

NEWSLINE

A BUSINESS PUBLICATION OF THE **Fulton**  **Montgomery**
REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



August 2019

Crystal Grove Diamond Mine & Campground: A Precious Gem in Montgomery County

By **Jessica Ford**
Newsline Editor

How often is any inhabitant of this planet Earth able to say that they are the very first to hold an object that was created 500 million years ago?

At Crystal Grove Diamond Mine and Campground in Montgomery County, it happens just about every day.

Visitors to Crystal Grove, located at 161 County Rd. 114 in St. Johnsville, are often mineral collectors, who spend time at the site sifting or mining for “Herkimer Diamonds.” Each year thousands of enthusiasts come from all over the world to find their own gems for their collections. These guests also include campers, who crave the spacious and quiet upstate setting, that is dotted with hardwood trees and traversed by



Miners at Crystal Grove Diamond Mine and Campground’s “Tears of Wenedi” mine busily break up dolomite rocks and sift and search for “Herkimer Diamonds.” The “diamonds” are actually clear quartz crystals only available from the Herkimer County and Mohawk Valley region.

the bubbling Timmerman Creek.

The “diamonds,” (that are not actually diamonds, but quartz crystals)

are only found throughout Herkimer County and the Mohawk Valley. They are precious to collectors worldwide

for their unique properties and beauty. The Crystal Grove site is part of the “Herkimer Mining District,” that is formed by a trapezoidal area that includes Poland, NY at the upper northwest, and covers a 60 km span that includes Herkimer to the south, St. Johnsville in the southeast, and Fonda at the lower southeast corner. There are just a handful of mines in the district open to the public for digging.

According to www.geology.com, “Herkimer Diamond” is the name given to the doubly-terminated quartz crystals only found in this Herkimer Mining District, and not available at any other location in the world. The website explains, “The crystals have

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Preparation, Teamwork Leads to \$10M Downtown Revitalization Award for Amsterdam

By **Jessica Ford**
Newsline Editor

New York Lt. Gov. Kathy Hochul utilized the backdrop of Amsterdam’s Riverlink

Park to announce that the city was a winner of \$10M in New York Downtown Revitalization Initiative funding.

In accepting the award,

city officials, state and county representatives spoke about the satisfying cross-institutional teamwork that has taken place in the region to achieve a common goal of transforming the City of Amsterdam, and more broadly, Montgomery County.

Among the 15 projects to be undertaken, the largest amounts of funding were for projects to attract visitors to patronize downtown businesses; enhance the Amsterdam Free Library to create a robust community center; rehabilitate the East End’s 149 East Main

“Effectively, change is almost impossible without industry-wide collaboration, cooperation, and consensus.”

– Simon Mainwaring, brand futurist, global keynote speaker, and best selling author

Street for use as a community center, and construct a new adjacent recreation center; and convert the historic former Key Bank building into a mixed-use development featuring commercial lower floors and residences on upper floors.

The inclusion of Amsterdam as a DRI winner marks the first time a community in Fulton or Montgomery counties has been chosen for the award.

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Letter from the President

Last month my article was in regard to this year's New York State legislative session, in which I stated that it was not a win for Upstate, or our regional businesses.

A great deal of "business unfriendly" legislation was passed, including a farm bill that will be a detriment to our agricultural industry; strict new controls on real estate that will have a negative effect on owners of rental properties as well as developers; and new energy regulations that are sure to have families and businesses paying much higher energy costs in years to come.

But last month also I said that we had a few successes, one being the defeat of the expansion of the new prevailing wage rules. The Chamber joined in the fight to oppose this onerous legislation that would surely have been an absolute detriment to future development and business expansion throughout New York State. Prevailing rate is the process that sets an hourly salary (usually higher than the market rate of an area), that must be paid to construction workers who are working on public projects such as schools, roads, bridges, etc.

This year, the push was made to expand that program to include private projects that get a certain proportion of public funding, whether it be from grants or financing. Hospitals, museums, housing projects, and new business developments or expansions would have been impacted. Imagine how much more the renovations on our Gloversville Free Library would have been, had this been in place.

Enacting the prevailing wage rules would have been a major impediment to the economic development that we so desperately need in upstate New York, and the result would have been the loss of employment opportunities.

Early on, we started this fight by expressing our concerns to our legislators while the Chamber's Board of Directors passed a resolution in opposition, that was sent to Governor Cuomo. The pushback efforts were wide and intense, and politics played a role. The legislation did not pass.

Earlier I called it a win, but maybe I should consider it a temporary reprieve, since I'm certain it will come up again next year. This action will certainly be hurtful to everyone — businesses, taxpayers, and consumers alike. We will start early and continue to push back against this initiative.

Anyone wishing to contact me regarding this or any other issue please feel free to do so by emailing me at: president@fultonmontgomeryny.org or call me directly at (518) 725-0641. Remember, "We are the leading voice of business in the region providing advocacy, resources and solutions for our members."



Mark Kilmer
President/CEO



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Life Rings Placed Strategically Around Great Sacandaga Lake

Measure is Part of "Safe Lake" Initiative Started by Sean Craig and Henry D. Ross Memorial Funds, with State & local partners

In an effort to prevent future tragedies on Great Sacandaga Lake, a coalition of local and state agencies, led by the families of Sean Craig and Henry Ross, will install life rings at strategic points around the lake.

Sean Craig and Henry Ross both lost their lives on the lake and their families have spearheaded the "Safe Lake" Initiative in their memory.

Representatives from the Hudson River – Black River Regulating District unveiled a life ring station at their Mayfield facility in July.

The "Safe Lake" Initiative is a joint collaboration between Hudson River – Black River Regulating District, Fulton and Saratoga Counties, the Great Sacandaga Lake Association, the Sacandaga Protection Committee, the Fulton-Montgomery County Regional Chamber of Commerce, Fulton and Saratoga County Sheriffs' Offices, New York State Police, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, the Watercraft Network, the Sean Craig Memorial Fund and the Henry D. Ross III Memorial Fund.

"We were inspired by the work of the Craig and Ross families, and wanted to do our part to help make the Great Sacandaga Lake a safer, more enjoyable destination," Mark Finkle, Chair

Members of the GSL Safe Lake Initiative "unveil" the new life ring installed at the Hudson River – Black River Regulating District Mayfield office with district representatives.



of the Regulating District, said. "For the safety of our own personnel, other agency personnel, and the members of the public who may visit this facility – especially on weekends – we believe maintaining this life ring station in this location is the right thing to do."

Theresa DaBiere-Craig, mother of Sean Craig, said, "We are honored to welcome HRBRRD as our Safe Harbor Partner! After hearing that we have donated 24 life rings around the lake, the HRBRRD has voluntarily purchased and installed theirs to support this important safety initiative. The Life Rings are an essential tool to assist someone struggling in the water. We remind people who are trying to help a person in distress in the water to 'Throw Don't Go,' meaning it is best not to jump in the water to assist, but instead reach with or throw something to the person. The Life Rings have also become a bright orange symbol of awareness about water safety around the lake. We thank HRBRRD and all

of our Safe Harbor Partners for stepping up to enhance the safety of all those who enjoy water recreation in our region."

Maria Ross, mother of Henry Ross, said, "We are thrilled to have HRBRRD join the Safe Lake Initiative Group and eager to see what our united efforts can bring to the future!"

Fulton County Sheriff Richard Giardino said, "I too would like to thank the Craig and Ross families for all they are doing to help promote safety year-round on the Great Sacandaga Lake. Their efforts in providing equipment for law enforcement, the "Lake App" and safety items for lake user and preventive/educational materials is paramount to reducing lake tragedies."

John Callaghan, Executive Director of the Hudson River – Black River Regulating District, said, "There is nothing better than a good day on, or alongside, the water – but we all recognize that water bodies like the Great Sacandaga Lake represent inherent

danger as well. We join with the other participating members of the Safe Lake Initiative in working collaboratively as one community to enhance the safety of people enjoying this tremendous resource in every possible way."

Safe Harbor Partners whose sites house the rings include:

- Captain Nauti's Sunset Grill
- Cranberry Cove Marina
- Edinburg Marina
- Hudson River Black River Regulating District
- Inn at the Bridge
- Lanzi's on the Lake
- Lakeside Tavern
- Miller Grandview Marina
- Northampton Marina
- Park Marine Base
- Reets Waterfront Marina
- Sacandaga Bible Conference
- Sacandaga Boat Club
- Sport Island Pub
- Wally's Driftwood Park
- Watersedge Campground

Business Leaders Asked to Offer Insights for Library's Future

Business leaders from the Amsterdam area are invited to a 1-hour session at the Amsterdam Free Library on Aug. 23, to offer opinions and insight that will be utilized to help the library create a "Plan of Service," long-term strategy, and also to relay potential goals for the community to other entities.

