

NEWSLINE

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



May 2021

Spring has Sprung



Sunshine Gardens in Amsterdam.

By Joanne E. McFadden

Between the start of gardening season and the Mother's Day holiday, area florists and greenhouse owners are plenty busy. Here's a look at what some of the Chamber's members are looking forward to this season.

Sunshine Gardens

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Donna Evans, owner of Sunshine Gardens in Amsterdam believes that business will be booming this year because many people are still staying home and thus are eager to get out into their gardens.

Last year, even though many growers had been shut down because of COVID, Sunshine Gardens still did very well in being able to meet customers' needs.

Evans has found that during the pandemic, increasing numbers of customers were looking for vegetable plants. To that end, she carries a variety. For example, her clientele can choose from 22 different varieties of tomatoes, including heirlooms, orange, white, and striped. "People look forward to it just to make it interesting," she said. The business also offers 100 different varieties of herbs.

Evans' main concern throughout her 36 years in business is quality. "Every year, our quality is spectacular," she said. "We turn our little greenhouses into visions of wonder." She also wants to ensure that her customers leave with plants that will help them become successful gardeners.

"I don't push plants that are a little temperamental or hard to grow," she said.

Studio Herbage Florist

James Dempsey, who grew up in Canajoharie, returned to the area seven years ago to open Studio Herbage Florist in Johnstown.

His business only shut down for two weeks at the very beginning of the pandemic, and even with interruptions in the floral supply chain, he has still been able to craft his signature unique arrangements. He uses flowers that he orders from different areas, including a wide range of Dutch products, Japanese flowers, and other exotics from Southern California. "We have a vastly different palette to work with, so it helps us to maintain a professional and creative edge," Dempsey said.

Before returning to New York, Dempsey, who earned his certification in floral design from the American Institute of Floral Designers, worked for a number of companies that supplied products to florists, so he is well-positioned to obtain

See Spring,
on page 3

Truckenmiller named FMCC President

By Joanne E. McFadden

To start off his 22nd year at Fulton Montgomery Community College (FMCC), Greg Truckenmiller has been appointed as the institution's president.

He is particularly suited to take on the job, as he has served in several different positions in the college. Truckenmiller started in the position of Director of Institutional Research in 2000. He and his wife, Rachel, moved to Fulton County from his native Iowa to be closer to Rachel's family. He took over as the Dean of Arts and Sciences from 2002 to 2009 and then as the college's Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs until 2019. Then he served as acting president upon the retirement of former college President Dustin Swanger. With over two decades of institutional knowledge, Truckenmiller was a good choice to lead the college out of the pandemic and to bolster the student population. "I know the institution, I know the people, and I know the community," he said.

As president, Truckenmiller will continue to lead the college in a new direction in student recruitment. "Our bread and butter has really been that traditional high school student graduating and coming into college," he said. "That population is much smaller because there are fewer high school graduates." To grow the number of students, the college is looking at how to provide educational opportunities in more flexible and non-traditional ways to meet the needs of adult learners who are not coming right out of high school, he said.

The college recognizes that nontraditional students face a variety of challenges, including working full-time and caring for children. "We're looking at ways to reach them where they are," he said, noting the college's "flex mode" option, where a student has the choice to attend class in a variety of formats, such as being in class in real time on campus, at home watching the class live, or participating in a recorded session of the class later on.

"We do think that we will be working on different modalities and different instructional methods out of necessity," Truckenmiller said. "We were moving in this direction before the pandemic, but what the pandemic has done is accelerated this work."

He describes the pandemic as "definitely intense." In just a week and a half, the college had to pivot to remote instruction and move all of its back office operations and payment processing to a remote model. Managing the college became a 24/7



Greg Truckenmiller

See FMCC, on page 6

PRESORTED
STANDARD
US POSTAGE
PAID
ALBANY, NY
PERMIT #486



**We are the leading voice in business, and tourism development,
providing our members with resources to enhance their
organizations and our local communities**

Newsline is published by the
Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce
in partnership with *Daily Gazette Co., Inc.*

Officers 2021

<u>Chair of the Board</u>	Martin Callahan, Helmont Mills-Gehring Industries
<u>Chair-Elect</u>	Trevor Evans, The Leader-Herald
<u>First Vice Chair</u>	Carl Marucci, Community Bank
<u>Secretary</u>	Juanita Handy, Crum Creek CSA
<u>Treasurer</u>	Vacant
<u>Immediate Past Chair</u>	Denis Wilson, Fulmont Community Action Agency

Directors 2021

Joe Galea, JAG Manufacturing
David Jankowski, Joley Re Holding Corp
Lillian Johnson, HTCP, Healing Touch Practitioner
Robin Wentworth, Wells Nursing Home
Lorraine Hohenforest, HFM Boces
Rosalie Faber, Flooring Authority, Inc.
Greg Truckenmiller, Fulton Montgomery Community College
Scott Bruce, St. Mary's Healthcare
Elizabeth Bridge, Liberty Industries
Geoff Peck, Nathan Littauer Hospital & Nursing Home
Billie Jo Muller, Crystal Grove Diamond Mine and Campground
Jason Packer, Hill & Markes, Inc.
Robert Dulysz, White Cottage Gardens

Staff

Mark Kilmer, President/CEO

Becky Dutcher, Financial Administrator/Office Manager
Anne M. Boles, Director of Tourism Development
Tara Ryczek, Tourism Associate
Nicole Walrath, Director of Workforce Development
Jenna Patterson, Business and Education Partnership Coordinator
Nicole Tennant, Executive Assistant
Janet Davis, Director of Membership and Member Services

Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce
 2 N. Main Street, Gloversville, NY 12078
 1166 Riverfront Center, Amsterdam, NY 12010
 (518) 725-0641 | (518) 725-0643 (fax)
www.fultonmontgomeryny.org
 Facebook: FMChamberNY | Instagram | Twitter

Fulton County Tourism

www.44lakes.com | Facebook: Visit Fulton County, NY
 Twitter: @SeeFultonCounty

Montgomery County Tourism

www.visitmontgomerycountyny.com
 Facebook: Visit Montgomery County NY
 Twitter: @MCNYTourism

Letter from the President

Time To Turn Toward the Positive

As we leave winter and begin to enter spring and summer, I believe we can all feel a sense of optimism that the COVID crisis will soon come to an end, and the economic issues that have paralyzed our State and Nation will begin to take a turn for the better. With perseverance, the percentage of vaccinated New Yorkers is expected to continue climbing, and with vigilance we can hope to stay ahead of any new strains of the virus that might threaten to derail that progress. It's really a new era, and we can all enjoy a renewed sense of optimism.

