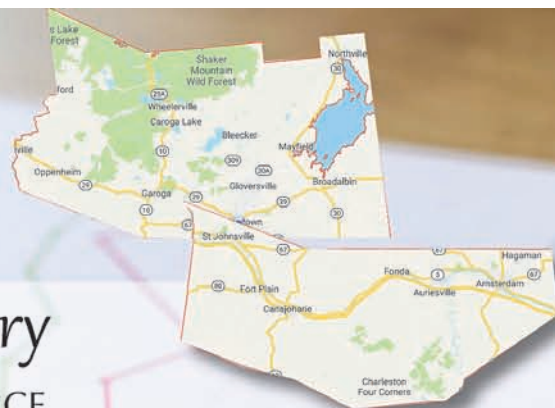


NEWSLINE

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



February 2020

Chamber 'Cheers to Business' Event A Celebration of Success and Community

By **Jessica Ford**
Newsline Editor

Despite the cold January night, there was much warmth and a feeling of community at the Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce annual event "Cheers to Business!" A Celebration of Business, Collaboration and Progress.

Along with the traditional awards ceremony and annual board meeting of the Chamber, there were many layers to the evening, set at the Paul Nigra Center for Creative Arts in Gloversville. Guests arriving were treated to delicious hors d'oeuvres by the evening's chefs Jim and Shelley Rose, and specialty drinks from local bartenders, while a fabulous array of classic rock and acoustic hits were offered by Gloversville duo Aaron Mittler and Elizabeth Emery.

More than 200 guests at the event, called "the region's pre-

mier celebration of business, collaboration and progress" by the Chamber, spent their time greeting each other with genuine respect and camaraderie, adding to the latest conversation about business, but also, "how are the kids, how was your summer, and what's new in your life?" Because we do business from a less metropolitan region, there are perks - people get to know each other, they work in tandem with their neighbors, frequent each other's businesses, and celebrate each other's successes.

Awardees were nominated by Chamber members, and chosen by committee. Some focus on the immediate community, and others are global powerhouses in their field, but all are important keys to the continued success of the Fulton Montgomery Counties region. They included the Small Business Award, given to Lana Ruggiero of Ruggiero Realty LLC of Gloversville; Centen-

nial Business Award given to Dick Smith of Century Linen of Gloversville/Johnstown; Barbara V. Spraker Tourism Partner Award, given to Crystal Grove Diamond Mine & Campground of St. Johnsville; Thomas B. Constantino Entrepreneurial Award given to Dr. Mark Will of Glove Cities Veterinary Hospital of Gloversville; Young Professional of the Year Award given to Kelly Montanye of Mayfield; Agricultural Business of the Year given to Creek's Edge Elk Farm & Crum Creek CSA of St. Johnsville; Edward L. Wilkinson Industry of the Year given to Townsend Leather of Johnstown; Chamber Family Award given to the Wade Family - Dominic & Adi Wade of DomAdi's Deli and other Southside Square businesses in Amsterdam.

Mark Kilmer, Chamber President, introduced the awards portion of the ceremony, by pointing out the story boards around the room highlighting the successes of each winner. He said, "I know that you will agree that each has a unique and interesting story, and is very deserving of their award."

Additional Awards were presented by the FMS Workforce Development Board, to their businesses of the year. The Montgomery County



FULTON MONTGOMERY REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
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award went to Dollar General Distribution Center; and their Fulton County award went to CG Roxane LLC.

Generous sponsors and donors were the backbone of the event. They included Presenting Sponsor Bouche & Clarke Benefits, Inc.; Silver Sponsor St. Mary's Healthcare; Dessert Sponsor Brown's Ford & Collision Center; Music Sponsors Betz, Rossi, Bellinger & Stewart Funeral Homes; Alpin Haus; Benjamin Moore; Nathan Littauer Hospital & Nursing Home; and National Grid. Decor Sponsor was Century Linen. Media Sponsors included The Lead-

er-Herald and The Recorder. Cuisine Sponsors were Janowski Insurance Agency, Inc. (2 Sponsorships); Steet Toyota of Johnstown; GPO Federal Credit Union and Townsend Leather. Supporting Sponsors included Pineview Commons Assisted Living Community; FMS Workforce Development Board, Inc.; Ruggiero Realty LLC; Amsterdam Rotary Club; Hill & Markes and the Greater Johnstown School District.