The session will be held from 8-9 a.m. at the Library, 28 Church St., with a light breakfast served. An optional architectural tour will also take place that morning at 9 a.m. and attendees are welcome to join.

The session is part of the Mohawk Valley Library System's 21st Century Libraries Initiative, which MVLS states "is designed to help all MVLS member libraries reach their potential as community resources that are valued, used and supported."

Initiative activities to be con-



Amsterdam Free Library

ducted in each member community will help the libraries achieve effective community engagement, create a

detailed plan for the future, improve services, provide more effective communications and participate in pro-

ductive advocacy.

According to Wade Abbott, Community Engagement & Communications Specialist for MVLS, the Gloversville Public Library recently completed its Plan of Service and is in the process of implementing it. During the focus-group portion of the planning, more than 110 people gave their thoughts about the future of the community, and how the library can be a part of those goals.

Abbott said, "we want to make the feedback we receive readily available to those who can use it." He said each library does a better job of serving the community when they know what the region's needs are.

To RSVP for the Amsterdam Free Library focus group, contact Wade Abbott at MVLS, phone (518) 355-2010 ext. 230 or the Library at (518) 842-1080.

Mine, continued from page 1

the typical hexagonal form of quartz; however, instead of having a termination on one end they are doubly terminated. This is a result of the crystals growing with very little or no contact with their host rock. Such doubly terminated crystals are very rare. This is what makes Herkimer Diamonds amazing creations of nature.”

Billie Jo and Joel Davis are on-site managers for both the Crystal Grove campsite and mines. Now in their third season as managers, they both agree that being able to live and work at the mine is a “dream job.” The couple was asked to manage the property by their dear friend, owner Marion “Bessie” Bartlett, who passed away in January, 2018. The site is now owned by Bartlett’s children, son Christopher Evans, who is active in managing the business, and daughter Madigan Evans Rollins.

Joel has been mining since he was a child growing up in nearby Middleville, where “Middleville Diamonds,” another moniker for the dou-



Crystal Grove Diamond Mine and Campground on-site managers Billie Jo and Joel Davis.

bly-terminated quartz crystals, are found. Joel said there are “crystals everywhere” in the town. He said, “as kids we would be walking up and down the road and find crystals.” His neighbor had a crystal property as well, which helped spark his love for mining.

Billie Jo is originally from Holland Patent, and said she “knew nothing about Herkimer Diamonds” until being introduced to mining about 10 years ago. Now she and Joel plan and host events at Crystal Grove, and are also organizers

of the Herkimer Diamond Gem Show & Festival, now in its 5th year. The show’s goal is to expose collectors and the public to the Herkimer Diamond, and to allow local miners and vendors to sell their wares in this area. The show has grown continually, and now is housed at the Herkimer County Fairgrounds. On average, between 3,000 and 4,000 people attend the show each year.

Billie Jo, Joel and the Evans’ are working toward expanding the reach of the campground and mines, which are open mid-April to mid-October. The campground has a “Mom and Pop” feel, Joel said, and many campers who are not miners still visit just to enjoy the sylvan setting. Joel said people camp there and love it, “because we are a quiet and rustic campground, that still has an old-style camping feel to it.” “By the end of their visit, we know all the guests’ names,” he said.

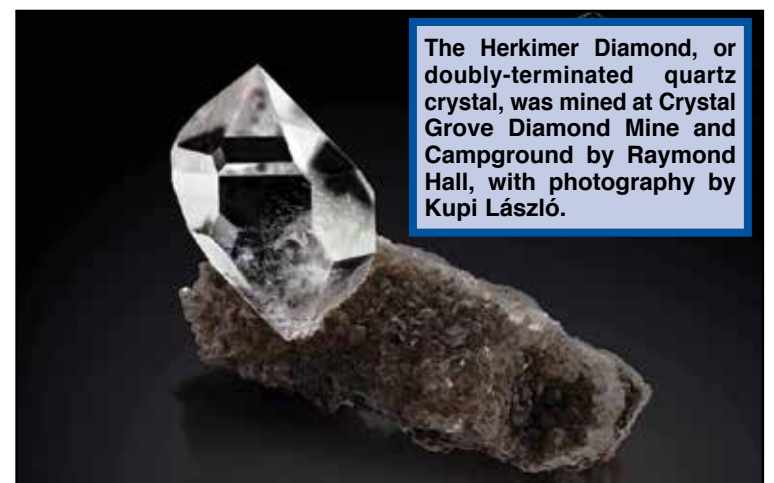
Joel said that aside from the exclusivity and rare configuration of the crystals themselves, people dig at Crystal Grove and throughout the Herkimer Mining District because the gems are simply “captivating.” Some believe that the crystals also have powerful spiritual and energy properties. According to www.healingcrystals.com, “Quartz is the most powerful healing stone of the mineral kingdom, able to work on any condition. Clear Quartz is known as the stone of power and amplifies any energy or intention. Clear Quartz protects against negativity, attunes to your higher self, and relieves pain.”

Whatever the reason for enjoying Herkimer Diamonds, Joel said, “It’s an experience. There’s nothing more thrilling and fulfilling than to be the first person in 500 million years to find a crystal.”

The site features three areas in which to dig: The Tears of Wenedi Mine, the Black Diamond Mine and the Arrowhead Trail mine. All are within walking distance of each other and the campground. Joel said they are always making



The “Herkimer Mining District,” the only place in the world to find doubly-terminating clear quartz crystals, also known as “Herkimer Diamonds.”



Events at

Crystal Grove Diamond Mine & Campground

See www.crystalgrove.com for more details, including cost

Aug. 24 & 25 / 9:30 a.m.

Yoga Session with Kathleen

Open to the public, with Kathleen Goutos, a certified 200 hr. Yoga Instructor, NYS Licensed Massage Therapist, Energy Healer and Aromatherapist.

Aug. 24 & 25 / 11 a.m.

Tie-Dye Class with Zack Ignazio

World renowned tie-dye Artisan, Zack Ignazio will bring his knowledge and artistic skill in tie-dye to Crystal Grove. Learn to make an intense, out-of-this-dimension kind of shirt. Designs to choose from include spiral, mandala and pleated.

Aug. 31

Rock Swap & Fun Day

Join Crystal Grove for the 2nd Annual Rock Swap & Family Fun Day, where vendors will be in the field, swapping/selling their rocks, minerals, jewelry and more. Family fun will include bounce houses, face painting and a food truck on site.

Sept. 21 - 22

Crystal Grove’s Mining Showdown

Starts 8 a.m. on Sept. 21; ends 5 p.m. on Sept. 22

The Wall of Tears of Wenedi Mine will be sectioned into 10 different “spots.” Ten teams will bring in their tools to see who can find the best specimen overall. Prizes for Best Specimen, Most Quartz Weight and Most Rock Moved. Mining will be open to the public, in two other mining areas, and everyone is invited to come watch the show.

Oct 12 / 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Foraging Class

Guests will wander the woods to see what nature really has to offer all of us. Jason LaPort is a local, experienced forager, who will share his knowledge of medicinal uses for seasonal plants on the land.

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**See Diamonds,
on page 5**

Diamonds, continued from page 4

improvements, and now use heavy equipment to break up some of the dolomite rock that hosts the crystals. "I've been digging for 25 years around here, and I always dug at other places, but now that we have 'stirred things up,' the mines are producing great crystals, and has the potential of being a world-class site." The pair said there is no fear of digging up all of the Herkimer Diamonds

even though they are breaking loose more rock for mining. "These diamonds will be available for generations to come," Billie Jo said. Their philosophy is to "give the day-miner the advantage," so everyone who attempts to find a crystal has a good chance of coming away with a treasure.

For those who are not interested in mining, but would like crystals and other unique



A photo taken by a guest shows the gently moving water of Timmerman Creek running through Crystal Grove Diamond Mine and Campground in St. Johnsville.



L-R: Billie Jo Davis, Joel Davis, the late Marion "Bessie" Bartlett, and Bartlett's son Christopher Evans celebrate a long successful season on closing day, February 2017.

items, Crystal Grove has a gift shop featuring Herkimer Diamonds along with raw mineral and stone samples, polished stones, jewelry and more.

Crystal Grove mines are open daily from 9 a.m. to sunset, and visitors do not have to be registered as campers to mine. Daily mining rates for non-campers are \$12 per person, ages 12 & up; \$10 per person for ages 5-11; and ages 4 & under are free.

For campers, ages 12 and up pay \$8 per day, with \$5 for ages 5-11. Tools including crack hammers, rock chisels, sift kits and shovels are available for rent for around \$2 each. The Crystal Grove website also notes, "Crystal Grove is known for its wonderful specimens of crystals on matrix and druzy, but there are plenty of crystals just loose in the dirt."

Camping rates include primitive tent sites for \$32 per night.