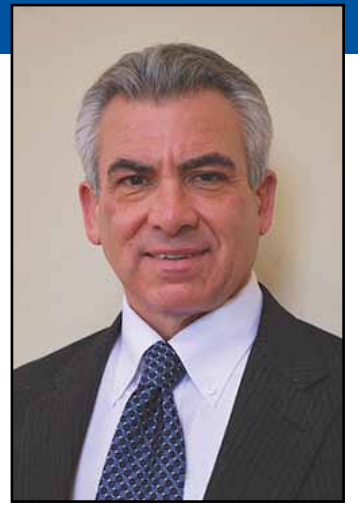
As our State leaders gradually allow more businesses to relax restrictions and conduct operations more freely, we can expect that many community events, fairs and festivals that have seen more than a year of dormancy, will come to life once again. As this positive transition happens, our region will back to hosting fun events, with lots of enjoyable things to do and unique places to go. In turn, we should also start to see an increase in travel and tourism to boost the Fulton Montgomery region.

As more and more businesses gradually come back to pre-pandemic production levels, another benefit is added to this list — the creation and availability of jobs. In several industries, including distribution, retail, construction, manufacturing and others, there will be an abundance of good-paying opportunities. Now is the time that job-seekers can prepare for these new vocations, by searching job boards, updating resumes, and getting ready to take one of many new positions available.

Our local economy has great potential at this time, as there is a pent-up demand for a myriad of goods and services. Folks are ready to dine out, go to movies and shows, and participate in the activities that they enjoyed before the pandemic. Remember when we would pack the family in the car, spend the day shopping, go to a restaurant, and then catch a movie? I truly do not believe those days are over, and I do not believe that ordering personal and household items online will always be the way to conduct our lives. In essence, the fact that people have been locked-down in their homes for so long can create the opportunity for traditional retail to come back even stronger than before. Of course, to do this, retailers must be willing to think "out of the box" and may even have to completely reinvent themselves.

This is a critical time in our economic and recreational lives, but one full of potential for great success and positive transformation. To overcome this pandemic-driven depression we have seen, we must be willing to work hard, take the time and have the fortitude that is needed to essentially start over.

But, with diligence, I know our Fulton and Montgomery region businesses, event planners and community leaders can succeed in bringing our region back to a state that is more positive and more vibrant than ever. We are blessed in our region to have business owners and community leaders who have shown their penchant for innovation, and generous spirit throughout the pandemic. Being in business is not easy. But we are moving forward with courage and determination. As we reopen and build momentum, we will win the battle, and our community will thrive and see success.



Mark Kilmer
President/CEO



REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**2 North Main Street,
Gloversville, New York 12078**
 (518) 725-0641 • fax (518) 725-0643
**1166 Riverfront Center,
Amsterdam, New York 12010**
 (518) 725-0641 • fax (518) 684-0111
 E-mail: info@fultonmontgomeryny.org
 Website: www.fultonmontgomeryny.org

Member of
 American Chamber of Commerce Executives Association
 Business Council of New York State
 Center For Economic Growth
 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

Spring, continued from page 1



Studio Herbage Florist in Johnstown.

some of the more unusual flowers that he uses in his arrangements. He also worked as a lead designer for Sunshine Bouquet, a flower supplier and grower. "I created bouquets with all sorts of different products and sourced the products from different growers in South America," Dempsey said. Now, he leverages that knowledge in his retail business.

Studio Herbage Florist looks forward to being extremely busy on Mother's Day. Dempsey said that national sources are projecting a 50 percent increase in business for florists on this holiday.

The Flower Barn & Gift Shop

Bob Peck has over 40 years of design experience, and he operates Northville's Flower Barn and Gift Shop with his wife, Sally. Since the pandemic began, the couple has seen people being more interested in their homes. "They are spending more time than normal in their homes, whether it be their main home or a vacation home—their homes have become their

sanctuary – like a staycation," she said.

The business offers a wide variety of hanging baskets and potted plants from a local grower as well as special planters for gravesites that can be delivered. The Flower Barn does location work on cemetery plots as well.

The Flower Barn has fresh cut flowers available for purchase singly or in arrangements to suit. For those looking to add an artistic flair to their gardens, there are yard and garden accessories and accents including large spinners, carvings, wind chimes, and garden picks, among other items. Customers can shop for unique nature-themed gifts crafted by local, national, and international artisans. The business also hopes to raise butterflies again this year. "After all, they are like flowers with wings," Sally said.

Patti's Greenhouses

This grower, located about a half mile south of the roundabout in Mayfield, has been in business for 40 years. The business is operated by owner Paul Adamkoski and grower Patti May. Adamkoski built the greenhouses himself.

Last year was a fantastic year for the business, Adamkoski said, and he expects the same for the 2021 season. In fact, for the last four years, the greenhouse has had no plants left over at the end of the season. Even prior to his May 1 opening, he had people stopping by wanting to purchase their vegetable plants before they sold out.

May and Adamkoski tend to the tiny seedlings that will eventually grow into mature squashes, pumpkins, and other vegetables that they will then transplant into pots for sale. Adamkoski said it takes about four hours a day to keep up with the watering.

In addition to vegetable plants, Patti's Greenhouses will have over



Paul Adamkoski and Patti May of Patti's Greenhouses in Mayfield.

1,000 hanging baskets in three sizes for customers as well as annual flowers.

Adamkoski emphasizes that May is the lead grower. "She really knows her stuff," he said. He just does what he's told, he added lightheartedly.

Peck's Flowers

James and Marissa Stevens pur-

chased Peck's Flowers in Gloversville two years ago. The florist, though, has been a mainstay of the city for 108 years.

When COVID-19 hit last year, Marissa Stevens saw a huge spike in

See Flowers, on page 6



Marissa Stevens of Peck's Flowers in Gloversville.



The Flower Barn and Gift Shop in Northville.

Get Your Bloom On Here:

The Flower Barn and Gifts, 132 Division St., Northville, 518-863-4374,
www.flowerbarnandgifts.com.

Lohse Florist, 93 E. State St., Gloversville, 518-725-2623,
www.lohseflorist.com.

Patti's Greenhouses, 3844 State Hwy 30, Amsterdam, 518-883-5311.

Peck's Flowers, 105 N. Main St., Gloversville, 518-725-7173,
www.pecksflowersny.com

Studio Herbage Florist, 16 N. Perry St., Johnstown, 518-762-7755,
www.studioherbageflorist.com

Sunshine Gardens, 980 State Hwy 67, Amsterdam, 518-843-3434,
on Facebook @SunshineGardensAmsterdamNY

White Cottage Gardens, 194 Guy Park Ave., Amsterdam, 518-843-1060,
www.whitecottagegardens.net

Chamber announces new gallery exhibit featuring Greg Hitchcock

The Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce, located at 2 North Main Street, Gloversville, is hosting an art exhibit in the gallery for Greg Hitchcock entitled Illustrations by Greg. The Exhibit will be displayed in the Chamber gallery from May to June and is open for viewing Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. The public is invited to the meet the artist reception, to be held on May 5, 2021 from 5:00 PM until 7:00 PM.

Greg Hitchcock is a self-described storyteller. For the past 20 years, he has focused on a writing and filmmaking career. But he said he always was inspired to draw.

"Many people are attracted to a skill at an early age," Hitchcock said. "For many children, drawing or using clay, working with finger paint or papier-mâché, is a fundamental part of expressing themselves. Some fall into other things later in life, but for me drawing has always been a part of me."