In addition, local companies and individuals offered

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We are the leading voice of business in the region providing advocacy, resources and solutions for our members.

Newsline is published by the Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce in partnership with *The Amsterdam Recorder*

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Letter from the President

On January 21st, Governor Andrew Cuomo released his proposed FTY 2021 Budget, and although there were not many surprises based on what he stated in his earlier "State of the State" message, there are concerns for businesses located in New York State.

Without getting into detail, I will list just a few that will be on the Chamber's radar:

- The Governor is proposing a mandated paid or unpaid requirement that all employers in the State provide certain levels of sick leave for their employees. Depending on the number of employees, this mandate will be paid or unpaid, but job protected.

- There is a provision to ban the sale and use of single-use polystyrene food packaging and other loose packing material, which could impose a hardship on both the restaurant industry as well as manufacturers and shippers situated in the state.

- A provision would ban or severely restrict the sale of most flavored tobacco and vaping products.

- A provision legalizes and authorizes the sale of adult use marijuana within New York.

- There is a proposed of \$3 billion "Restore Mother Nature" environmental bond act.

- A proposal would expand the prevailing wage requirement on public and private development projects within the state. Although this is less broad and onerous than last year's proposal, and does contain certain exemptions, there are still concerns for business.

Optimistically, despite a \$6+ billion deficit, the budget contains no new or increased revenue measures (tax proposals), in fact it proposes reductions in small business taxes for farmers and sole proprietors, and beneficial adjustments to the corporate franchise tax.

Also, there will be a "Medicaid Redesign Team" created to make recommendations to address Medicaid overspending, but as always, the devil will be in the details.

The Chamber will continue to monitor what happens in Albany throughout the legislative session, and the Chamber's Governmental Affairs Committee will keep our members informed, and be proactive in addressing the needs of the business community in the Fulton Montgomery Region, as well as throughout New York State.



Mark Kilmer
President/CEO



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products and services for a fun and exciting raffle. Donors included: AAA Northway; Adirondack Express Lube; Alpin Haus; Amsterdam Mohawks; Benson's Pet Center; DeMi's Wines & Liquors; Designs by Edgerson; Drgnfly Botanicals LLC; FMCC; Hales Mills Country Club; Holiday Inn Johnstown-Gloversville; LaVilla Dog Works, Jenny Rulison- Fisch, State Farm Insurance; Lapland Lake Nordic Vacation Center; Lillian Johnson, HTCP; Perfection Cleaning; Mohawk Harvest Cooperative Market; Mud Road Sugar House; Nicolino's Restaurant; Paul Nigra Center For Creative Arts; Peaceful Valley Maple Farms; Raindancer; Rogers' Cideryard; SWANY Gloves; HFM PTECH (Wendy Sacco); Ruby & Quiri; Runnings; Sam's Seafood Steakhouse / Romana's Italian Kitchen; Spirits of the Adirondacks; St. Mary's Healthcare Foundation; Stewart's Shops; Stump City Brewing; SW The Spa; Townsend Leather.

Proceeds from this annual event will support the Chamber's mission of improving the region's business climate, economy and quality of life.

Kilmer closed the ceremony by proposing a toast. He said, "I would like to thank each and every one of you for all of your wonderful work in making our community a growing, vibrant, and positive place to live and work. To all of you ... CHEERS!"

For more information about the Fulton Montgomery County Regional Chamber of Commerce, contact the Chamber by phone, (518) 725-0641; via email: info@fultonmontgomeryny.org; or visit www.fultonmontgomeryny.org.