Tent campers can get water/electric hookups for \$40 per night. Non-tenters who require water/electric will pay \$45. Cabins are also available, for \$90 for a 4-person cabin, and \$115 for a 6-person cabin. Group rates are available for schools, Scouts, family reunions, birthday parties and more.

For more information, visit www.crystalgrove.com, or www.facebook.com/crystalgrovecamping/.

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DRI, continued from page 1

Governor Cuomo's Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) was launched in 2016 with the goal of transforming downtown neighborhoods into vibrant communities where New Yorkers want to live, work and raise families. The \$100 million initiative resulted in identification by the Governor's ten Regional Economic Development Councils (REDCs) of one community in each region to participate in the DRI. Ten more communities were identified in 2017 and again in 2018. Each year, the State facilitated a community planning process that resulted in a Strategic Investment Plan for each community. The Mohawk Valley region communities of Oneonta and Rome were winners in the first two rounds.

City of Amsterdam Mayor Michael Villa spoke first, and said he would "speak from the heart" rather than his notes. He explained that 4 years ago (at the start of the DRI program), "we came here with hope. We

are no longer selling hope, we are selling results."

He thanked Hochul for being a champion for Upstate New York, and explained that she has taken personal interest in the Mohawk Valley. He said that when she dedicated the Mohawk Valley Gateway Overlook Bridge in 2016, she learned about the bridge, and the efforts of the city to create it, which the city's website calls "the culmination of over a decade of planning, funding, design, and construction."

He said she gave advice on what she thought could be accomplished to move Amsterdam forward, and the city in turn, moved ahead on suggestions to improve infrastructure and zoning so that projects, like the ones that will be funded by the DRI, could be implemented.

He thanked officials including NY Senator George Amedore and State Assemblyman Angelo Santabarbara, who were in attendance at the announcement, for their "sup-



Municipal leaders, legislators and members of the local planning committee who devised the strategic investment plan submitted to New York for the DRI Initiative pose with Lt. Governor Kathy Hochul in July. Shown front Row L-R are: Montgomery County Executive Matthew Ossenfort; Damaris Carbone, director at Amsterdam Housing Authority; NY Senator George Amedore; Ladon Alomar, director at Centro Civico; Hochul; Amsterdam Mayor Michael Villa; State Assemblyman Angelo Santabarbara; and Amsterdam Community & Economic Development Director Amanda Bearcroft. Back row, L-R: Amsterdam's Nyle Nelson; Gina DaBiere-Gibbs, director of tourism at Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce; Chad Majewski, formerly the deputy mayor and 3rd Ward Alderman; and Nicole Hemsley, director at the Amsterdam Free Library.

port, guidance and love for Amsterdam," as well as members of the Mohawk Valley Regional Economic Development Council, Montgomery County Executive Matthew Ossenfort the Amsterdam Industrial Development Agency and city employees. He said all of the various players in the community have worked on a common goal, "to lift up this great place."

He also thanked the Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce for its efforts to advocate and promote the community.

Special recognition was given by Villa to economic specialist and grant writer Amanda Bearcroft, the city's Community & Economic Development Director, for her role in many of the successful grant applications and projects seen in the city. He also thanked Danielle Whelly, the city's former assistant director of the Tourism, Marketing and Recreation Department, and Michele Pawlik, city assistant director of recreation. He added that the city would not stop at the DRI funding alone, as Bearcroft has also applied for 13 New York State Consolidated Funding Application grants this year.

In discussion after the formal presentations, Villa said that he was happy to see that the city's Eastside, "which has



New York State Lt. Governor Kathy Hochul

been ignored for decades," will receive the new community and recreation centers. He said he hopes the project is the first domino in a reaction that will result in a re-energizing of the neighborhood. He said the timeline for the work to be done with the DRI will be about two years, as he said the state "wants to see results."

In her comments, Hochul said she feels a "deep personal connection" to Amsterdam and similar communities with a "deep industrial past, that served as a Mecca for immigrants." She said she is proud to say that places like these – from Buffalo to Albany to Amsterdam – are seeing revitalization. "They're coming back," she said.

"I'm so proud of this community," she said, noting that as these and other transformational projects are completed,

residents will experience a "psychological shift" in how they view their area.

She announced each project to be funded with the DRI: **Create Community and Recreation Centers**

Officials plan to rehabilitate 149 East Main Street for use as a community center, and construct a new adjacent recreation center. This is expected to activate this underutilized part of downtown and transform East Main Street into a destination in its own right. The complex will include a computer lab, art gallery, shared kitchen, and facilities for reading, music, tutoring, recreation, painting, photography, and cinema. DRI funding is \$2.5M.

Renovate and Expand the Amsterdam Free Library

Plans are to renovate and expand the Amsterdam Free Library to create a robust community center in the heart of the downtown district. The expanded library will include a new business incubator, STEM education facility, and multi-use community room complete with stage, screen, and sound and light equipment. DRI funding will be

**See Funded,
on page 8**



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POLICY



Thank you to the City of Amsterdam for taking actions to adopt cancer prevention policies. Thank you for placing value and commitment to your employee's health, residents and visitors where we work, live and play!



- September 19, 2014 the City of Amsterdam adopted a Tobacco Free Policy for all city-owned recreation facilities.
- March 18, 2018 all city employees under the New York State Civil Service Law were granted 4 hours of paid time off for all cancer screenings.
- May 21, 2019 the City of Amsterdam adopted a Sun Safety Policy for Outdoor Worksite to protect employees from adverse effects associated with prolonged exposure to outdoor UV rays. Encourage strategies to practice to reduce skin cancer risk to maintain a healthy and safe workforce.
- May 21, 2019 the City of Amsterdam adopted a Sun Safety Policy for Outdoor Recreation to reduce the exposure to ultraviolet radiation (UV rays) which over time can increase risk towards skin cancer by providing education and raising awareness to the community through environmental changes.

Cancer Prevention in Action of Fulton, Montgomery & Schenectady Counties 518-770-6815
This project is supported with funds from the State of New York. Cancer Prevention in Action
Fulton, Montgomery & Schenectady Counties

Funded, continued from page 6

\$1.8M.

Create a Gateway to the Downtown District

Plans are to create an attractive and defined gateway at the intersection of Church Street and East Main Street to provide a positive first impression of the city, render the intersection pedestrian-friendly, and attract visitors to patronize downtown businesses. The project will include public art, new lighting, landscape improvements, sidewalks, and new signage. Funding from the DRI is \$1M.

Transform the Key Bank Building into a Mixed-Use Anchor

When speaking about this project's plans to rehabilitate and convert the historic former Key Bank building into a mixed-use development, Hochul said, "young people love to congregate with other people," and are drawn to places where they can both live and enjoy restaurants, night life and other hot spots. She also mentioned that inno-

vative places with "cool loft living" and the like, are draws for young professionals as well as empty-nesters. The project is expected to transform the local landmark into a beacon of revitalization, ensuring around-the-clock street activity on East Main Street, and drawing visitors to the downtown district. The project will include ground-floor commercial use and upper-story residential units overlooking the city's downtown and waterfront. DRI funding is \$1M.

Establish a Downtown Improvement Fund

To stimulate property upgrades and investments, plans are to establish a matching grant fund for interior and exterior building improvements within the DRI area. The grant program will promote projects that include mixed-uses, create jobs, and advance community revitalization goals. Hochul said it is important for businesses to be able to use these funds to create the "face-lift" needed to reactivate downtown areas. She mentioned the



L-R: Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber President Mark Kilmer, Lt. Gov. Kathy Hochul and Amsterdam Mayor Michael Villa celebrate Amsterdam's award of \$10M in Downtown Revitalization Initiative funding.

"power of good, professional signage" at a business, and how it can change the perception and "psyche of a community, when the place is visually transformed." DRI funding amount is \$600,000.

Transform a Portion of Highway into a Public Open Space

Plans will remove and re-purpose the eastbound portion of NYS Route 5 as public open space, providing residents with recreation opportunities and laying the groundwork for the development of the proposed recreation center. DRI funding will be used for temporary barriers, signage, striping, and the removal of asphalt and paving. Funding award is \$547,087.

Launch a Unified Marketing and Wayfinding Campaign

Officials plan to craft a compelling and site-specific narrative about Amsterdam that draws and directs visitors to downtown destinations. This project includes the development and installation of a vehicular and pedestrian wayfinding system, installation of public art reflective of community identity, and consistent and comprehensive marketing of downtown amenities through a unified branding strategy. DRI award is \$500,000.

Install Streetscape Improvements on Bridge and Main Streets

Plans are to transform the

city's two primary commercial streets, Bridge Street and East Main Street, into the signature components of a walkable, vibrant downtown environment, drawing residents and tourists to local businesses around the clock. Streetscape improvements include decorative lighting, sidewalk upgrades, landscaping, and street furniture. DRI award is \$350,000.

