at the playground at their school.”

Facing Anxieties

A new school year means new classrooms, new teachers, and even new friends. For those transitioning from elementary to middle school or from middle to high school, it also means a completely new building.

“If you can, you may want to schedule a meet-and-greet between your child and their new teacher at the school,”

adds Slater. “The ability for a child to walk the space and meet their teacher can alleviate the worries they have about not being liked by the teacher, not knowing what to expect when they arrive, how they are going to find the new classroom, etc.” For younger children, Slater suggests seeing if a handoff is available for the first week of school where the parent walks the child to the classroom or the teacher meets the parent and child at the front door of the school.

Validating Fears

“Sometimes children just need their parent or an adult to listen and validate their fears,” states Slater. “We can often hear someone without listening and that can happen quickly especially when a child is crying or acting out. We hear ‘I don’t want to go’ but we don’t necessarily listen to the why.” Slater adds that a child stating their worries is not an automatic request for their adult to problem solve. “Recognizing that their fears are real to them is the most important piece to listening,” states Slater.

In-Class Coping Skills

Children will also face anxiety when class starts and may have a moment where they need to cope with their fears in the middle of the day, in those instances Slater offers a few simple coping skills children can do at their desks.

Deep Breathing – Taking a few deep breaths while concentrating on the physical feeling of air filling the lungs and slowly exhaling can help calm nerves and lower your heart rate.

5-4-3-2-1 – This common grounding technique asks individuals to look around them and name five things they can see, four things they can touch, three things they can hear, two things they can smell, and one thing they can taste. “This practice helps to make you aware of everything around you in the moment and feel secure in the space you are in,” notes Slater.

Fidgets – Fidgets allow a person to release excess energy and anxiety. They provide an individual with the ability to focus on the feeling, again grounding them in the moment.

Journaling and Doodling – “These offer a creative outlet for someone with anxiety,” says Slater. “Writing down what is bothering you or drawing something can help you feel more calm and centered in a stressful situation.”

Going for a Walk – “Going for a walk when appropriate can be an opportunity for the kiddo to clear their head or take a break,” adds Slater.

The Family Counseling Center of Fulton County has been serving the community since 1976. The mission of The Family Counseling Center is to offer the skills, support, and guidance needed to assist all individuals and families in its service area with living their healthiest lives. The Center is licensed by the New York State Office of Mental Health, providing services to children as young as five years old. For more information about The Family Counseling Center, its services, or how you can become a volunteer, please go to www.thefamilycounselingcenter.org.


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Home for Elderly Women of Montgomery County, Inc.

Worry-Free Living in a Beautiful Setting!


Schedule a tour of our available private standard and private suite rooms today!

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

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ST. MARY’S HEALTHCARE ANNOUNCES PERSONNEL CHANGES



Gilli Hachey, of Johnstown, has been named executive director of foundation development for the Foundation of St. Mary’s Healthcare. As head of the philanthropic arm of St. Mary’s, she oversees fundraising operations and activities that support the local, independent healthcare organization.

Hachey comes to St. Mary’s from Liberty ARC in Amsterdam, where she served as stewardship and development manager. An accomplished fundraiser, she has a record of success in overseeing annual giving campaigns and special events, securing grants, and building and nurturing donor relationships. Hachey also has strong ties to the region.

The announcement of Hachey’s appointment—and her introduction to St. Mary’s supporters—came Aug. 15 during the hospital’s 48th Annual Gala, which was held at the historic Sanford Stud Farm. The gala is one of two signature fundraising events that Hachey will oversee in her new role. The second, the St. Mary’s Memorial Golf Classic, is scheduled for Oct. 3 at Amsterdam Municipal Golf Course.

Hachey earned a bachelor’s degree and an MBA from The College of Saint Rose. She grew up in Johnstown, the same community where she and her husband are raising their two sons.

Matt Guzielek, of Johnstown, has been promoted to senior director of operations for St. Mary’s Healthcare Medical Group. In this new role, he will develop and implement strategies to enhance clinical outcomes, increase provider engagement, and grow St. Mary’s market share. Expanding St. Mary’s Healthcare Medical Group and improving access to specialty care in the region are top priorities for the local, independent healthcare organization.