New York State Assemblyman Robert Smullen greets the crowd at the "Cheers to Business! - A Celebration of Business, Collaboration and Progress," hosted by the Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce at the Paul Nigra Center for Creative Arts in Gloversville. Also shown, L-R, are Town of Johnstown Supervisor Jack Wilson, Congresswoman Elise Stefanik, and Chamber President Mark Kilmer.



Israel Handy, right from Creek's Edge Elk Farm & Crum Creek CSA of St. Johnsville, accepts the Agricultural Business of the Year Award from Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber President Mark Kilmer, center, and Chamber Business and Education Partnership Coordinator Jenna Patterson, left.



Dr. Mark Will, center, owner of Glove Cities Veterinary Hospital, accepts the Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber's Entrepreneur of the Year Award from President Mark Kilmer, right, and Immediate Past Chairman of the Chamber Board of Directors, Jim Landrio, left.



Century Linen & Uniform CEO Richard Smith, Center, stands with Gary Fuller, Century's Executive Vice President, right, as they accept their award from Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber President Mark Kilmer, left.



Representatives of DomAdi's Deli and associated businesses of the Wade family, accept the Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber Family Award on behalf of Dominic & Adi Wade of DomAdi's Deli and other Southside Square businesses in Amsterdam. Shown L-R are Martin Callahan, Chamber Board Member; Skyler and Kim Wade; and Chamber President Mark Kilmer.



Members of the Leadership Team at Townsend Leather accept the Chamber's Industry of the Year Award during the Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber's "Cheers to Business" event. Shown L-R: Congresswoman Elise Stefanik; Chamber Board Chairman Denis Wilson; Tim Beckett, Townsend's Senior Vice President; Chamber President Mark Kilmer; and Jeffery Martin, Townsend's Senior Vice President of Production.



Visit The Chamber online at:
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Lana Ruggiero of Ruggiero Realty LLC of Gloversville, center, accepts the Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber award for Small Business of the Year, from Chamber Board Member Rosalie Faber, left, and Chamber President Mark Kilmer.



Kelly Montanye of Mountain Valley Hospice, center, is awarded the Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber Young Professional of the Year Award, by Chamber Director of Workforce Development Nicole Walrath, left, and Chamber President Mark Kilmer.



Billie Jo Davis, onsite manager at Crystal Grove Diamond Mine and Campground in St. Johnsville, center, is honored with the Barbara V. Spraker Tourism Partner Award. Left is Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber Director of Tourism Development Anne Boles. Right is Chamber President Mark Kilmer.



A group of business friends and colleagues enjoy the Fulton Montgomery Chamber of Commerce "Cheers to Business" Annual Celebration. Front row, L-R are the Chamber's Anne Boles; and St. Mary's Healthcare's Brigitta Giulianelli. Back row, L-R: Betz, Rossi, Bellinger and Stewart Funeral Homes' Michael Lobb and Erin Salie; General Electric's Justin Boles; Jenny Rulison-Fisch of State Farm Insurance; and Peter Rose of Betz, Rossi, Bellinger & Stewart.



Guests enjoy networking, food and drinks at "Cheers to Business! - A Celebration of Business, Collaboration and Progress" hosted by the Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce at the Paul Nigra Center for Creative Arts in Gloversville.



Chamber Business and Education Partnership Coordinator Jenna Patterson, left, and Chamber Director of Workforce Development Nicole Walrath, right, manage the raffle event during the celebration.



Chamber Financial Administrator/Office Manager Becky Dutcher, left, and Chamber Executive Assistant Nicole Tennant, right, greet guests at the Annual Event.

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Littauer CEO Set to Retire in October

Nathan Littauer Hospital & Nursing Home President & CEO, Laurence E. Kelly, will retire effective October 2, after a successful administrative health care career spanning 41 years; 19 of them at the helm of the Gloversville-based hospital.

"It has been an absolute pleasure," Kelly says. "It has been the privilege of a lifetime to serve the Gloversville community and this region."