Create a Community Dog Park

Drawing excited applause from the crowd at the announcement event, Hochul explained this project will construct a fenced-in community dog park at 198-200 Erie Street to serve as a mid-block connector from the waterfront to the Empire State Trail, furthering the Southside's transformation into a complete and connected neighborhood. As the first dog park in the city or county, this project is expected to be a local and regional recreation destination. Funding amount is \$323,400.

Transform the Southside into a Vibrant, Walkable Community

This project will implement public realm improvements to encourage pedestrian activity along Bridge Street and connect the Mohawk Valley Gateway Overlook Pedestrian Bridge to the Southside's emerging shopping and restaurant scene. The project includes the creation of a boardwalk, and improvements to the sidewalks, streetscape, and civic spaces

adjacent to the Chalmers Mills Lofts. DRI funding will be \$312,785.

Strengthen the Chuctanunda Creek Trail's Downtown Presence

The project plans to install enhanced signage, lighting, and safety measures along the downtown stretch of the Chuctanunda Creek Trail to enable the district to serve as a tourist and recreation destination, and to facilitate access to broader trail systems and amenities. Funding award for the project is \$288,728.

Construct a Waterfront Entertainment Destination

Planning for the project includes providing a new dock, boat lifts, and storage to a waterski show business relocating to the Amsterdam waterfront, where it will strengthen the area's tourist attraction in the summer and serve as a catalyst for future investment. DRI funding amount is \$60,000.

Relocate and Enhance the Amsterdam Skate Park

Hochul commended the city's plan to relocate the Amsterdam Skate Park, through the construction of an improved facility adjacent to the proposed community and recreation center at 143 East Main Street. She said she applauds Amsterdam "for serving every sector of the population." The new skate park will provide Amsterdam's young people with a safe and inviting place to socialize and will accommodate and complement the development of the new recreation center. DRI award is \$93,000.

Establish Design Guidelines to Create a Cohesive Downtown

To ensure new development and renovation projects preserve and enhance the downtown character, the city will establish design guidelines aimed at creating an aesthetically coordinated district and encouraging future investment. The guidelines will address façade improvements, signage regulations, lighting, landscaping, and beautification projects. DRI funding will be \$50,000.

**See Downtown,
on page 9**

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Benefits Buzz: IRS Releases Inflation-adjusted Limits for HSAs and HDHPs for 2020

On May 28, 2019, the IRS released Revenue Procedure 2019-25 to announce the inflation-adjusted limits for health savings accounts (HSAs) and high deductible health plans (HDHPs) for 2020. These limits include:

- The maximum HSA contribution limit
- The minimum deductible amount for HDHPs
- The maximum out-of-pocket expense limit for HDHPs

These limits vary based on whether an individual has self-only or family coverage under an HDHP.

HSA Contribution Limits for 2020

The IRS limits for HSA contributions increase for 2020. Eligible individuals with self-only HDHP coverage will be able to contribute up to \$3,550 for 2020, while eligible individuals with family HDHP coverage will be able to contribute up to \$7,100 for 2020.

The \$1,000 catch-up contribution limit that applies to HSA-eligible individuals who are age 55 or older will remain unchanged.

HDHP Cost-sharing Limits for 2020

For self-only coverage in 2020, the HDHP minimum deductible will increase to \$1,400 and the out-of-pocket maximum will increase to \$6,900. For family coverage, these limits will increase to \$2,800 and \$13,800, respectively.

Action Steps

Because these limits change for 2020, employers that sponsor these plans may need to make plan design changes for plan years beginning in 2020.

EEOC Delays Amending Wellness Program Regulations to End of 2019

On May 22, 2019, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) announced its plans to issue amended regulations related to wellness program incentives by December 2019. This signals the second pushback of the EEOC's deadline to publish new wellness program incentive regulations.

Back in 2016, the EEOC had finalized two rules that regulated employer-sponsored wellness programs. These rules allowed employers to offer incentives for wellness programs that asked employees health-related questions or included medical exams.

The rules also allowed employers to offer incentives in exchange for health-related information about employees' spouses. In August 2017, a federal district court had vacated portions of the final rules, and required the EEOC to revise the incentive limit portion of the rules. Effective Jan. 1, 2019, the EEOC removed the incentive limits from the final rule.

Until new regulations are issued, employers should carefully review their wellness programs to ensure compliance.

Renovate the Samuel Sweet Canal Store

This project will transform the historic Samuel Sweet Canal Store into a tavern and gift shop to draw tourist and out-of-town patrons to the area and further strengthen the growing food and beverage scene on the Southside. This project will include the conversion of the second floor into a tavern, addition of public sewer and water hookups, installation of a new roof, and construction of a parking lot. DRI funding is \$275,000.

Not all of the projects are fully funded, and the entities involved are expected to utilize other grant funding or private investment to round out the financing.

In his comments, Senator Amedore thanked the Lt. Governor for making Amsterdam "a top priority," and said that these investments are a direct result of the teamwork that Amsterdam and Montgomery County have seen from all entities, including academia, businesses, economic development officials and the Chamber of Commerce. "Thank you for making this a reality," he said.

He explained that he heard often from Mayor Villa about all of these projects, saying he was a "loud trumpet," making noise to ensure that Amsterdam gets its fair share, and noting that positive news like the DRI award is "activity that breeds activity."

Assemblyman Santabarbara said thank you to all the partners that "made this all possible," explaining that the variety of projects, from housing, to connecting geographic areas and creating educational opportunities are "historic investments in Amsterdam's future." He said, "the work we have done together has led to this."

Ossenfort said that the support shown with the DRI for Amsterdam, will also have a regional impact, because he said when the largest municipality in the county is having great success as an anchor for business and entertainment, the whole region is affected in a positive way. "Activity breeds activity," he said.

Downtown, continued from page 8

He said that as part of the DRI process in the past several years, teams from various entities in the county have visited other communities to see how they have transformed their regions. He said Hochul was kind enough to help the group make contacts and then visit her hometown of Buffalo, where similar problems and solutions have been experienced.

He challenged the group and the larger community to follow the example set in Montgomery County and the larger region, where he said despite it being "a time when politics is quite divisive and nasty — we are bucking that trend. We try to work hard, treat people with respect. Everyone has bought in — and the results are great." He said, "we are changing people's lives," working on the issue of generational poverty, and "giving people a place where they can change their lives." He said Amsterdam and Montgomery County is a "great place to live, raise and

family and find excellent career opportunities."

"My challenge to you and to this community, is to be your own best advocates," he said, referring to the changes that can be seen when residents speak positively about and are proactive in the place that they live.

Mark Kilmer, President of the Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce, said that he hopes the DRI success for Amsterdam will be a catalyst for other forward-thinking activity around the region. He said that through the DRI process, he and other officials have learned that the issues facing Amsterdam aren't just for that city, and he would like to see the solutions implemented there, translated to all cities and towns in Fulton and Montgomery counties. "We are thinking regionally, and looking outward," he said.

For more details about the NYS DRI Initiative, visit: www.ny.gov/programs/downtown-revitalization-initiative.



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Student's Eagle Scout project creates outdoor classroom at PTECH

Submitted By: Betsy DeMars
Communications Specialist
Capital Region BOCES

From his freshman year, Shain Krutz, who will be a fourth-year HFM PTECH student this fall, envisioned his school's courtyard as a place for students to work independently, collaborate on projects and to simply get outside during the school day.

So, he set out to create just that, and made it his Eagle Scout project.

The ideas for the project started flowing during his first year at PTECH. As time went on, Krutz formalized the plans for an outdoor classroom in the courtyard of the Jansen Avenue School, where PTECH is housed.

"I had to get approval for the design and plans from the Eagle Scout Council," said Krutz, who is a member of Troop 5051 out of Broadalbin. With sports and balancing his schoolwork, it was about a year before he had the stamp of approval and moved into the fundraising phase.

Krutz carried out a bottle and can drive for about a year to raise money for materials, which he projected would cost about \$1,000.

"Five cents here and there really does add up," he said, adding that he also approached businesses for help,



Shain Krutz

and Tanner Lumber in Broadalbin stepped in to donate a good portion of the wood he needed.

"They've been very generous to our troop; they've always donated to our Eagle Scout projects," Krutz said. In addition, Noble Ace Hardware in Johnstown donated the hardware needed for the project.

Last month, just before school let out for the summer, Krutz and more than a dozen fellow Scouts descended on the Jansen Avenue School grounds



Members of Boy Scout Troop 5051 work on Shain Krutz's Eagle Scout project at the Jansen Avenue school in Johnstown.

to assemble and install several folding benches that can be made into tables, as well as permanent benches around a tree in the center of the courtyard and wooden flower boxes under the windows. "We have a plan to keep the plants watered during the school year and in the summer," Krutz said.

In total, Krutz's project adds seating for about 25 to the space.

"This went from a dream from when I first crossed into Scouting to reality," he said. "Now, as senior patrol

leader, having younger troop members come and help me, it was amazing seeing it come full circle where I'm the one doing the Eagle Scout project."