Guzielek joined St. Mary’s in 2018 as manager of crisis services and has taken on positions of increasing responsibility ever since. Most recently, he was senior director of behavioral health, working closely with St. Mary’s mental health and addiction medicine teams. He also serves on Montgomery County’s crisis intervention and threat assessment management teams.



A graduate of the State University of New York at Oswego, Guzielek earned an MBA with a specialization in healthcare administration from Utica University. He lives in his hometown of Johnstown with his wife, Robyn, and their two daughters.

JPM LOCK AND SECURITY OFFERS COMMUNITIES NEW 9-1-1 TECHNOLOGY

JPM Lock and Security is partnering with Eagle Eye Networks to bring Eagle Eye 911 Camera Sharing to the communities in our region. This first-of-its-kind technology gives 911 Emergency Communication Centers instant access to enrolled security cameras, empowering them to deliver critical incident information to first responders during an emergency.



Damon Grant, Co-principal of Oakland Unity Middle School, Oakland, CA, stated: *"The Eagle Eye Networks 911 Camera Sharing solution we’ve implemented gives first responders critical information in real-time to guide their response to an emergency in our school. The presence of this technology serves as a silent guardian, ready to act if needed, but a resource we hope we will never need."*

For more information, contact Zach Cramer at JPM Lock & Security at 518-272-4080 or zachc@jpmangione.com.

UPSTATE ICEPLEX LOOKING FOR YOUR PLEDGE

Currently, our Mohawk Valley Region lacks an ice rink complex. The Upstate Ice Plex (UIP) will “FILL THE GAP” and serve the region and its communities. What is the UIP all about? The UIP is a not-for-profit organization that promotes sports and community involvement. Plans for it will include the ability to house multiple organizations, like an umbrella to the region. Though its core is based on ice sports the facility morphs for many alternative needs which promote the community and the businesses. That’s why it is called a Multiplex. Some of the events/sports that can be held here include ice sports (hockey, figure skating, curling, sled hockey, short track), and indoor sports/practices including soccer and lacrosse. There will be spaces for music performances, a fitness center, classrooms, conference rooms and more. The group is looking for businesses and community members to sign a Unity Pledge to show support for the creation and development of the UIP. Find the Unity Pledge [here](#) and more information about UIP on their website [here](#).



U.S. LIGHT ENERGY ACHIEVES PRESTIGIOUS RECOGNITION: TOP SOLAR DEVELOPER BASED IN NY, SIXTH IN THE NATION FOR COMMUNITY SOLAR

[U.S. Light Energy](#) (“USLE”), a distributed generation energy development company specializing in community solar and renewable energy solutions, today announced it has been named the top solar developer based in New York, and the nation’s sixth-largest developer of community solar, in annual rankings just released by Solar Power World, the premier publication covering the U.S. solar market.

In compiling its list of 2024 Top Solar Contractors, Solar Power World ranked companies according to the kilowatt (kw) capacity of projects they installed, developed or helped construct in the previous year within the U.S and its territories. During 2023, New York-based USLE installed 17,641 kw of solar, which also ranked 18th nationally in all solar development.

“This prestigious recognition reflects the rapid growth and successful track record of USLE in delivering innovative community solar and renewable energy solutions,” said Mark Richardson, Chief Executive Officer of U.S. Light Energy. “USLE is laser focused on boosting the production and use of clean solar energy, developing and implementing environmentally friendly projects, and supporting the expanding green economy. This designation reinforces and strengthens our efforts.” Its selection as the leading solar developer in New York, and as one of the nation’s premier community solar developers, is the latest milestone for USLE, which has experienced significant growth over the past year. USLE secured a \$15 million investment from Kimmeridge Carbon Solutions, an alternative asset manager, providing a major catalyst for expansion; relocated to a new headquarters in Latham, NY that triples the size of its previous location; and has nearly doubled the size of its workforce. To date, USLE has sold about 40 solar projects worth more than 200 megawatts (mw) in total, mostly in New York, with another 3,000 mw of projects under development in more than a dozen states.

“Solar projects in every market – residential to utility-scale – are getting bigger and often-times more complicated in scope, financing and permitting. That’s why it’s all the more impressive when so many top installation companies have banner years,” said Kelly Pickerel, editor in chief of Solar Power World.