From drawing ants in space to creating alien worlds, Hitchcock said his art helps channel his creativity in positive directions helping him to make sense out of the world he lives in.

Hitchcock is an Army veteran who came down with schizophrenia while serving in the U.S. military in Washington, D.C. in the mid-1980s. He said this early episode left him marked but was also an avenue to become a stronger storyteller.

"Left alone with my voices, I found writing and drawing liberating and was an avenue to recovery," he said.

"I believe artists and other creative types typically feel alone more often than others with their thoughts – for me, voices. They use their creativity to form relationships with their world and with others," Hitchcock said.

Hitchcock said people should never give up on their hopes, whether it is to be the first woman astronaut to walk the moon, the first one to dis-

cover new medicines, or the first to compose a new masterpiece.

"When I was a child, my grandfather told my mother to not encourage me to draw because it would not lead into a career, but thankfully she disregarded his advice. As a craftsperson herself working with ceramics, she knew instinctively the value of art and how it shapes a person's life," Hitchcock said.

Hitchcock said he hopes the public finds something useful in his artwork and that it might inspire others to follow their dreams.

For more information call the Chamber at (518) 725-0641 or email info@fulton-montgomeryny.org.

Illustrator Greg Hitchcock at work.



Sacandaga Valley Art Network announces call-to-art for "Upstate Waters" exhibition

The Sacandaga Valley Art Network announces its latest Call-to-Art. From June 21st - September 10th, SVAN will be presenting a juried art exhibition, UPSTATE WATERS, at the Northville Public Library Gallery.

This show is open to all artists; SVAN invites all submissions of 2D work that represent our greatest natural resource, our water, in any of its iterations. SVAN will be presenting the Best-In-Show award and two honorable mention awards to the works selected by our jurors, in addition to a People's Choice award. The artist winning the Best-In-Show award will also receive a solo exhibit in the SVAN gallery. Entries and a full prospectus are available through the show's online portal at onlinejuriedshows.com. The call to art ends May 11, 2021, by 7:59 PM EST, with notifications emailed to selected artists by June 1. SVAN members will receive a dis-

counted entry fee.

In keeping with its mission, to promote the Arts throughout the Sacandaga Region, SVAN believes this mission will:

- Improve the quantity, quality, and diversity of cultural programming throughout the Sacandaga region.
- Assist local artists working in any medium and any skill level to improve their social, artistic, and economic opportunities.
- Support and encourage artists of any age or development.
- Act as a regional economic catalyst.
- Preserve our basic character as rural Adirondack communities.
- Improve the quality of life in our communities.

SVAN also welcomes the community to become a member or donate to its cause by visiting www.svanarts.org.

UPSTATE WATERS

A JURIED ART EXHIBITION, PRESENTED AT THE NORTHVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY GALLERY BY THE

Sacandaga Valley Arts Network

Open to all artists, SVAN invites submissions of 2D work that represent our greatest natural resource, our water, in any of its iterations.

Entries due May 11, 2021.
Notification of selection June 1.
Art Drop off June 8-12.
On view June 21 - Sept 10.

Full prospectus and Submissions at OnlineJuriedShows.com.

PINEVIEW COMMONS, LLC
An Assisted Living Facility

It's nice to know you have friends just around the corner.

Call us for a tour Today!

PINEVIEW COMMONS, LLC
AN ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY

Kara Vollmer, RN, Operator / Administrator
201 South Melcher St., Johnstown, NY 12095
518-762-5488 x 101 • Fax 518-762-5583
pineviewcommons.org

Philip Beckett CPA, P.C. has successful review by peers

Gloversville, New York February 5, 2021, Philip Beckett CPA, P.C. announced today that it has successfully completed a rigorous peer review of its accounting and auditing practice. The reviewers concluded that the firm's system of quality control for the accounting and auditing practice in effect for the year ended June 30, 2020, has been suitably designed and complied with to provide reasonable assurance of performing and reporting in conformity with applicable professional standards in all material respects.

Philip Beckett CPA, P.C. participates in the Peer Review Program, a practice monitoring program approved by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), the national professional organization of CPAs. A firm participating in the Peer Review Program must have an independent review of its accounting and auditing practice every three years. The review was conducted under the auspices of the Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants following standards issued by the AICPA.

The peer review of Philip Beckett CPA, P.C. was performed by Davidson Fox CPA's, an independent CPA firm from Binghamton, New York who qualified under the program's requirements for service as a reviewer.

Its peer review rating of pass indicates

Philip Beckett CPA, P.C. meets the accounting profession's high standards of quality and professionalism. If requested, the firm will provide a copy of the report on the results of the review to all interested parties although not required to do so.

Philip Beckett CPA, P.C. serves closely held businesses, nonprofit organizations, individuals, estates and trust throughout the upstate New York area. The firm provides a full range of audit, accounting, tax, consulting services and specializes in customized, cost effective services.

The American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, founded in 1887, is the world's largest association representing the accounting profession, with nearly 377,000 members in 128 countries. AICPA members represent many areas of practice, including business and industry, public practice, government, education and consulting; membership is also available to accounting students and CPA candidates. The AICPA sets ethical standards for the profession and U.S. auditing standards for audits of private companies, non-profit organizations and federal, state and local governments. It develops and grades the Uniform CPA Examination.

The AICPA maintains offices in New York, Washington, D.C., Durham, N.C., and Ewing, N.J.

Want to reach almost
**3,000 BUSINESSES/
BUSINESS OWNERS**
every month?

To advertise in
Newsline

contact:

Mary Anne Semkiw – **(518)
627-9042**

**msemkiw@recordernews.
com**

Doug Hill – **518-649-
2353 (cell)**

dhill@dailygazette.net

Surgeons with heart.



Osama
Essa, MD



Nicholas
Filippone, MD



Robert
Wasiczko, MD

Call **(518) 773.5687**

99 East State Street • Gloversville, NY 12078 • nlh.org



**NATHAN
LITTAUER**

Hospital & Nursing Home

Flowers, continued from page 3

demand for flowers, as people had to stay home. "It's kind of mellowed out a little bit, but there is still a pretty high demand," she said.

The florist has a huge client base, including many customers who have moved away from the area but still send flowers to family here. "Peck's has been here so long—we take care of their loved ones still in the area," Stevens said.

On the horizon for the business is a flower of the month or flower of the season club. Customers will be able to pick their price range and have fresh arrangements de-

livered monthly or seasonally.

When the pandemic subsides, she looks forward to bringing back her DIY workshops that were very popular pre-COVID.

May is a big month for Peck's because of Mother's Day. "It's nice to be busy and have people in and out," Stevens said. "We always look forward to Mother's Day."

Lohse Florist

In 1982, Patricia Payne began working at Lohse Florist, which had been in business since 1934. Eight months later, the owner asked the then 20-year-old if she



Lohse Florist in Gloversville.

wanted to purchase the business, and she took them up on the offer. Today, she still feels the excitement that she felt the first day she ever walked into the store to work. "I like to be creative," she said.