An announcement of his retirement said, "Kelly has led Littauer during a period of tremendous growth and financial stability. The hospital's total net assets increased nearly sevenfold from \$13.3 million in 2001; when Kelly began as CEO to \$90 million in 2019. This period was also marked by an increase in jobs. In 2001, the hospital had 656.5 full-time equivalents (FTEs). By 2019, that number had grown to 807.5. Littauer's footprint has expanded as well, adding eight primary care centers, spanning a total of 52 square miles within the region. Kelly explained, "I think we have achieved these milestones because of two factors: I work with a fearless, creative team. Because of the employees here, I enjoy coming to work each day. I really like my colleagues. That makes a huge difference. The second piece is that we have invested our positive operating margin back into our hospital. In essence, we

have paid ourselves first. I think it has worked. With a positive operating budget, we have saved for our future and simultaneously secured sophisticated technology and improved access to care."

"Larry has great insight and vision in the health care industry," said Gregory Truckenmiller, Ph.D., Chair of the Littauer Board of Directors. "He has been adaptable amidst constant change in the industry and had the courage to make decisions others had difficulty with. It is because he took those risks that Littauer has remained independent, committed to quality, and achieved 18 consecutive years operating in the black while many rural hospitals around the country are struggling or even closing."

"Medical staff who have worked at other hospitals often observe that the equipment we provide our surgeons and radiologists is much better than what they have used at other, often larger hospitals," said Frederick Goldberg, M.D., Littauer Vice President of Medical Affairs and Chief Medical Officer. "Under his guidance we have been able to offer minimally invasive spine surgery; advanced diagnostic imaging technologies; critical care telemedicine;



Laurence E. Kelly

state-of-the-art maternity facilities; and a dialysis center that is attached to the hospital and nursing home.

These medical and technological advancements mean better care for our patients," Dr. Goldberg adds. "It helps recruit talented physicians to the area. None of this would have been possible without the vision and leadership of Mr. Kelly."

"Influential leaders are a rare breed," said Stephanie Fishel, Littauer Chief Nursing Officer. "Larry Kelly is an influential leader. He mentors the strengths of his team members and sets us up to succeed. Under his leadership, our nursing care has evolved, strengthening our foundation in patient safety,

clinical skills, and more. Because of him, our patients experience state-of-the-art technology and expert care-givers right here in our rural community."

Kelly added, "My goal has always been to build an independent organization that can quickly respond to the unique needs of this community. We also needed to stand on solid footing. I wanted to build a hospital for this generation and the next."

The Littauer Board of Directors will begin work immediately to recruit Kelly's successor. Littauer staff, volunteers, and others will celebrate his contributions to the organization and community at an event in September. Details will be forthcoming.

A fund is being established at the Nathan Littauer Hospital Foundation to honor his years of service and leadership. More information on the details of that fund will be shared

as soon as possible.

Kelly noted, "I am grateful for the visionary leadership of Littauer board members past and present, the talented and dedicated team of professionals with whom I've had the pleasure of working with, the selfless donors and volunteers who support the hospital with such enthusiasm, and the people who consistently choose us for their health care. I will leave Littauer with a great sense of pride, knowing what we've accomplished together is meaningful and will matter to this community for generations to come."

"There never is a perfect time to leave," Kelly said. "But I wanted to go out on a high-note without worrying about our future. This feels like the right time." Truckenmiller agrees. "He will be missed, but he has positioned us perfectly for Littauer's next chapter. On behalf of a grateful board of directors, we are committed to making sure his legacy will continue."

Carondelet Community Grant Fund Applications Now Available

St. Mary's Healthcare, Amsterdam is accepting proposals for the Carondelet Community Grant Program. The grant was originally established in 1996 by St. Mary's to honor and continue the spirit of its historical founders, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet.

Grant funding aids non-profit, local programs and agencies which address a community need and pro-

vide special attention to the most poor and vulnerable.