Although as a fourth-year PTECH student Krutz will spend his school days at Fulton-Montgomery Community College campus and not at the Jansen school, his vision for the outdoor classroom extends far beyond his time there.

"The kids at PTECH will be able to enjoy it for years to come," Krutz said.

Young Professionals Create Summer Scavenger Hunt Focused on Instagram

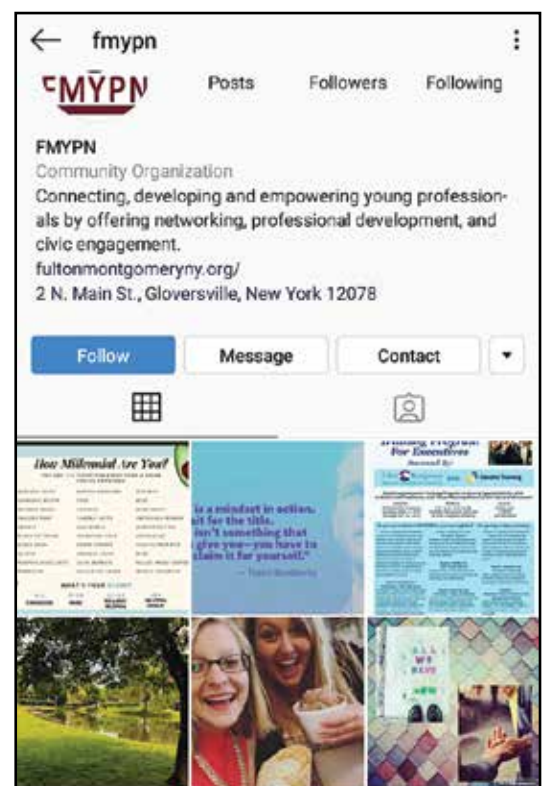
The Fulton Montgomery Young Professionals Network (FMYPN) created a fun summer challenge for business professionals in the "20-something to 40-something" age range that involves showing off how they explore, eat or shop within our community.

The Summer Scavenger Hunt is open until August 31, 2019. FMYPN is offering a chance to win a \$50 Chamber Check to anyone that follows on its Instagram handle: FMYPN. Entrants must also tag FMYPN and use the hashtag #fmypn with an image of themselves exploring, eating, or shopping within our community.

Members said, "The Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce's Fulton Montgomery Young Professionals Network (FMYPN) wants to see YOU out in our community experiencing all our region has to offer!"

The mission of the group is to foster an environment for young professionals in the Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce region to network, conduct community outreach programs and to interact with community leaders. Although the targeted age range for this group is below age 50, the expertise, participation, and camaraderie of professionals of all ages is sought, welcomed and encouraged.

To find out more about the Fulton



The FMYPN Instagram page

Montgomery Young Professionals Network, follow the group on social media – Twitter (@FulmontYPN), Facebook or Instagram (FMYPN). There is also a Facebook event page for more information about the Summer Challenge.

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Membership News



James Hannahs

Membership Coordinator

Membership@fultonmontgomeryny.org
518-725-0641

In my position with the Chamber, I take great pride in not only promoting a member's success, but also providing the proper support when needed, a cycle all business owners are familiar with. This inevitable cycle requires a boost when business is booming, and elevation when it slumps. Our bundle of services provide a wide range of resources that members can use when they find themselves at any specific point on that cycle, such as our unique

print and digital publications, broad streams of communication, or even vast database of potential clientele. However, the only resource accessible at all points along that cycle will always be your community.

The FM Chamber proudly represents almost 800 members across two counties, three cities, dozens of towns and villages, and over 100,000 citizens. One commonality we find throughout is the overwhelming sense of community pride that mirrors Chamber support for members; the same dynamic of boosting success and elevating from a down-cycle is present. Small independent businesses such as Lee's Shops in Canajoharie or Kingsboro Lumber in Gloversville have benefitted from years of community support. Their client base doesn't just patronize the business for the products or services, but also because of their support of the community.

This support can take many forms. A business could: Sponsor a Little League team,



Mohawk Harvest celebrates its 10th Anniversary, with members of the community.

coordinate community festivals, make donations to various non-profits and schools, join cleanup days, host ice cream socials, and even give free haircuts (StickerMule and Fulton County Barbershop have done the latter two). Coordinating these efforts provides mutual benefit on behalf of both the community and the member, especially in times of celebration and times of sadness.

This broad support presents an invaluable asset for communities and businesses

alike; we celebrate together and we come together in bad times. For example, Mohawk Harvest Cooperative Market in Gloversville celebrated their ten year anniversary in July. Anyone who attended could note the amount of support just by looking at the crowd. With standing room only, Mohawk Harvest members, local citizens, elected officials, and the market's stakeholders came together to celebrate an accomplishment of longevity. Mohawk Harvest provides organic produce, locally sourced

meats and cheeses, GMO-free snacks, responsibly made paper products, fresh cooked meals, and more to a community that, for the most part, hasn't had easy access to these types of products. Their dedication to providing products for the common good of our region allows them to relish in equally dedicated support from the community. Over a champagne toast, store manager Gianna DeLilli made a point to not only thank the members, but also to emphasize the benefits of equitable support between the business environment and the regional community.

That equitable support helps smooth out the ebbs and enhance the flows of the previously mentioned cycle. The most effective trio of resources has three simple ingredients: Business support in the community, community support in the business, and of course, an active Chamber membership. For more information, contact me at 518-725-0641 or at membership@fultonmontgomeryny.org.

Meet a few LITTAUER gems



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Lions Awards Given

The Greater Johnstown Lions Club recently hosted District Governor Michele O'Hare, who bestowed awards on several members for their work on behalf of the club.

Co-Presidents Diedrie Roemer (left) and Colleen Ioele-DeCristofaro (right) were awarded the Robert J. Uplinger Distinguished Service Award by O'Hare (second from right). Past President Michael Bowman was made a Knight of the Blind of the Lions Eye Institute, Lions Foundation of Albany, NY. Lions Clubs International is the world's largest service club organization with more than 1.4 million members in approximately 46,000 clubs in more than 200 countries and geographical areas around the world. The group works to empower volunteers to serve their communities, meet humanitarian needs, encourage peace and promote international understanding. Lions clubs are also best known for fighting blindness in America.

MedSpa Amsterdam Makes New Home in Clock Tower

MedSpa Amsterdam recently moved to a new location on the second floor of The Clock Tower Building, 37 Prospect St., Suite 216.

Owner Dr. Sean Ryan said the spa offers facials, massage, chemical peels and nutrition programs. He explained that MedSpa is different for many reasons, including that the spa is able to bring treatments to the area for a less expensive price, often 15-20 percent less than comparable services in Saratoga or Albany. His medical degree also makes the company stand out among others.

Prices for various services are available for review on the spa's website, www.medspa-amsterdam.com. Some medical insurance companies may cover medical massage therapy and it's always good to check with the wellness program through your insurance companies to ask



MedSpa Amsterdam's new location on the second floor of The Clock Tower building in Amsterdam.

if wellness credits can be utilized for MedSpa.

The company's facebook page states, "Our goal is to create a luxurious, comfortable space just for you. Relax. Take some time away and let go in our positive, stress-free environment. We are certain that you will leave satisfied with the results that you expect, and with the quality service you deserve."

To make an appointment, customers can use the MINDBODY app or call (518) 843-6241.



Glovers and Tanners History Discussion



Dr. Gerald Zahavi, professor of History at the University at Albany, presented "Memories of an Industrial Past: Fulton County Glovers and Tanners Speak About Their Industry" at the Allen House on the FMCC campus in July. The presentation featured video and oral interviews, site recordings, and historical photographs, all collected by Dr. Zahavi and Susan McCormick in Gloversville and Johnstown in the 1990s. Interviewees included Frank Perrella, Joe

Pagano, Thomas Liuzzi, Peter Kiernan, Sal Landrio, Bob Perrella, Emily Christopher, Mildred Edel, and others. These experts spoke about their history in the industry and demonstrated some of their work, such as reading and grading leather and silking. Zahavi will return to FMCC on Saturday, October 19 at 2pm to present "Radical Union Activism in Fulton County Tanneries." More information can be found on the "Year of the Glove" Facebook page.

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HFM PTECH Celebrates 24 Program Graduates

Twenty-four students from eight school districts completed the Hamilton Fulton Montgomery Pathways in Technology Early College High School program during the 2018-19 school year, earning their high school diplomas and associate degrees.

Students finishing the program this year earned all of their high school credits and met New York State requirements for a Regents Diploma and completed all the required coursework for associate degrees in various programs at Fulton Montgomery Community College in a 4- or 5-year time frame.