One of Lohse's most popular items is its dish gardens, which come with a blooming plant housed in a wicker

basket or ceramic container. She replenishes her stock every other week because sales are so high. Payne also prides herself on creating custom arrangements based on her clients' descriptions of what they want. "If they can dream it up, I can pretty much make it," Lohse said.

Appointments are not re-

quired, but Payne does require customers to wear masks in the store.

White Cottage Gardens

White Cottage Gardens has been part of the Amsterdam community for 15 years, building a clientele that likes owner Robert Dulysz's design style. "People like the style that we do and the particular flowers that we use," he said, noting that the florist uses many hydrangeas. Often, customers request that hydrangeas be included in their arrangements.

This year, Dulysz made sure to order plenty of hanging baskets which he was not able to get last year because of interruptions to the floral supply chain due to the pandemic. This year, he will have hanging baskets with Boston ferns, geraniums, petunias, and other plants.

Since the pandemic hit, Dulysz has seen an increase in customers' request for unusual, unique, and different style arrangements. He thinks that because people are in their homes more because of COVID, they are finding ideas online.

White Cottage Gardens has been very busy since Easter, and Dulysz expects that to continue in May with Mother's Day and Memorial Day orders.

Want to reach almost **3,000 BUSINESSES/**
BUSINESS OWNERS every month?

To advertise in
Newsline

contact:

Mary Anne Semkiw – **(518) 627-9042**

msemkiw@recordernews.com

Doug Hill – **518-649-2353 (cell)**

dhill@dailygazette.net



First Choice Financial

Federal Credit Union

**Great Rates...
and Now 3 Great
Locations**

Main Office:

355 Hales Mills Rd., Gloversville

518-725-3191

Branch Office:

Inside Gloversville WalMart Supercenter

518-725-4413

Branch Office:

3677 State Highway 30, Broadalbin

(Next to Subway)

518-883-7156



www.fcfinancialcu.org



Become a member today!

FMCC, continued from page 1

endeavor, as he had daily meetings with FMCC faculty and staff, as well as the State University of New York and local health officials.

Last fall, the college brought students back for lab and clinical instruction, keeping lecture classes online. Currently, Truckenmiller anticipates having students back on campus on a more normal schedule in the fall.

In the interim, he is focused on one of his most demanding responsibilities. "The most challenging part is trying to make sure we have the resources we need to stay focused on our mission, serving the community and our students and providing an entry point into higher education," Truckenmiller said. "We're actively engaged in fundraising, working with outside agencies to get grants to supplement what we get from state and local governments. It's fitting those pieces of the puzzle together so that we can make sure we have appropriate offerings for the students and are meeting the needs of the community."

The college's current strategic plan is ending this year, and Truckenmiller is involved in developing the new multi-year plan, expanding the hybrid learning options that were adopted during the pandemic and thus affording flexi-

bility to students in all stages of life. This focus is with the intention of attracting older students to the college and bolstering enrollment, which has declined by almost one-third over the past decade, a decrease which was exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Truckenmiller is most proud of some of the partnerships that he has helped to form during his career at the college, with high schools, BOCES, and other community colleges. Partnering with other colleges allows the institutions to share staff and services and provide a greater range of opportunities for students.

He continues to enjoy working at FMCC as president. "It's the people I work with, the students we serve, and the communities we live in," he said. "We have a great, dedicated, loyal group of staff here on campus, many of whom I've worked with over the past 20 years. I'm really committed to what we do at the institution and the impact that we have on the region." Truckenmiller emphasizes that the college is here to partner with and serve the community and encourages people to reach out to explore partnerships with the college.

Truckenmiller, who serves on the Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce Board, among other community organizations, resides in Johnstown with his wife and three sons.

Membership News



Janet Davis

Director of Membership
and Member Services

Membership@fultonmontgomeryny.org

Beneficial Advantages a Chamber Member

The Fulton Montgomery Chamber of Commerce offers over 600 members many important benefits to help their businesses to benefit the community, its residents and economic growth area.

When joining the Chamber has many advantages, some of the main benefits offered to our local businesses are advocacy, networking, promotion and marketing opportunities.

Advocacy – The Chamber will help be a unified voice for your businesses, whether it's local, state or federal issue. While businesses may not need an advocate on a daily basis, the Chamber is always here to fight for you when an issue

arises and lobby on your behalf

Promotion – Members can promote a new business, grand opening or remodeling with a ribbon cutting ceremony. The Chamber promotes its members and social media and through inquires at our local offices. Each member gets a detailed listing on our website that is searched thousands of times a month by people looking for goods and services in our region. We are always looking for ways to promote our members to local residents and tourists coming into the area.

Marketing Opportunities – Chamber members can raise awareness of their business and services through different

marketing opportunities. A big advantage members have is with marketing opportunities through the Chamber such as our newsline, Destination One program at our Vail Mills visitor center, and our website

Networking – Networking is one of the main reasons businesses join the Chamber. Members come from businesses of every size and occupational background, making the Chamber one of the best networks you'll ever have. Chamber members have an opportunity to serve on our committee like our Ambassador Committee.

To learn more please give me a call. Janet Davis Membership Director 518-725-0641

Chamber Member Anniversaries

The following businesses realize the value of their Chamber investment and have renewed their membership in the month of March 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

McFee Memorials2017
Fulton County Regional SPCA/
Regional Animal Shelter2017
Advanced Cleaning &
Restoration Services, LLC2017
Golden Sand Asian Spa.....2019
Southside Square: Dom Adi's Deli, Southside
Beverage, Bourbon Street Liquor & Wine,
Pleasant Cleaners2019
FirstLight.....2019
Salvation Army2019

5 to 9 Years

Bethany Schumann-McGhee,
Attorney at Law2012
Stephen Miller General Contractors, Inc.2012
USM Solutions.....2012
Flooring Authority, Inc.....2014
Outdoor Motor Sports & Trailer Sales.....2014
KCS Land Research2015
Benson's Pet Center2015
Centro Civico of Amsterdam2016

10 to 19 Years

Salvione Insurance Agency Inc.....2005
Hear For You2005
Saint John's Episcopal Church.....2005
Saint Johnsville Chamber of Commerce.....2005
Pavlus Orchards2006
Dunlap Chiropractic2006
Friends of Sanford Stud Farm.....2007

10 to 19 Years

Spinnaker Management & Realty Sales2007
River Ridge Living Center, L.L.C.2008
Elizabeth Cady Stanton
Hometown Association, Inc.2008
Elizabeth Cady Stanton
Women's Consortium2008
SW The Spa2010
Pickett Memorial Company2010
South Shore Marine2010
Sam's Seafood Steakhouse2010
Lamont Engineers2011
GIANT Solutions, L.L.C.2011
L & M TV & Appliances, L.L.C.....2011
Amsterdam Printing2011

20 to 29 Years

HW Custom Kitchens Inc.1991
Judith Ann Realty, Inc.....1995
D.W.L. Brand1996
Electro-Metrics1996
Lou's Electric of Amsterdam, Inc.1996
Amsterdam Overhead Door Company1998
Carpe Canem Inc.....2001

30 to 39 Years

Brilliant Design & Print1985
Jackson and Betz Funeral Home1991

40 to 49 Years

Walrath and Stewart Funeral Home1974
Fulton-Montgomery Community College1974
The Salmon Law Firm, PLLC1978
William Bresonis, D.D.S., P.C.1980

Welcome New Chamber Members!