From its original concentration on rooftop solar when it was formed in 2016, USLE has transitioned its focus to community solar projects, which enable energy users to subscribe to a shared system of solar panels, often located within their community. As a result, both residential and commercial customers can reap the benefits of renewable energy, from reduced cost and increased resilience to improved access for low- to moderate-income households, community ownership, and equitable workforce development and entrepreneurship.

For more information on the 2024 Top Solar Contractors list compiled by Solar Power World, visit <https://www.solarpowerworldonline.com/2024-top-solar-contractors/>.



The logo for US Light Energy. 'US' is in white, bold, sans-serif font inside a red square. 'LIGHT' is in blue, outlined, sans-serif font. 'ENERGY' is in blue, solid, sans-serif font.

SUCCESSFUL CLEAN UP SEASON FROM KEEP MOHAWK VALLEY BEAUTIFUL

Keep Mohawk Valley Beautiful (KMVB), a six-county NYS affiliate of the national Keep America Beautiful (KAB) program, is celebrating the achievements of the Mohawk Valley’s 23rd annual *Great American Cleanup*. KMVB is a standing committee of the Mohawk Valley Economic Development District, Inc. (MVEDD).

KAB works to create sustainable communities that are socially connected, environmentally healthy and economically sound. Their annual cleanup effort is the country’s largest community improvement program. Each Spring, KAB affiliates, like KMVB, engage more than 4 million volunteers in more than 20,000 communities nationwide.

This year, KMVB earned a grant from M&T Charitable Foundation. This donation allowed KMVB to purchase additional sizes of clean up bags. This contribution, along with the longstanding support of Bank of Utica, Northern Safety, CABVI, Standard Insulating Co., GreenUtica, Positively Rome, the City of Utica, M&T Bank, the Genesis Group, Rome Clean & Green, as well as the Otsego, Schoharie, Herkimer and Fulton-Montgomery Chamber of Commerce offices, made this year’s cleanup a great success.

This year, KMVB welcomed a new partner, Utica Creative Reuse. Local artist and founder of this nonprofit organization, Sarah Marris-Swann, was awarded a grant* through CNY Arts to host the “Trash to Treasure Art Challenge,” a community art project in Utica, NY. This project welcomed local artists to collect litter and incorporate the items into a piece of art. The project’s 2024 Earth Day Cleanup had over 40 participants that collected a total of 70 bags of litter.

There are environmental and economic costs to litter that negatively impact local wildlife, public drainage systems, road safety and property values.

If picking up litter is not something you can commit to – there are other ways you can get involved. KMVB supports various recycling and beautification projects in the region. Sam Russo, a KMVB board member, and Allysa Dupont, Office Manager of MVEDD, have maintained perennial gardens in the Mohawk Valley, and are always looking to partner up with local community groups to build more. This year, they cleaned up the three garden beds at the Mohawk Homestead, and planted perennial plants (donated from GreenUtica) and native flowers (donated by Sam Russo). They also cleaned 300 feet of garden space and planted more of the perennials and native plants at the Utica Public Library, as well as assisting the Frankfort Community Garden and Pierstown Grange in Cooperstown. Other gardens include the Historic Parkhurst Baseball Field in Gloversville, and the Schoharie County Chamber of Commerce.

Groups will be able to register for the annual event next Spring on MVEDD’s website, www.mvedd.org. By registering, you will be eligible to receive free materials including gloves, trash bags and other assistance. KMVB encourages any individual or group hosting a cleanup, community garden, recycling or beautification project – new or existing – to register their event. In addition to free materials and resources, registrants will be highlighted for their efforts on MVEDD’s website and KMVB social media platforms.

For more information, or to report a site that needs to be cleaned or rehabilitated, email info@mvedd.org. You may also follow KMVB on Facebook (Keep Mohawk Valley Beautiful – KMVB) for additional information. To donate funding or materials, call (315) 866-4671.

BUSY FALL AT HIGH ROLLERS!

Message to Chamber members from High Rollers:

“We hope that you all had a wonderful summer. It is the time of year to kick off our fall line up. We are very excited to get the programs started. Here are some of the things that are going to be happening:

****BACK TO SCHOOL** is around the Corner and we are excited to support our community. We are collecting donations of packs of pencils to help students start the school year off right. If you bring in a pack of pencils, you will receive a Buy One Get One Free Admission to Skating. Let’s gear up for the school year while having some fun on skates. Bring your friends, enjoy the music and make a difference. This event goes through Sept. 6.