Through the HFM PTECH program's partnership with the Fulton Montgomery Chamber of Commerce, students also worked with regional business partners to learn professional skills through mentoring sessions, taking part in workplace tours, job shadowing and internship opportunities.

The HFM PTECH Completion Ceremony at the Holiday Inn in Johnstown celebrated the accomplishments of the students, who have plans to join the workforce, continue their education and join the military.

The students who completed the program this academic year and their home school districts are as follows:

Alexis Baird, Gloversville Enlarged School District
Jacob Dudar, Oppenheim-Ephratah-St. Johnsville Central School District
Katrina Foster, Gloversville Enlarged School District
Mae Goh, Greater



Johnstown School District

Conner Hutchinson,
Greater Amsterdam School District

Natalie May, Mayfield Central School District

David Miller,
Gloversville Enlarged School District

Allison Morey, Greater Johnstown School District

Seth Myers, Oppenheim-Ephratah-St. Johnsville Central School District

Madison Paul,
Gloversville Enlarged School District

Mckenzie Paul,
Gloversville Enlarged School District

Nadia Payan, Oppenheim-Ephratah-St. Johnsville Central School District

Madison Perez,
Gloversville Enlarged School District

Elizabeth Peters,
Broadalbin-Perth Central

School District

Abigail Preston, Greater Johnstown School District

Julia Preston, Greater Johnstown School District

Samantha Reese,
Oppenheim-Ephratah-St. Johnsville Central School District

Taylor Rose, Mayfield Central School District

Gillian Rosmarino,
Gloversville Enlarged School District

Hannah Ryder,
Broadalbin-Perth Central School District

Justin Salliey, Greater Amsterdam School District

Nicholas Suits,
Canajoharie Central School District

Aislynn Ward,
Gloversville Enlarged School District

Wyatt Yennard,
Gloversville Enlarged School District

ABOVE: Posing with their plaques at the HFM PTECH Completion Ceremony are back row (L-R): Alexis Baird, Nadia Payan, Wyatt Yennard, Katrina Foster, Madison Perez, Julia Preston, Madison Paul, Conner Hutchinson, Abigail Preston, Samantha Reese, Jacob Dudar, Allison Morey and Hannah Ryder. Front row (L-R) Seth Myers, Aislynn Ward, Gillian Rosmarino, Mae Goh, David Miller, Mckenzie Paul and Elizabeth Peters. Missing from the photo are Justin Salliey, Nicholas Suits, Taylor Rose and Natalie May.

Gloversville Economic

Development Corporation

Has money available to loan to businesses located in the city of Gloversville at comfortable and competitive rates for a variety of needs or purposes! Businesses interested in this offer should call the Chamber at (518) 725-0641 or email president@fultonmontgomeryny.org for more info.

New York Artists Invited To Enter Arkell Show

Artists living in New York State are invited to submit entries to The Art of New York: Annual Juried Art Show hosted by the Arkell Museum and Canajoharie Library Regional Art Galleries.

Juror will be James Coe, landscape painter, wildlife artist, author, and illustrator. The show will be held Nov. 1-Dec. 29, 2019, with a limit of 50" for 2D, and 24" for 3D work. Awards include Best in Show/solo exhibit opportunity; two Juror's Choice awards

sponsored by Golden Artist Colors and Blick Art Materials; and two Awards of Excellence, sponsored by Blick Art Materials. Deadline for submission is Sept. 13.

The Arkell Museum and the Canajoharie Library are located at 2 Erie Boulevard, Canajoharie. The building has off-street parking and is wheelchair accessible.

For more information phone (518) 673-2314; or visit www.arkellmuseum.org/regional-art-call-for-entries.



Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce

Editor's Note: Each month the Newsline will highlight one of the eight businesses and individuals who received recognition at the Chamber's Annual Celebration in early 2019. Congratulations!

Sticker Mule is one of the fastest growing business in the area. It was founded in a small factory in Amsterdam, and the majority of the Sticker Mule team is still based there. The Sticker Mule team works from 16 countries in 4 continents and is "united by a desire to do great work while maintaining a stress-free work environ-

ment that's designed to attract like-minded people who enjoy our culture."

A company official noted, "We offer above market compensation, signing bonuses, flexible hours, and the ability to work from where you want. We continue to put our employees first and make sure that everyone is treated the same regardless of their position in the company."

Sticker Mule offers free perks like gym memberships, monthly catered meals to all three shifts in two plants, pizza/donuts days, free apparel and local excursions. The

Edward L. Wilkinson Industry of the Year – Sticker Mule, Amsterdam



company's growth has made a positive impact on the community and more growth is expected in the next year.

A statement said, "We believe that we should not only invest in our business, employees, but our community as well. This has allowed us to sponsor community burger days, community concerts, sponsorships of sport teams, our city recreation department and so many other social, civil and non for profit activities in the community and we don't



expect that to stop. In fact we plan on doing even more this coming year and we share that

love not just in Amsterdam, but throughout Montgomery and Fulton counties."

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Jarrod Johnson, an ISSA International Sports Sciences Association Certified Personal Trainer, cuts the ribbon at Go For It Fitness and Personal Training Studio. The studio is located at 7 Church Street, Gloversville. Visit Go For It Fitness on Facebook, or Call (518) 723-6159.

Through August 31 'Healing Power of Art' Exhibit

Gloversville artist Ody West, will be featured in the art gallery of The Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce through the end of August. The exhibit, entitled "The Healing Power of Art" will be on display in the gallery at 2 N. Main St., Gloversville. The Gallery is open for viewing Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day.

The show ventures deep into West's healing process and how he has used art to escape depression and anxiety. He became an artist after his therapist recommended that he try art. A release said, "He was skeptical, but after finishing his first piece he immediately felt something inside him change. Now art is a major part of West's life. He paints using acrylic paints, oil paints or spray paint and will paint on any surface available to him. Creating art is an essential part of his life and he can't delay painting just because he doesn't have the right tools."

West likes to leave his artwork in public places for people to find and pass on. He leaves notes for the finders asking them to share the painting with someone suffering from depression and to let them know they are not alone. West said he "knows how hard mental illness can be and hopes his art can be a guiding light for anyone suffering."

West's work will be available for purchase during the show. For more information or to inquire about showing your artwork in the Chamber's Gallery Rotunda, call (518) 725-0641 or e-mail info@fultonmontgomeryny.org.

Upcoming Chamber Events

Be sure to check out our website for more details and updates at www.fultonmontgomeryny.org

Wednesdays Beginning Sept. 4, 2019 Exclusive Training Program for Executives

This Comprehensive Training Program, presented by the Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce with Sandler Training, is geared specifically for mid-to-high-level employees, and those showing potential for upward movement.

There will be 8 Wednesday-morning sessions, Sept. 4, 2019 through Oct. 23, 2019. Sessions will be held from 8-11 a.m. each week, and include discussion and a tour at the host company's location. The series cost is \$999 per attendee.

For more information, please contact the Chamber, at (518) 725-0641 or info@fultonmontgomeryny.org.

Sept. 12, 2019 Business After Hours

The Community Cancer Prevention in Action of Fulton, Montgomery, and Schenectady Counties program will host the Chamber's September Business After Hours at the FMRCC Rotunda on Thursday, Sept. 12 at 5 p.m. The Healthy Harvest BAH will feature a presentation by the hosts, as well as healthy drink and food options catered by St. Mary's Healthcare. For information about the event, contact James Hannahs at 518-725-0641 or membership@fultonmontgomeryny.org.

Community Cancer Prevention in Action (CPiA) is a New York State Department of Health program supporting local cancer prevention and risk reduction interventions using a PSE change approach. For more information about CPiA, and their wide range of services, contact Ginger Champain at (518) 770-6815.

July 1 through Sept. 30, 2019 FMYPN Scavenger Hunt

Fulton Montgomery Young Professionals Network wants to see you get out there and experience our community. From now until September FMYPN is offering a chance to win a Chamber Check to anyone that has followed the group on Instagram and tagged FMYPN in an image of you in our community exploring, eating or shopping. #fmypn #fmypnscavengerhunt #shoplocal #explorethecommunity

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Chamber Member Events

Sept. 19, 2019 Lexington Foundation's Night Out Gala

The Lexington Foundation's annual Night Out gala will take place at the Paul Nigra Center for Creative Arts on Thursday, Sept. 19 from 6-9 p.m.

This year's Night Out will honor Adirondack and rustic artists Barney and Susan Bellinger. The Night Out is open to the public and there are sponsorship opportunities available for individuals or businesses who are interested in supporting the event.

Following the impressive success of last year's The Greatest Showman-themed Night Out, the 2019 gala will offer all manner of Medieval Merriment with a nod to HBO's popular show Game of Thrones. The medieval-themed party will feature live music from the band Flame, fantastic themed food, specialty cocktails, raffles and silent auction items. Other activities and attractions will include fantasy décor, wan-

dering costumed performers, jousting, duels and more.