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

Lisa Queeney
279 Proper
Gloversville, NY
12078

**NBT Bank -
Gloversville**
199 Second Ave
Gloversville, NY

Is your business properly protected?



INTEGRITY • VALUE • SERVICE

www.shultsagency.com

- **Tailored Coverage.** Our knowledgeable team is dedicated to caring for the unique needs of your industry.
- **Competitive Rates.** We're partnered with top commercial carriers, allowing us to offer you the best price available.

Contact us today to discuss insurance options for your business!

**3 Canal Street, Fort Plain, NY
86 Briggs Street, Johnstown, NY
800-836-2885**

Tourism News



Anne Boles
Director of
Tourism Development
tourism@fultonmontgomeryny.org

Take an afternoon to enjoy beautiful historical downtown Johnstown. Downtown Johnstown marks the birthplace of the Women's revolution and suffrage movement pioneer- Elizabeth Cady Stanton. It was a beautiful March Spring day, and in honor of Women's History Month, I thought it would be a great day to check out the cell phone tour. (www.ecstantonhometown.org/)

The tour is narrated by Coline Jenkins, who is the Great Great Granddaughter of Elizabeth Cady Stanton. She narrates the story with such dignity and grace, I would sometimes press a number twice, just so I could hear the story of that spot again.

The tour starts right on the corner of Market and Main Street in Johnstown, and takes you on a mile tour, allowing you to envision the time when she lived here, went to school here, and brought her ideas of Women's Equality to life. You call the number 518-406-7081, and from there you will take a journey and walk the footsteps of Elizabeth Cady Stanton.

*Roaming charges may apply, and even though this tour is free, your minutes will be used. You can call the number, listen to the history at the site, then hang up and call back for the next stop.

This map (below) is available at www.ecstantonhometown.org/cellphone-tour.html

The 10 stops give you plentiful and interesting information. The stops include: where she was born, her father's law office, her former school (The Johnstown Academy), the old jailhouse (The Tryon County Jailhouse/Fort Johnstown,



James Burk's Inn (meeting place of the Daughters of the American Revolution), Mrs. Henry's Boarding House (where Elizabeth and Susan B. Anthony both stayed to write volumes of historical literature for the Women's Suffrage Movement), The Tryon County/Fulton County Courthouse (stay tuned for details on belated 100th Women's Suffrage Movement Anniversary celebrations). The stops have nice signs and the tour is easy to navigate. My favorite fact was at Stop 7 at the Tryon County/Fulton County Courthouse. Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony held a rally right here in Johnstown to encourage women to vote for the local school board! Could you imagine, to be alive at this time – 2 pioneers encouraging women to vote!)



Look for these signs along the tour. First and Second stop at Elizabeth Cady Stanton's birthplace – now Berkshire bank, 51 West Main St.

Inside the bank is a beautiful tribute and artifacts from ECS, sponsored by the ESC Hometown Association.

Finishing out the tour, you will move on to the Colonial



Stop #4 - Tryon County Jail, Fort Johnstown



Stop #5 - James Burk Inn



Stop #6 - Mrs. Henry's Boarding House



Stop #7 - Tyron County/Fulton County Courthouse. Take some time to read the signs and enjoy sights from the oldest working courthouse in America!

See Tour, on
page 9

Downtown Johnstown Restaurants: please call for availability and reservations.

Union Hall Inn - 518-762-3210

www.facebook.com/Union-Hall-Inn-Restaurant

LaPalma Mexican Grill - 518-848-3172

www.facebook.com/La-Palma-Mexican-Grill

Vintage Café - 518-762-0030

www.facebook.com/Vintage-Cafe

Partners Pub - 518-762-2337

www.facebook.com/lanzispartnerspub

Pete's Snack Bar - 518-762-9074

Hot Dog Hut - 518-762-3678 • www.hotdoghutcafe.com/

Miss Johnstown Diner - 518-762-1994

www.facebook.com/Miss-johnstown-diner

Johnstown Peking In - 518-762-2828 • www.pekingcorp.com/

Second Wind Coffee - www.facebook.com/secondwindcoffee

Market Street Pizza - 518-762-8615

www.facebook.com/MarketStreetPizzaJohnstown

Vince's Pizza and Pasta - 518-736-2828

www.facebook.com/Vinces-Pizza-Pasta

Hometown Market - 518-848-3343

www.facebook.com/Hometown-Market

Plaid Giraffe - 518-762-1970

Stewart's Shops - gas and quick food/drinks

www.facebook.com/YourStewarts

Shopping: The Elizabeth Cady Stanton Association has a Women's consignment shop on Main Street, called the Sunflower Shoppe, located on 26 West Main Street. The goal of the shop is to help women and their career clothing needs. I have gotten beautiful name brand clothes and shoes. The most I have ever spent on a piece (some with tags still on them!) is \$5. Last time I went sweaters were \$1 and work tops were FIFTY CENTS. The lovely staff are always ready to help with what you need. Hours: Tuesday – Friday: 11:30am-4pm Saturday: 10am-1pm, www.facebook.com/ecssunflowershoppe/

Other stores include:

Mysteries on Main Street - 518-736-2665

www.facebook.com/MysteriesOnMainStreet

Something Special - 518-762-1268

www.facebook.com/Something-Special-Johnstown-NY

McLemon's Boutique - mclemonsboutique.square.site/

www.facebook.com/McLemonsboutique

Toying Around - 518-795-9410

www.facebook.com/ToyingAroundJohnstownNY

Studio Herbage Florist - 518-762-7755

www.facebook.com/studioherbage

Fisherman's Supply Christian Bookstore - 518-762-3548

www.facebook.com/FishermensSupplyChristianBookstore

Indoor Farmer's Marketplace (opening soon) -

518-902-1633 • www.facebook.com/indoormarketplace

Green Essentials Naturally - 518-239-2020

greenessentialsnaturally.com/

Main Motorcar Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep and Ram -

518-762-3183 • www.facebook.com/MainMotorcar

A&E Sportwear - 518-762-1852

La Villa Dogworks - 518-762-2275

www.facebook.com/LaVillaDogWorks

The Game Guys - 518-847-5949

www.facebook.com/gameguys1

Roth School of Art (call for classes) - 518-762-3130

www.facebook.com/Roth-School-of-Art

Please check out Downtown Business & Professional's Association Facebook page (@DJBPAssociation) for updates. There are many businesses and professionals ready to safely serve you in Johnstown, and all of Fulton County.

Tourism News

Tour, continued from page 8

Cemetery, (the grave site of Elizabeth's grandparents). The last stops are her former church where she was married (The Scotch Presbyterian Church) and the Elizabeth Cady Stanton marker. Make sure you cross the street into the park to see the plaque, and look up to see the beautiful stone work at St. John's Episcopal church.