****CHRISTIAN NIGHT at HIGH ROLLERS.** This is an open session for anyone that would like to attend. It is an evening of skating to Contemporary Christian Music. Our snack bar and our arcade will both be open. This event will be held on the last Monday of each month as the calendar allows. If there is a holiday, it will be scheduled on the Monday before. Christian nights will be from 6pm - 8pm. Our first fall Christian night will be September 30.

Admission \$6 | Skate rentals \$3 | Rollerblades/speed skates \$5 | Skate mates \$5

Please share this information with your congregation and youth and encourage everyone to attend for an opportunity for fellowship and fun. We are looking forward to seeing all of you.

****SCOUTS AND STEM**

At High Rollers Skating we are offering a unique educational experience that gets scouts excited about learning! They will have the opportunity to see how the concepts of science, technology, engineering and math can be found in everyday experiences, and do so while working toward/earning scouting badges! Our STEM Educators teach visiting scouts about how STEM principles exist in just about every part of life. The lessons focus on hands-on activities that are both educational and fun! Lessons are customized to directly back to requirements for earning badges, making this program completely unique! Following the completion of the STEM Lesson, the scouts roller skate for physical fitness. The Girl Scout program for Daisies, Brownies, and Juniors allows them to earn Craft and Tinker, Mechanical Engineering and Staying Fit badges. The Cub Scouts and Scout BSA will work on the hands on pieces required for earning the Nova Patch as well as the roller skating badge. Our lessons are designed not only to help students to learn STEM concepts, but to also show how STEM is both fun and exciting!

Along with our special activities, we are resuming our normal hours. High Rollers will be open
 Tuesday evenings for our Community Skate from 6-8pm
 Friday evenings for Friday Night Jam from 7pm - 10pm
 Saturdays from 1pm-4pm and 7pm - 10pm
 Sundays from 2pm-4pm

During our regularly scheduled open sessions times, we do offer both skate and pizza skate party packages. When our rink is not open to the public, we do schedule private and corporate events as well as fundraisers and field trips. Call us to get more information and to set your date on the calendar.

Check out our [Facebook page](#) for our monthly calendar as well as information about all of our regular and pop-up programs..”

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR MESSAGE— continued from page 3

facilitates connections between consumers and farmers, ensuring that you have access to the best local produce available.

5. Automotive Repair: Reliable and Convenient Services

Maintaining your vehicle is essential for daily life. Local automotive repair shops, members of our Chamber, offer trustworthy and convenient services ranging from routine maintenance to complex repairs. By choosing a local auto shop, you benefit from personalized service and expertise. The Chamber helps you find local mechanics who are committed to providing high-quality repairs and customer satisfaction.

6. And More: Diverse Local Business Support

In addition to these sectors, our Chamber includes a wide array of businesses: from restaurants and retail stores to healthcare providers and service-oriented businesses. Each member is dedicated to contributing to our community’s economic vitality and well-being. The Chamber acts as a bridge, connecting you with businesses that meet your needs while fostering local economic growth.

How the Chamber Supports Your Local Shopping Experience

1. **Member Directories:** Our online directory on our website makes it easy to find local businesses across various sectors.
2. **Business Referrals:** We offer personalized referrals to Chamber members, ensuring that you get connected with trusted local service providers.
3. **Community Events:** We organize and promote events that showcase local businesses, providing opportunities for you to engage with them directly.
4. **Networking Opportunities:** Our Chamber events offer platforms for you to meet local business owners and learn more about their services, as well as telling your own business’ story to others.
5. **Advocacy and Support:** We advocate in the halls of local, state, and federal government for policies and initiatives that support local businesses and the broader community.

Shopping locally not only enriches your life with quality products and services but also strengthens our community. The Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce is here to guide you in making the best local choices for your needs. For more information, visit our website or contact us directly. Together, let’s continue to build a vibrant and thriving local economy!