Proceeds from this special event benefit the Paul Nigra Center for Creative Arts, a community arts center open to the public. Barney and Susan Bellinger are artists-in-residence at the Paul Nigra Center for Creative Arts. They have worked extensively with students from Transitions, a post-secondary program supporting teens and young adults with autism and other learning differences that is co-located with the Nigra Arts Center, as well as with many other artists. The Night Out will also be an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of the students in the Transitions program and raise money for its Elmore Scholarship Fund.

Individual tickets for the Night Out are \$100. Young professionals under the age of 40 can purchase tickets for \$75. For more information about the event, to purchase tickets, or to see available sponsorship opportunities visit <https://thearexingtonfoundation.org/2019-night-out> or call the Nigra Arts Center at (518) 661-9932.

Sept. 24, 2019 Wine and Pasta Pairings

The Friends of Johnson Hall will hold a "Wine and Pasta Pairings" event from

6-8 p.m. at Sam's Seafood Steakhouse, 281 N. Comrie Avenue, Johnstown. Raffle baskets, a 50/50 raffle and music will be part of the fun. Tickets are \$20 per person and are available at Romana's Restaurant and Johnson Hall.

Johnson Hall State Historic Site is located at 139 Hall Avenue, Johnstown, NY. For more information or to visit the Hall, visit www.facebook.com/johnsonhall-statehistoricsite or email JohnsonHall@parks.ny.gov.

Sept. 20, 2019 Perfect Pairings

The Foundation for Montgomery County Office for Aging will host its second annual "Perfect Pairings" event from 6-9 p.m. at Arkell Museum in Canajoharie on Sept. 20, 2019.

Guests will enjoy local beverage vendors offering a variety of sweets, hot hors d'oeuvres by LM Catering of Cooperstown, and a "Grazing Table" featuring a selection of local cheeses, condiments, jams, pickled items and more. There will be a silent auction and musical entertainment. A VIP Experience is offered, that will include early admittance, special food and beverage pairing and a guided tour of the Night Watch Gallery. For more information contact the OFA, (518) 843-2300.

Aug. 15, 2019 Growing Up in Glove Town with Don Williams

Join local author and historian Don Williams and learn about his experiences growing up in a glove shop during Fulton County's glove and leather industry's hey-day. This presentation is 7 p.m. at the Gloversville Senior Center, 53 Church St., Gloversville.

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Chamber Member Events



Deborah Geurtze – Simple Pleasures, Schoharie Creek, 1994. Multiple-plate color etching.

**Aug. 10 to
Dec. 29, 2019**

**Arkell Museum:
Water-Marks: Etchings,
Monotypes & Paintings
by Deborah Geurtze**

Arkell's newest exhibit will include new and retrospective paintings, color etchings, and monotypes highlighting the Mohawk Valley and Erie Canal.

Of Hudson River Dutch ancestry, New York State artist/printmaker Deborah Geurtze is descended from a long line of draftsmen, engravers, and painters who immigrated to Albany in the mid-19th century. Her work reflects a deeply rooted connection to the landscape of New York State.

Geurtze's interest in printing was sparked while a teenager working for her uncle Bill Clarke at the Fort Plain Standard - Canajoharie Courier. Geurtze says "I made offset plates for the Standard/Courier on Saturdays...when it was quiet and Uncle Bill could tutor me. That was where my interest in printing was piqued, but I had no idea how lush fine art printing was until I walked into the print shop in Potsdam..."

This exhibition centers on the waterways, land forms, and people of the area where the southern reaches of the Adirondacks meet the northern reaches of the Catskills, and where rivers and streams tumble over and through the limestone and shale of the

Mohawk Valley, celebrating the path of the Erie Canal.

The Museum, Library, and Regional Art Galleries are open Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday from Noon to 5 p.m. The Library and Regional Art Galleries remain open until 7:30 pm on Wednesdays. Museum admission is free for members and children under 11; \$9 adults, \$6.50 seniors

& students. For more information call (518) 673-2314 or visit www.arkellmuseum.org

**August 11, 2019
Northville Village
Waterfront Park
Shakespeare in the Park:
A Midsummer Night's Dream**

Sacandaga Musical Theater and SVAN are pleased to welcome back the

Will Kempe Players out of Troy, NY for a production of Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream." This will be the Players' third year returning to Northville. Don't miss this incredibly talented group bring Shakespeare to life on the shores of the beautiful Sacandaga. Bring your own lawn chairs or a blanket to sit on. Suggested donation is \$20.

**Aug. 14, 2019
Caroga Chapel, Chapel
Road, Caroga Lake
Caroga Chapel Bluegrass
Concert**

The Caroga Chapel features Durey Creek Bluegrass Band. A variety of bluegrass and gospel songs will be presented from 7 pm to 8 pm. There is no admission fee. A free will offering will be accepted to support the programs of the Caroga Lake area churches. The event is free and open to the public with a free-will offering.

For more information please contact:

Douglas Purcell
5188353023
dpurcell6@nycap.rr.com
www.facebook.com/CarogaLakeEvangelicalChapel2016/

www.fultonmontgomeryny.org

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Phone 518.587.5111 Fax 518.587.0029

Tourism News

Updated Sacandaga Lake Map Available



Gina DaBiere-Gibbs
Director of Tourism
tourism@fultonmontgomeryny.org

The Fulton County Tourism Department continued its partnership with the Tourism Department of the Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce to complete the official updated Great Sacandaga Lake Map.

Now in its eighth edition, the Great Sacandaga Lake

Map was first printed in 2015 which began the partnership between Fulton County and Saratoga County to include the entire Great Sacandaga Lake and its businesses.

We are pleased to continue our partnership with Saratoga County on this project and enhance the distribution of the map.

"We are excited to collaborate with Fulton County on this project, and we hope by increasing distribution and promoting the businesses and lake assets of both Saratoga and Fulton Counties we can bring more visitors to the area while sharing with them the many recreational and tourism opportunities the Sacandaga Lake has to offer," stated Annamaria Bellantoni, Vice President of Tourism at the Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce.

The Great Sacandaga Lake Map provides information to recreational users of the lake in all aspects. Listings for accommodations, attractions, lake and tourism resources, dining, shopping, and much more are included.

Distribution of the map includes the Fulton County Visitor Center at State Routes 30 and 29 in Vail Mills, trade shows, visitor packets and mailings. The map is also distributed at the Saratoga County Chamber Visitor Center, the Exit 9 Visitor Center on I-87 and several other outlets in Saratoga County and to anyone requesting more information on the Great Sacandaga Lake.

For a copy of the map please call the Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber at (518) 725-0641 or the Saratoga County Chamber

at (518) 584-3255. For more Fulton County tourism information visit www.44lakes.com. For more Saratoga County tourism information visit www.ilovesaratoga.us.

Handmades & Harvests

The Fulton County Tourism Department is pleased to announce a promotional partnership with a new event in the region, the Sacandaga Market Handmades & Harvests festival, set for Sept. 14-15 at the Historic Hotel Broadalbin. The event will feature a market collective of artisans, farmers & vendors featuring activities for all ages. Admission is FREE. For more information, visit the Historic Hotel Broadalbin's Facebook page, @HistoricHotelBroadalbin.

Visit our tourism event calendars for more information on these and other events happening in Fulton County, www.44lakes.com/calendar and Montgomery County, www.visitmontgomerycountyny.com/events-calendar.



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Chamber Member Anniversaries

The following businesses have found value in their Chamber investment and have renewed their membership in the months of July/August of this year. Please note these member businesses and the year they joined! Thank you to all our renewing Chamber members.