Stop #8 – Gate to the Colonial Cemetery



Stop #10 – The Elizabeth Cady Stanton Marker

After the tour, it was a perfect time to get a beverage at Second Wind Coffee (FB and Instagram @secondwind-coffee) Shaun has tried many times to get me to try something new, but I can't stray from the medium latte with coconut milk. The lattes are perfection, and the coffee is great too. Second Wind also has baked goods and sandwiches. Other great meals are around this area as well. Lunch or Dinner, Downtown Johnstown has wonderful choices.

After your meal, check out the local shops. If you decide to have dinner and the stores are closed, please check them out online.

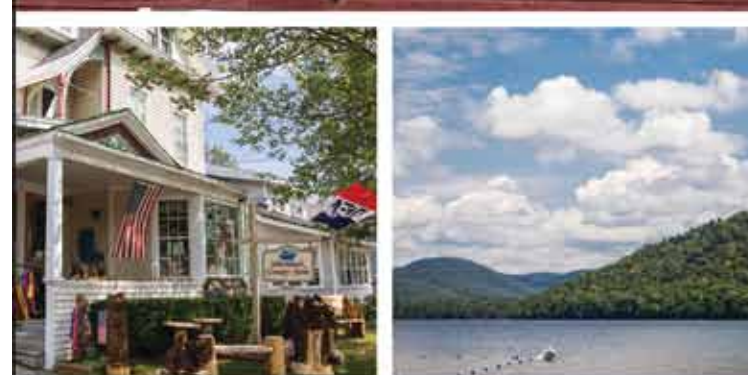
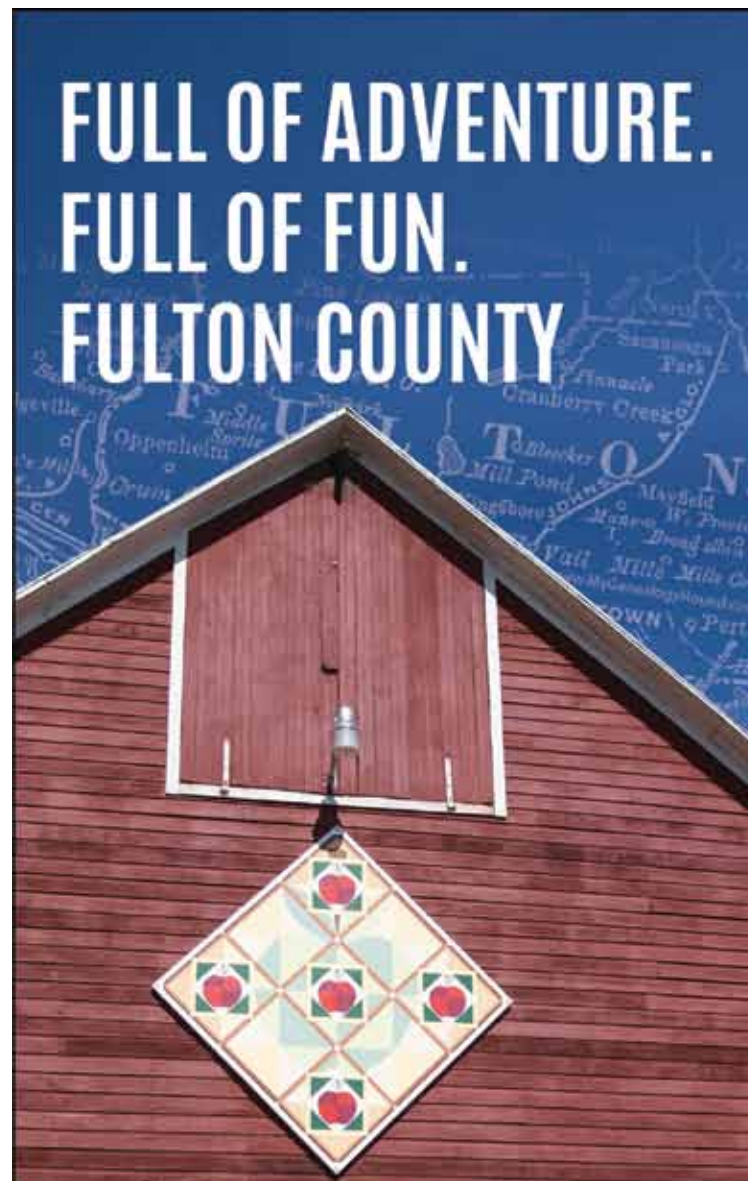
For more historical information: Johnstown Historical Society (cityofjohnstown.

ny.gov/our-history.html). Our Fulton County Historian, is Samantha Hall-Saladino (ful-toncountyhistoricalsociety.org/); Johnson Hall Historic Site (parks.ny.gov/historic-sites/johnsonhall/details.aspx);

Drumm House (www.mohawkvalleyhistory.com/destinations/listing/Drumm-House)

Please visit www.44lakes.com for all the dining and shopping options in Fulton County, or find us on Facebook on Visit Fulton County NY Facebook page.

Have fun in Fulton County!



Fill your itinerary with history, adventure, and natural beauty here in Fulton County!



800-676-3858

© NYSDOT

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.



Looking for the HIP NEW SPOT or JUST GOOD EATS...

Reserve your table today!

JUNE 5-11 2021

DINNER: 3 courses for \$25

LUNCH: 2 courses for \$15

44LAKES.COM or Facebook @Visit Fulton County NY

Sponsored By:



www.fultonmontgomeryny.org



RUBY&QUIRI

makes it Easier on your business needs, too

Great Selection of Commercial Flooring

Plus get Ruby Rewards to be used on your personal furniture purchases!

Free Floor Measurement • Free Needs Analysis
Locally Owned & Operated

Contact Amy Karas at 518-365-0525 or akaras@randq.com

RUBY&QUIRI

Everything's Just Easier at Ruby & Quiri

307 North Comrie Ave.,
Johnstown, NY 12095
762-RUBY • www.RandQ.com

FURNITURE | MATTRESSES | APPLIANCES | FLOORING | AREA RUGS | DESIGN STUDIO | PET'S ROUTINE

Business Education Partnership News

HFM Pathways in Technology Early College High School (HFM PTECH)



Nicole Walrath
Director of
Workforce Development
NicoleW@fultonmontgomeryny.org



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

HFM PTECH's high school, college graduation rates far surpass national averages

Ryan Kamanu of Amsterdam was among the first to earn his high school diploma and associate degree from the HFM Pathways in Technology Early College High School in 2018. Now as a healthcare sergeant in the Army serving in the Middle East, the 21-year-old often draws upon the experiences that brought him success in the PTECH program.

"PTECH taught me how to be creative, improvise and think outside the box in the face of failure and how to always chase the next best thing," he said. "Even if something seems unlikely, I always feel where there's a will, there's a way."

Dozens of students like Kamanu, from Amsterdam and other school districts across the Hamilton-Fulton-Montgomery region, have attended and completed the HFM PTECH program since it opened in 2014. Data from the first two classes of enrolled students show high school and college graduation rates significantly higher than national averages.

"The HFM PTECH program focuses on supporting students on their path to high school graduation and earning an associate degree," Principal Matt Davis said. "The high graduation rates from our program are a testament to the hard work of our students and to the dedication of our staff in supporting them."