Local agencies that have received grants through the St. Mary's Carondelet Community Fund Program in the past include Montgomery County Habitat for Humanity; St. John's Episcopal Church; The Comfort Zone; Catholic Charities of Fulton-Montgomery Counties; Montgomery County Office for Aging; Commu-

nity Youth Center, Canajoharie; Haven of Hope; Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless, Montgomery County; and New Dimensions.

If you are interested in applying for a grant, please contact Sonia Flores at (518) 841-7134 or sonia.flores@ascension.org for an application. The deadline for submissions is 4:30 p.m. on Friday, March 13, 2020.

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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 January/February 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

Community Loan Fund of the Capital Region..... 2019
Studio Herbage Florist 2016

5 to 9 Years

Post Mark Ship & Print, Inc..... 2015
Crum Creek CSA 2015
Johnstown Historical Society..... 2015
Mohawk Valley Economic Development District ... 2015
The M.A.N. Program 2014
H&L Insurance Agency, Inc..... 2014
Capstone Center for Rehabilitation and Nursing. 2013
K.C. Tag Co. Inc. 2012
Lamar Advertising 2011

10 to 19 Years

Repeat Business Systems, Inc..... 2010
Easterly Woodwork & Design 2010
Life Christian Center..... 2010
Miller Printing & Litho, Inc..... 2009
Gifford, Heidi A.; Law Offices of..... 2009
Fulton County Office for the Aging/Youth 2008
Arkell Museum at Canajoharie 2008
Saint Johnsville Chamber of Commerce..... 2008
Fort Plain Animal Hospital 2006

Stewart's Shops..... 2006
Orendaga on Northville Lake, L.L.C 2006
Thomas Persse Insurance Agency..... 2005
Bollock Aluminum..... 2003
Beckmann Converting, Inc 2003
Sacandaga Valley Arts Network..... 2003
Covenant Presbyterian Church 2003
Wells Nursing Home, Inc..... 2002
Cranberry Cove Marina, Inc 2001
Derby Office Equipment..... 2001
Wemple and Edick's..... 2001

20 to 29 Years

The Glove Theatre 2000
F-M-S Workforce Development Board, Inc..... 2000
Poulin, Michael J., Attorney at Law 1999
Amsterdam Free Library..... 1998
Amsterdam Overhead Door Company, Inc..... 1998
Spagnola & Spagnola, Accounting Firm LLC..... 1998
First Choice Financial Federal Credit Union..... 1998
Gloversville Johnstown Joint Wastewater Treatment Facility . 1998
Eccentric Club..... 1998
Amsterdam Auto Parts Inc., (CarQuest) 1998
Thomas' Hallmark..... 1998
Sport Island Pub 1997
Abdella Law Offices 1995
Colonial Overhead Doors 1995
United Way of Fulton County, Inc. 1994
Northville Public Library 1994
Peking In Johnstown Corp. 1994
Lanzi's on the Lake, Inc..... 1993

Pineview Commons L.L.C..... 1992
Adirondack Lakefront Retreat 1991
Broadalbin Manufacturing Corp. 1991
Town of Broadalbin 1991
HW Custom Kitchens Inc. 1991
Broadalbin-Perth Central School District..... 1991
MacKenzie and Tallent, Attorneys at Law..... 1991
Partner's Pub 1991

30 to 39 Years

Saltsman's Hotel 1990
Jones and Naudin Leather..... 1990
Fulton County Sheriff 1990
Gloversville Enlarged School District 1988
DiSanto-Rose, Gary, D.M.D. 1985
Beckett, Philip, C.P.A., P.C. 1984
Brown Coach 1983

40 to 49 Years

Romana's Pizzeria..... 1980
Apollo Northeast Sales and Service..... 1975
Kingsboro Lumber Co., Inc. 1974
Leader-Herald 1974
SWANY America Corp 1974

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HFM BOCES To Reconfigure PTECH Programs To Enhance Efficiencies

HFM BOCES will implement adjustments to its Pathways in Technology Early College High Schools (PTECHs) for the 2020-21 school year.