Less than 5 Years

Blessed Brother's Barbershop.....	2018
MVP Health Care.....	2017
Caren L. Pepper	2017
Nick Stoner Inn & 19th Hole	2017
Sandler Training.....	2017
Paul Nigra Center for Creative Arts and Transitions	2015

5 to 9 Years

Young Living Essential Oils	2014
A to Z Indoor Comfort Systems.....	2014
Hometown Health Centers	2014
Beacon Insurance Agency Group, Inc. ...	2014
Jim's Odd Jobs and Jim's Bait Shop.....	2011
Mohawk Valley Group at Morgan Stanley	2010
Employment Resources	2010
Gehring Tricot Corp.;	
DBA Belmont Mills.....	2010
Gordon's Lakeside Marine	2010

10 to 19 Years

Cranesville Properties, L.L.C.....	2008
Sacandaga Outdoor Center	2008
Fulton County Historical Society & Museum	2008
Village of Fort Johnson.....	2008
A.A.A. Northway Travel Center.....	2007
The Shults Agency, Johnstown.....	2006
Elma's Tax Service, L.L.C.	2005
Peck's Flowers	2004
Loyal Order of Moose Lodge 1185	2004
The Floor Coverings of the Galleria	2004
A. G. Cole Funeral Home, Inc.	2003
Mickey Parker Jr.;	
State Farm Insurance.....	2002
Town of Amsterdam	2001

Mangino Chevrolet	2001
Pops Lake Campground.....	2001
J. R.'s Home Improvement	2001
Kathleen M. Catalano, D.O., P.C.....	2001
Edith Pryce; M.D.	2000

20 to 29 Years

Brown's Ford and Collision of Amsterdam	1999
Amsterdam Pathology Associates.....	1999
Egelston Energy Company	1999
State Farm Insurance: Beatty Agency...	1999
Countryside Fuels	1999
United Welding Supply Co., Inc.....	1998
Glenbrook Farms	1998
Liberty ARC.....	1998
Beech-Nut Nutrition Corporation	1998
Sarah Jane Sanford Adult Home.....	1998
Alpin Haus	1997
Sunset Bay Vacation Resort - RV Park & Marina	1996
Park Marine Base, Inc.....	1995
Wayne Harrison DDS`	1994
Epimed International, Inc.....	1994
Sacandaga Veterinary Clinic.....	1994
Glove Cities Rotary Inc.	1993
Vincenza's Banquet House	1992
Rinaldo Esposito, D.C.....	1992
Harvey's Home, Garden & Pet Center / Home Heating Headquarters	1992
Mayfield Central School District	1992
Lutz, Selig & Zeronda.....	1991

30 to 39 Years

Blue Flame Gas Co., Inc.....	1988
Rooney Sign Company	1985
Joyce Royal Real Estate.....	1983

40 to 49 Years

SF Fabrics, LLC.....	1979
Canada Lake Store and Marine.....	1977
Barter and Donnan Funeral Home	1977
NBT Bank - Gloversville Financial Center	1974



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Business Education Partnership News

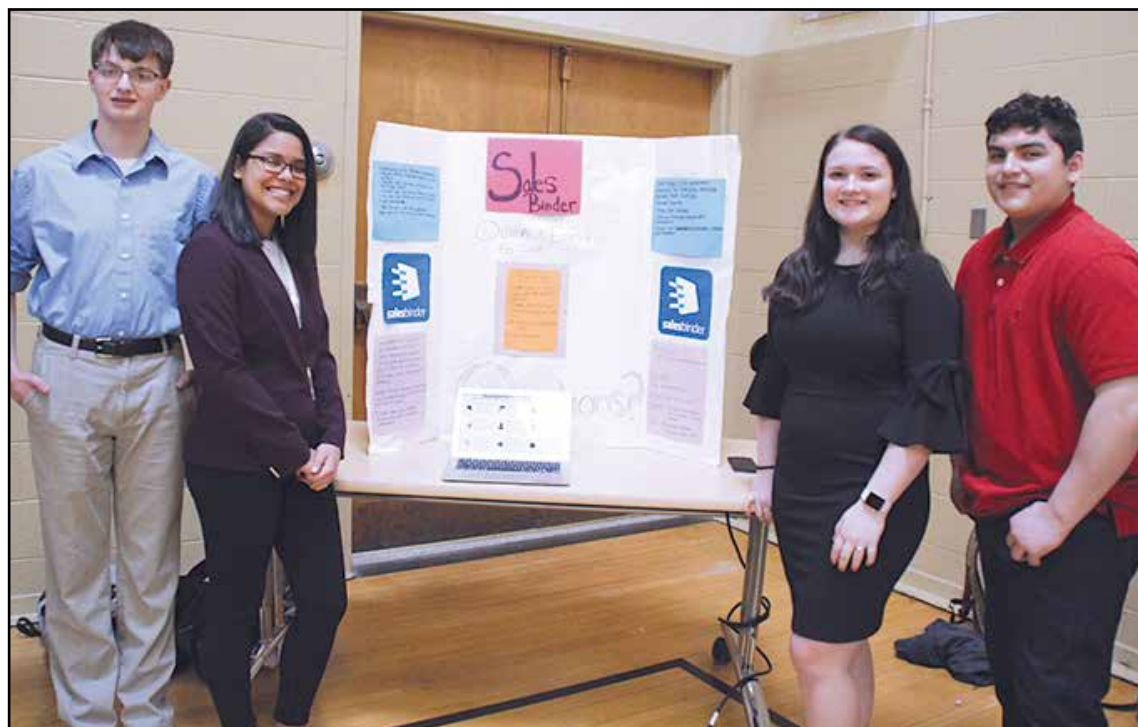
Workplace Challenges Wanted



Nicole Walrath
Director of
Workforce Development
NicoleW@fultonmontgomeryny.org

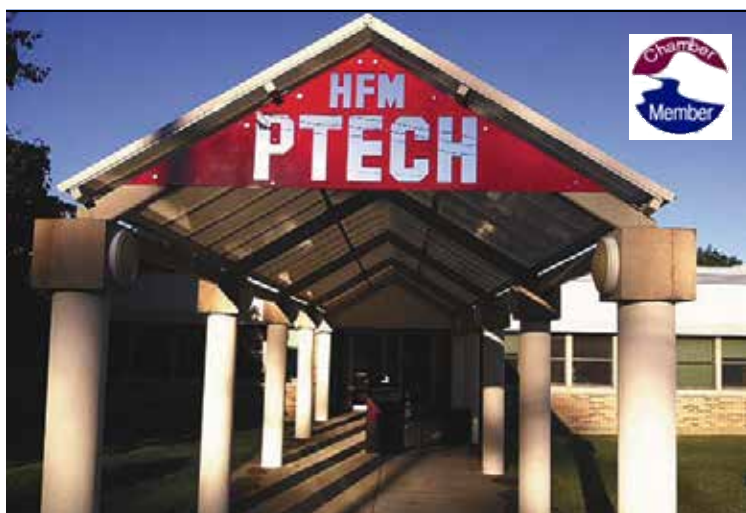


Jenna Patterson
Business and Education
Partnership Coordinator
jennap@fultonmontgomeryny.org



Businesses are asked to consider creating an authentic industry challenge or Workplace Challenge to provide students the opportunity to work on real-world challenges in a collaborative, team-based environment, applying instructional content to technical workplace problems. Challenges could focus, for example, on product packaging, material organization, internal communication methods, process efficiency, marketing/advertising, safety, ergonomics, sustainability, testing processes/methods, office/production floor layout or product innovations. We would like

the challenges to be “real-world enough” that they will engage students and be appropriate for 9th or 10th grade students who may have limited prior knowledge. You don’t have to develop the challenge yourself, but your knowledge and input in developing the challenge will be appreciated. A typical challenge lasts between 4-6 weeks. If your business has a workplace challenge our students can tackle or need additional information, please contact Nicole Walrath at nicolew@fultonmontgomeryny.org or Jenna Patterson at jennap@fultonmontgomeryny.org.



Are you interested in working with students who will embrace the essential business skills and who will be trained educated employees for the future?

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We are currently looking for mentors who will be willing to communicate online with students weekly. Interested in becoming a partnering business?

Contact Nicole Walrath at

(518) 725-0641 or nicolew@fultonmontgomeryny.org for more information.



Welcome New Members!

Thank you for making an investment in your business, and in our region, with Chamber membership.

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Business Education Partnership News



HFM PTECH

ABOVE and AT LEFT: HFM PTECH held its annual Business Partner Meet and Greet on Friday, July 26 at Fulton-Montgomery Community College. Business partners and professionals participated in an icebreaker with incoming freshmen to help build professional skills. Professionals then served on a panel for student presentations to offer feedback on their toy design. Students were tasked with designing, building and marketing a modular building toy to appeal to a 5 to 14-year old age group.



Ag PTECH

It's hard to believe that summer will be over in a month and students will begin another school year at Ag PTECH. Starting in September, sophomores will participate in Mentor Mondays where they discuss different topics to help advance their professional skills. During the course of the year, students will participate in six Mentor Mondays. The first Mentor Monday is planned for September 23 from 8:30- 9:10 a.m. at Ag PTECH, 61 Monroe

St., St. Johnsville. The first seminar will focus on writing and developing a resume. Business leaders who are available to participate or have further questions, can contact Jenna Patterson at jennap@fultonmontgomeryny.com. Additional sessions include: November 4: Professional Presence and Dress; December 16: Effective Communication on the Job; January 27: Job Interviews; March 9: Succeeding at an Internship; and April 20: Digital Footprint.

Amsterdam College and Career PTECH Pathways

The Greater Amsterdam School District's College and Career PTECH Pathways program will host their first Business Professional Meet & Greet on Tuesday, Aug. 20 at Amsterdam High School, 140 Saratoga Ave, Amsterdam, NY 12010. Business partners, mentors, business professionals, or anyone looking to get in-

involved with AHS's CCP program are invited to attend. An icebreaker will take place at 9 a.m. in the front of the high school. If you are interested in attending or would like further information about the CCP program, please contact Nicole Walrath at nicolew@fultonmontgomeryny.org.



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