The high school graduation rate for the first class to

enroll in HFM PTECH in the 2014-15 school year was 98%, and it was 100% for the second class that entered in the 2015-16 school year. The program, which is partially funded by state grants, is now in its seventh year of operation. So far, 72 students have earned their associate degrees at no cost to their families, and about 40 more are expected to complete their degrees this spring.

The percentage of HFM PTECH students who complete their associate degrees also surpasses the national average. Data from the National Center for Education Statistics shows that nationally only 13% of community college students graduate in two years. Within three years, approximately 22% of students graduate.

However, in the inaugural class of HFM PTECH students, 52% earned both their high school diploma and associate degree from Fulton Montgomery Community College within five years, and 58% earned both within 6 years. In the second HFM PTECH class, 48% of students earned their high school diploma and associate degree in five years or fewer.

Students commit to the program as eighth-graders and begin taking college courses from their freshman year. "We offer students the opportunity and resources to earn a college degree at no cost to their families," HFM BOCES Assistant Superintendent for Student

Programs Jay A. DeTraglia said. "The pace is fast and the workload demanding, but we can see by our graduation rates that the supportive PTECH environment carries many advantages for our students who are committed to the challenge."

Kamanu, who has been deployed about 9 months and still manages his business as an online personal trainer, plans to return to college in the fall to pursue his bachelor's degree in biochemistry and then apply to physician's assistant school.

Though some like Kamanu pursue other opportunities before continuing their education, many choose to return to school right away. In the first class of students, 67% went on to pursue their 4-year degrees. In the second group, 52% continued on to work on their bachelor's degrees.

Julia Preston of Johnstown was a member of the second class that entered HFM PTECH. After earning her associate degree in Business Administration from FMCC, she enrolled at SUNY Geneseo, where she is pursuing her bachelor's degree with an eye toward continuing on to law school. "For the past few years and even at PTECH, I had my heart pretty set on some sort of law profession, and that thought has developed into the possibility of working for the FBI in the future," she said.

Preston said entering SUNY Geneseo with her asso-

ciate degree from FMCC has given her not only financial relief, but also credit relief. "I'm leaps and bounds ahead of many of my peers at Geneseo in terms of credit fulfillment, and not having that stress of piling on business and English classes is a really huge help for me right now as I apply to internships and start to study for the LSAT," she said.

Many of the students who chose to leave PTECH before earning their associate degree have gone on to pursue their degrees at four-year colleges. In the first class, 32% of those students remained enrolled in college after leaving PTECH. In the second group, 12% continued their education.

A student in the first HFM PTECH cohort, John Pomeroy of Gloversville was a few credits shy of completing his associate degree at FMCC but decided to take the many credits he had earned and transfer to Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Conn. In two years, he earned his bachelor's degree in marketing.

"PTECH set me up for success to finish my degree early and gave me the opportunity to start my career sooner," he said.

Financially attending PTECH was a good decision, he said, but the project based learning gave him skills he is finding helpful in the corporate world. Pomeroy now works locally as a real estate agent, but plans to begin working toward his master's degree

in business administration in the near future. He hopes to eventually land at a marketing or advertising agency.

About 30% of those who complete the program go directly into the workforce after graduation, with about half of those working in a field that relates to their degree. PTECH's partnership with the Fulton Montgomery Chamber of Commerce provides students with professional skills development and workplace experiences, as well as support after graduation. "Whether they utilize the connections they established with our local business partners once they have their associate degree or once they've earned their bachelor's degree, the PTECH network is available to them," Workforce Development Director Nicole Walrath said.

Application review for the next class of PTECH freshmen is underway, and HFM BOCES remains committed to admitting students in the region for whom the program is a good fit.

"Early college programs such as PTECH are transformational opportunities for young people who may not have recognized that college may be a path for them," HFM BOCES District Superintendent Dr. David Ziskin said. "I'm proud of our successful support of students who may have faced challenges and barriers to school success but are now achieving at high levels."



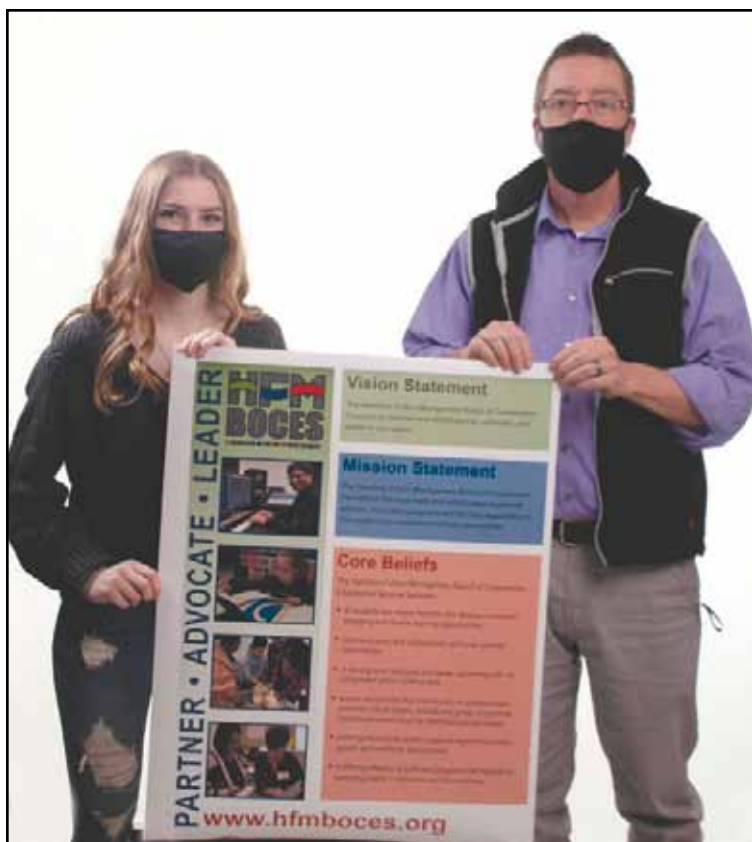
Sgt. Ryan Kamanu administers a COVID-19 vaccine to the senior-most enlisted soldier at Al Asad Air Base, Iraq. Kamanu was one of the first to complete the HFM PTECH program, graduating in 2018.*

*Photo courtesy of the U.S. Army

Business Education Partnership News

HFM Career & Technical Education (CTE)

CTC students gain experience working with local employers



Even before they graduate high school, students at the HFM Career and Technical Center are building their resumes by gaining hands-on experience working directly with local businesses and other employers.

Take Mayfield senior Camie Hart. By the time she graduates high school and completes the HFM Digital Multimedia and Communications program she'll already have developed an impressive list of professional experiences.

When HFM BOCES adopted new vision, mission and core belief statements, administrators turned to the Digital Multimedia program and Hart for help designing a poster to showcase them. The finished poster for BOCES is just one of the professional pieces Hart can include in her portfolio. Even before she started the HFM program, Hart had gained several years of experience working with the Ricmar Design and Print Shop in Amsterdam, where she designed menus and other products for local businesses.