The changes, developed in collaboration with the superintendents of HFM BOCES component school districts, are designed to strengthen all of the programs and support every student's path to high school and college completion.

In order to leverage efficiencies and opportunities for cooperation among the schools, the three programs will be co-located by grade-level. This reconfiguration will enhance and increase opportunities for students and ensures that all of the degree pathways currently offered to students remain viable.

Presently there are three separate PTECH schools in the region. The HFM PTECH at Jansen Avenue and the Foothills PTECH at Johnstown High School are aligned with degrees offered by Ful-

ton-Montgomery Community College (FMCC). The Agriculture PTECH at D.H. Robbins School in St. Johnsville places students on a path toward degrees conferred by SUNY Cobleskill. The desired outcome for students in each program includes high school completion and the attainment of an associates' degree within six years of enrollment in ninth grade.

Starting in July 2020, the PTECHS of HFM BOCES will be organized into three "Pathway Clusters": Pathways in Business and Advanced Manufacturing; Pathways in Agriculture; and Pathways in Medical/Health Sciences and Computer Science.

Grades 9 and 10 for all three pathway clusters will be located at the Jansen Avenue School in Johnstown. Grade 11 students in each pathway cluster will transition to HFM BOCES' Main Campus and FMCC, which are directly connected.

Beginning in Grade 12, students enrolled in the Agriculture Pathways will attend SUNY Cobleskill and continue for two additional years or until they complete the requirements for an associate degree.

Similarly, Grade 12 students enrolled in the Business and Advanced Manufacturing Pathways and the Medical/Health Science and Computer Science Pathways will begin to attend FMCC and continue for two additional years or until they complete the requirements for an associate degree.

"The motivation for implementing this structure is simple: provide the strongest possible path to high school and college completion to our students," HFM BOCES District Superintendent David Ziskin said. "In addition to the benefits to students, streamlining our early college programs will allow us to operate more efficiently and helps ensure the long-term sustainability of the PTECH model in the HFM region."

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**2020 State of Fulton County Address
with Jon Stead**

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This is an address to our membership regarding Fulton County
He will present a look back at our county and a look forward to 2021
and beyond. This is a "don't miss" event for business owners,
employees, and residents of our communities.

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New York State Enacts Ban on Salary History Inquiries by Employers

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Effective January 6, 2020, New York State employers are prohibited from orally or in writing seek, request, or require wage or salary history from an applicant for employment, or a current employee, as a condition of being interviewed, or as a condition of continuing to be considered for an offer of employment or being promoted.

The new law does however, allow employers to ask about a candidates' salary history after making a Conditional Offer of Employment to a candidate. Further, the new law does not preclude an applicant for employment from voluntarily disclosing their salary history to a perspective employer.

Cadillac Tax and Other Key ACA Taxes Repealed

The federal spending bill signed into law at the end of 2019 repealed three taxes and fees under the Affordable Care Act (ACA):

- The Cadillac tax
- The medical devices excise tax
- The health insurance providers fee

The Cadillac Tax

The Cadillac tax is a 40% excise tax on high-cost group health coverage. Its effective date was previously delayed several times. This tax is now fully repealed, beginning with the 2020 tax year.

The Medical Devices Excise Tax

The medical devices tax is a 2.3% excise tax on the sales price of certain medical devices. This tax is fully repealed beginning in 2020.

Health Insurance Providers Fee

The health insurance providers fee is an annual fee imposed on the health insurance sector. This fee is repealed beginning with the 2021 calendar year. Employers should be aware of the evolving applicability of existing ACA taxes and fees so they know how the ACA affects their bottom lines.

PCORI Fees Extended for 10 Years

The same spending bill that repealed the Cadillac tax, the medical devices excise tax and the health insurance providers fee reinstated the annual Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) fees for the 2020- 2029 fiscal years. As a result, specified health insurance policies and applicable self-insured health plans must continue to pay these fees through 2029.