CHAMBER MEMBER EXCLUSIVE



→ WEDNESDAY, OCT 23, 2024
at 1:00 PM eastern

with featured speakers



Frank Kenny

CEO AND CO-FOUNDER OF THE
CHAMBER PROS COMMUNITY,
LEADING AI EXPERT



Norma Davey

CREATIVE DIRECTOR AND CO-
FOUNDER OF THE CHAMBER PROS
COMMUNITY, LEADING AI EXPERT FOR
MARKETING

SUPERCHARGE YOUR BUSINESS WITH AI – DON'T MISS THIS FREE, EXCLUSIVE WEBINAR!

We're excited to offer you an exclusive opportunity to elevate your business with cutting-edge AI knowledge! Join us on Wednesday, October 23rd at 1 PM Eastern for a special 90-minute webinar designed specifically for small business owners like you. This event is FREE for our Chamber members.

What You'll Learn:

- Save Time: Explore use cases to understand how AI can free up your time.
 - Be More Productive: Discover ways AI can make you and your team more productive and get more done.
 - Enhance Your Creativity: Learn how to create professional-quality marketing materials with AI.
- Flexible Viewing Options - Attend live or watch on-demand at your convenience.

This webinar is a member-only benefit. Register today using the link below:

Register Now at <https://bit.ly/AIWebinarFall2024>

This is a unique chance to gain valuable skills that will help you stay ahead in today's competitive market.

This Event is Proudly Presented by the Following Organizations:

SAVE THE DATE
EVERYONE CHIPS IN

Thursday, September 26, 2024
SUNY Fulton-Montgomery Community College
ALLEN HOUSE: 2805 NY-67, JOHNSTOWN, NY 12095
8:30AM REGISTRATION & BREAKFAST; SEMINAR 9AM-1PM

EVERYONE CHIPS IN SEMINAR

Free for Chamber members!

Thursday, September 26

8:30am Registration & Breakfast

**9am-1pm—Seminar at the Allen House
Fulton-Montgomery Community College
2805 State Highway 67, Johnstown**

An interactive program to update businesses on the evolving semiconductor industry, this event will also offer opportunities to meet and converse with state and local workforce partners, see opportunities for our local students, educators, and businesses, and see what the impact of the semiconductor and advanced manufacturing industry has on upstate NY and how they will affect our future. Keynote address presented by Jennifer Waters, Senior Director of Industry Development and Strategic Business Development with Empire State Development. There will be a free breakfast and lunch provided to attendees.

This important event is presented by the Chamber, FMCC, the Fulton County Center for Regional Growth, Montgomery County Works, NBT Bank, Fulton County Industrial Development Agency, and FMS Workforce Solutions Center.

RSVP is required for planning purposes. Please RSVP to the Chamber at (518) 725-0641, email fultonmontgomeryny@gmail.com, or RSVP [here](#).

MAKE IT MOHAWK VALLEY SURVEY ON CLEAN ENERGY MANUFACTURING

The Make It Mohawk Valley team is building a roadmap to bring clean energy manufacturing to the Mohawk Valley. Our region has so much potential, and we are looking to you for input!

The impact of clean energy technology manufacturing could be transformative to this region and could put us at the forefront of the clean energy sector.

The Mohawk Valley could become an innovation hub with a renaissance of development within the clean energy sector. **Tell them what you think!** Click the link to fill out the survey: <https://forms.office.com/r/qe3KFwiU95>

Their team includes Mohawk Valley Economic Development District, Inc., Mohawk Valley Regional Economic Development Council, Fulton County CRG, Herkimer County IDA, Mohawk Valley EDGE, and Advanced Institute for Manufacturing.

They want all of our communities to be included in the conversation as the group look towards the future of our region.

Please reach out to [MVEDD](#) for additional information on the Make It Mohawk Valley project.

TOURISM

NEWS & UPDATES

MONTGOMERY COUNTY TOURISM NEWS

Visit Montgomery County, NY is partnering with the PBA for **Cops and Joggers 5K and 10K on September 7!** Race starts at 9:30AM with proceeds to benefit Amsterdam Kitten Adoption! Register at: https://runsignup.com/Race/NY/Amsterdam/CopsandJoggersAmsterdam5K?fbclid=IwY2xjawE5oAJleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHR9hbMo8w349MVB9foJzCnt7GpskzJxVMpIGaYorhIcataSDOZbR8cor-Q_aem_gY76sKkoIfoqRzqSgkil5w