Throughout the year, Digital Multimedia students routinely work with businesses and organizations in the local community. For instance, students recently did some graphic design work for Adrienne Pieluzczak, of Howard Hannah Realty in East Greenbush.

Regardless of the program, all Career and Tech students have the opportunity to gain workplace experience in their chosen field. Every spring, CTC seniors spend two weeks completing internships with local employers. Digital Multimedia students spend that time working for local photographers, graphic design and advertising firms, videographers and in marketing departments of organizations such as the local hospitals and the Chamber of Commerce. Students in other programs routinely work with local building contractors, police departments, hair stylists, mechanics, schools, medical offices and more.

The Digital Multimedia instructors, Andy Huth and Phil Schuyler, are always considering new experiences for their students. If you would like to help students gain real world experiences, please contact the instructors to discuss potential opportunities.

The two-year HFM Digital Multimedia and Communications program provides students with skills and professional experience in the areas design and layout, photography, video, sound recording and mixing and more. Possible career paths include photography, videography, graphic design, animation, website design, music production, video production, special effects and other fields.

To learn more about the program visit: www.hfmboces.org/digital-multimedia-communications

Hometown Hero Banner Program Officially Launches

Registration and Sponsorships Now Open!

In partnership with the Downtown Gloversville Development Specialist, the City of Gloversville, and the *Leader Herald*, Fulton County Center for Regional Growth is proud to officially announce the launch of the Gloversville Hometown Heroes Banner Program.

The program gives locals a chance to honor their loved service members while helping beautify Downtown Gloversville through purchasing commemorative banners. The banners will hang on city-owned lampposts throughout the downtown core and will feature the veteran's name, rank, years served, photo, and earned medals. The design of the banners is meant to honor combat veterans while seamlessly adding to the historic aesthetic of downtown's existing architecture.

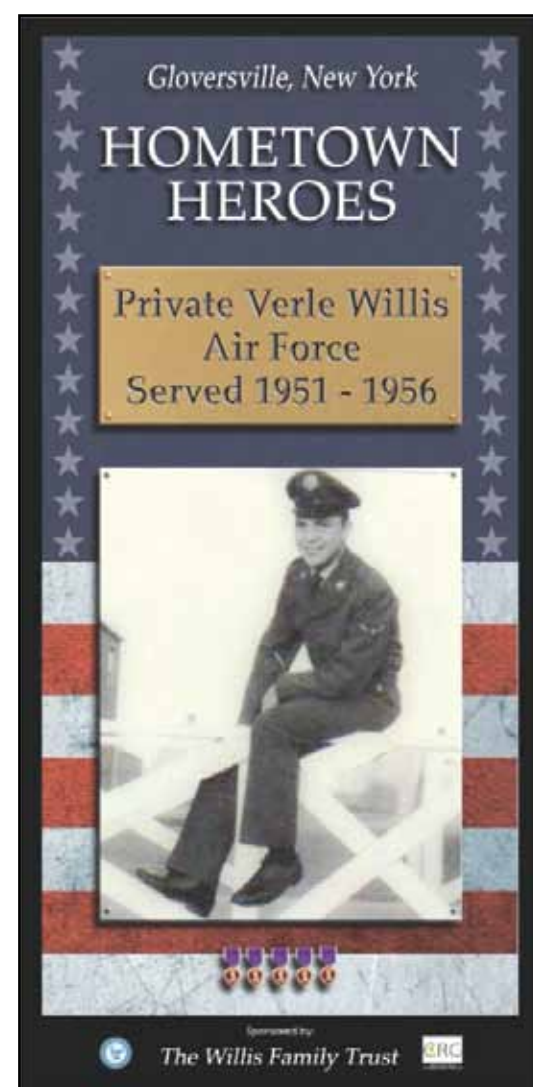
"The banner design is meant to honor the veterans in a way that respects the integrity of downtown as well," describes Downtown Development Specialist, James Hannahs. "I think this design achieves the respect we're looking for while balancing subtlety and functionality."

The program also presents opportunities for collaboration between individuals and businesses, who can show their support through sponsoring banners. Each banner costs \$250 in the first year to cover the costs associated with the production and installation process. From there, to maintain the banner's location on the lampposts, sponsors would continue payments of \$160 per year thereafter to cover monitoring, maintenance costs and reprinting if necessary. Portions from all proceeds will also be donated to the Veterans & Community Housing Coalition of New York.

Individuals and businesses are both highly encouraged to either purchase banners for their respective loved ones, or sponsor banners for prospective submissions. The registration forms, which can be found both online and in print, call for the hero's information, photo, and service confirmation records. Registrants will also have the opportunity to provide a testimony on behalf of the hero. In addition, digital versions of each banner will be available online and will be joined with the written testimonies and digital map of their respective locations.

The registration window will be open from March 1st until May 10th. Online forms can be found at www.downtowngloversville.org/hometownheroes along with PDF paper forms. Paper applications can also be found throughout various locations including Fulton County Center for Regional Growth headquarters (34 W Fulton St.), Gloversville City Hall (3 Frontage Rd.), and the *Leader Herald* (8 E Fulton St.).

At the conclusion of the registration process, banners will be hung following a



formal ribbon cutting ceremony slated over Memorial Day Weekend 2021.

"We believe the Hometown Heroes Program not only brings awareness and appreciation to our local combat veterans, but also catalyzes community reinvestment on many level," said Ron Peters, President and CEO of Fulton County Center for Regional Growth. "This program is an honest testament of our community's pride at work."

Registration links and other program resources for Hometown Heroes are available at www.downtowngloversville.org/hometownheroes.

About Fulton County Center for Regional Growth:

Fulton County Center for Regional Growth's (CRG) mission is to strengthen Fulton County's economic base, facilitate sustainable growth, enhance the competitive position of our region, its counties, towns and cities and facilitate investments that build capacity, create jobs, improve quality of life and increase the standard living for all of its residents.

CRG is a 501(c)(3) non-profit. To become a member, visit our website at www.fccrg.org/crg-membership. To stay in touch with CRG, follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/fccrg/ or on Instagram at [@downtowngloversville](https://www.instagram.com/downtowngloversville).

Expect The Best

When You're Expecting



The Birthing Center

The Birthing Center at St. Mary's Healthcare is the best place to start your new family. You will find a caring, highly skilled staff and a restful environment, in private rooms that are designed to look more like a home and less like a hospital. For your comfort we also offer provide Aromatherapy, Hydrotherapy and Individualized Care Planning. Our team is well versed in techniques to support normal birth, additionally we have a spa tub designed for laboring mothers.

You can feel safe knowing that our Midwives, Doctors, and Nurses all work together to collaborate with you and your birth plan in order to give you an enjoyable birth experience, as well as follow the most up-to-date and evidence-based research and recommendations.

For more information call (518) 841-7314. You can also take a virtual tour of the Birthing Center by visiting us online at www.smha.org. Just click the My Services tab, navigate to Womens Services, and click on Maternity.



St. Mary's
Healthcare
Amsterdam

Care You Can Trust