What Are the PCORI Fees?

The PCORI fees were created to help patients, clinicians, payers and the public make informed health decisions by advancing comparative effectiveness research. Fees paid by health insurance issuers and sponsors of self-insured health plans fund the institute's research, in part.

Who Must Pay the PCORI Fees?

The entity responsible for paying the PCORI fees depends on whether the plan is insured or self-insured.

- For insured health plans, the issuer of the health insurance policy is required to pay the fees.
- For self-insured health plans, the fees are to be paid by the plan sponsor.

What's Next?

PCORI fees are reported and paid annually using IRS Form 720 (Quarterly Federal Excise Tax Return). These fees are due by July 31 of the year following the last day of the plan year. This means that, for plan years ending in 2019, the PCORI fees are due by July 31, 2020.

Welcome New Members!

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Tourism News



Anne Boles
Director of
Tourism Development
tourism@fultonmontgomeryny.org

Happy New Year!

The support received during this transition has been incredible and very much appreciated. I enjoy our business after hours and Chamber events - a great way to network and meet our community partners. I continue to look forward to meeting key stakeholders to ensure contin-

ued success for tourism. I am grateful to be here and excited for a prosperous future.

This is an exciting time to be in tourism - it is a beautiful time of year in Fulton and Montgomery counties. There are many winter adventures right here in our area - ice fishing, downhill and cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and snowmobiling. Or you can take a ride to visit an array of shops, restaurants, museums, and art galleries.

Annual Adirondack Outdoorsman Show

Please read below about the 15th Annual Adirondack Outdoorsman Show, set to take place at the Johnstown Moose Club, 109 South Comrie Ave. / Rte 30A in Johnstown, on Saturday and Sunday February 8-9. It's always a great weekend for outdoor enthusiasts to share stories and find unique items for sale.

Broadalbin / Mohawk Valley Visitor Centers

Winter/tourism promotion continues at the Visitor's Center in Broadalbin, which is open on Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. during the winter months. The Mohawk Valley Welcome Center, located on the I-90 NYS Thruway (Westbound at Mohawk River Lock E13-Milepost 187 in Fultonville) is open daily from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

A Valentine's Day Alternative! The Walleye Awakening

Join the Fulton County Tourism Department of the Fulton Montgomery County Regional Chamber of Commerce at the "Walleye Awakening" event, to celebrate the eve of the 2020

the Walleye Awakening
A Fish-A-Palooza Party to Celebrate the 2020 Walleye Challenge!
BRING THE FAMILY!
Friday, Feb. 14, 2020
Lanzi's on the Lake Restaurant & Marina
1751 NY-30, Mayfield
5-9 p.m.
Fireworks by Santore at 7 p.m.
Bonfire
Music by 'Our Secret Love Society'
Food and Drink Specials
Sponsored By:
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Walleye Challenge on the Great Sacandaga Lake.

The event is set from

See Tourism, on page 13

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Tourism News

Tourism, continued from page 12

5-9 p.m. at Lanzi's on the Lake, 1751 NY Route 30 in Mayfield, NY. The public is welcome to attend this Fish-A-Palooza Party to celebrate the 2020 Walleye Challenge. Enjoy music by "Our Secret Love Society," and Fireworks by Santore at 7 p.m., along with a Beach Bonfire and Food and Drink Specials.

This event is FREE -all are welcome to enjoy a fun night out with your family!

2020 Fulton County Restaurant Week

Fulton County inaugural restaurant week will be held March 7-13, 2020. Local restaurants will participate and showcase their signature dishes to Fulton County diners and beyond!

During restaurant week, participants will run a special menu - 2 courses for \$10.10 for lunch, or 3 courses for \$20.20 for dinner.

To see the list of restaurants participating, please see Visit Fulton County NY Facebook page, and the Chamber's website. A final list will of participating restaurants will be published before the event.

Please call the tourism department at (518) 725-0641 for more details.