Italiafest will also be taking place on **September 7** on the southside of Amsterdam on Bridge Street, 11am to 9pm. Free admission, games, food, rides, contests, games and so much more! Make sure to swing by the Montgomery County Visitor's Center from 2PM to 7PM and make memories in the photobooth! Free prints! 54 Bridge Street, Amsterdam, NY

Saturday, September 21 Paranormal Investigation with Brian Cano, An Evening of History & Hauntings

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 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 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 [here](#); book now before this event sells out!**

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

RIBBON CUTTING AT ST. ANDREWS HEATING & COOLING



[St. Andrews Heating & Cooling](#) held an open house/ribbon cutting event on August 28 at their offices located at 212 Stoner Trail Road in Johnstown. They celebrated with Chamber staff and members, BUG Country played from 11am-1pm and the company treated everyone in attendance to a barbecue feast! Top: ribbon-cutting photo; Middle: St. Andrews owners Len and Sarah, Sarah appears live on BUG Country during the event, and St. Andrews family and staff pose with elected officials.

Nicole Walrath,
Director of Work-
force Development
nicolew@
fultonmontgom-
eryny.org



Natalie May,
Business & Education
Partnership Coord.
nataliem@
fultonmontgom-
eryny.org

NEW DATE AND TIME!



Wednesday, Oct. 16
3:00-4:30pm (Following Career Con)

The Allen House, SUNY Fulton-Montgomery
2805 State Hwy, Johnstown, NY 12095

Join us for a look at PTECH throughout the years. Featuring guest speakers and visits with alumni. Enjoy light refreshments.

To RSVP:




Fulton-Montgomery
REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

CTE

CAREER CON

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2024 (8:45AM - 2PM)
AT SUNY FULTON-MONTGOMERY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Career Exploration event for 8th graders in HFM districts & SUNY FMCC students



For registration and sponsorship visit
<https://sites.google.com/hfmboces.org/hfmbocescareer-con/home>
nwalrath@hfmboces.org



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

THANK YOU to the following Chamber Members who are sponsoring 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



Cocktail Hour Sponsors



Lunch Sponsors



Specialty Drink Hole Sponsors



Beverage Cart Sponsors



Bill and Roberta Winsman



Snack Cart Sponsor



Hole-in-One Sponsors



Community Bank



Hole and Tee Sponsors

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- Derby Office Equipment
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- First National Bank of Scotia
- Frank & Sons Body Works
- Fulmont Community Action Agency
- Hill & Markes
- Holiday Inn Johnstown-Gloversville
- Liberty ARC

- Mental Health Association of Fulton & Montgomery Counties
- Parkhurst Pest & Rodent Solutions
- Ricmar Design & Print Shop
- Rose & Hughes Funeral Home
- Jenny Rulison-Fisch, State Farm Insurance
- Assemblyman Robert Smullen
- Townsend Leather
- The Wesson Group

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.

LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER 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 Antlers 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](#).**

EVERYONE CHIPS IN SEMINAR

Thursday, September 26

Fulton-Montgomery Community College

See details on page 11.

RIBBON-CUTTING/OPEN HOUSE FOR ROSE & HUGHES FUNERAL HOME

Thursday, October 3, 5pm-7pm

200 Church Street, Amsterdam

Join us as we celebrate this new business in Amsterdam. There will be a ribbon-cutting at 5pm, followed by refreshments and tours of the business. RSVP appreciated; please use contact information in headline.

HFM PTECH 10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Wednesday, October 16, 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 employees—all are invited! RSVP required for planning purposes. See details about RSVPs 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@hfmbooces.org.

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS AT THE RECOVERY SPORTS GRILL

Thursday, October 17, 5pm-7pm

200 Church Street, Amsterdam

Come and enjoy camaraderie, networking, great food and drink...and stay to watch the Thursday Night NFL game! RSVP requested for planning purposes; see RSVP info in headline above.



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THE WOMEN'S HEALTH TEAM



Looking for STUDENT INTERNS?



Grow your workforce and find your potential new employees by hosting FMCC students!

Tuesday, October 29th, 12pm - 1:30pm

Complimentary Lunch 11am - 12pm

Register Ahead Contact Christie Davis

(Director of External Partnerships)

christie.davis@fmcc.edu or 518-736-FMCC (3622) ext. 8931

FOR MORE INFORMATION: fmcc.edu