An illustration of the "Years of Hope, Years of Courage" float from the New Year's Day Rose Parade® in Pasadena, CA. Illustration by Pasadena Celebrates 2020.

19th Amendment 100th Anniversary

It's the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, which secured women's constitutional right to vote. Congratulations to Nancy Brown and Bonnie Valachovic, co-chairs of The Elizabeth Cady Stanton Hometown Association in Johnstown, who were out-walkers with The Pasadena Celebrates 2020 "Years of Hope, Years of Courage" float. The association has very exciting events coming up this year, include a bike ride starting in Johnstown, and finishing in Seneca Falls.

Watch the association's Facebook page for details.

And don't forget, the Elizabeth Cady Stanton Hometown Association has a unique tour of sites in

Johnstown important to the suffrage movement and the life of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, that is accessible any time for local residents and tourists. See the association's Facebook page and website for more details.

Outdoor-a-Palooza Fall 2020

Save the date!

Saturday, September 26, 2020 will mark the start of a new event in Fulton County to highlight many aspects of the outdoor opportunities for recreation in the county: Fishing, hunting, hiking and more. Stay tuned for more details.

Local Women Join California Rose Parade to Pay Tribute to Suffragists

Two local women were part of the historic moment that brought the suffrage story to the big stage at the New Year's Day Rose Parade® in Pasadena, CA, through a float designed to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, which secured women's constitutional right to vote.

Nancy Brown and Bonnie Valachovic, co-chairs of The Elizabeth Cady Stanton Hometown Association in Johnstown, were out-walkers with The Pasadena Celebrates 2020 "Years of Hope, Years of Courage" float. The massive float was followed by Brown

and Valachovic, along with 96 women and two men representing the thirty-six states that ratified the 19th Amendment. Participants were dressed in white and wearing purple and gold replica sashes, to pay tribute to suffragists and their fight for women's rights.

The float's inclusion in the parade marked the beginning of nationwide celebrations

to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment. The float's theme tied into the overarching theme of the annual Rose Parade®, "The Power of Hope," and won the award for Most Outstanding Presentation of the Rose Parade® Theme.

Those riding the float included Michelle Duster, great-granddaughter of Ida B. Wells; Coline Jenkins, great-great-granddaughter of Elizabeth Cady Stanton; Marci Magnatta, a 5th generation distant relative of Susan B. Anthony; Ernestine (Tina) Martin Wyatt, great-great-grandniece of Harriet Ross Tubman; and Kenneth B. Morris Jr., great-great-grandson of Frederick Douglass.

The celebration will continue through August 26, 2020, the date the amendment was signed, with activities planned across the country. Visit wom-

**See Tourism,
on page 14**



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Tourism News

Tourism, continued from page 13

ensvote100.org to learn more about the suffrage movement and upcoming Centennial events.

To learn more about The Elizabeth Cady Stanton Hometown Association, visit the group's page on FaceBook or at ecstantonhometown.org.

Adirondack Outdoorsman Show set for Johnstown

The 15th Annual Adirondack Outdoorsman Show will take place at the Johnstown Moose Club, at 109 South Comrie Ave. in Johnstown on Saturday February 8-9.

The show will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday. It is geared toward the tastes of Hunters, Fisherman and Outdoors Enthusiasts, with exhibits containing items for sale per-

taining to hunting & fishing gear/supplies, guns, archery, trapping, camping, hiking, snowshoeing, guides & charter services, taxidermy, collectable knives, and antique hunting & fishing gear.

Featured guests will include the New York State's "First Family of Deer Hunting - the Salerno Brothers," as well as book authors Dan Wos and Robert Elinskas.

Wos is a nationally-recognized Second Amendment advocate who is a contributing writer for many publications, and appears on national radio stations across the country. He is the author of the "Good Guy Bad Gun" book series and will be at the show unveiling his newest book titled "Exposing Anti-Gun Politics."

Elinskas, the author of nine books related to Adirondack Hunting, returns with his newest book titled "Adirondack Clubs and Camps." The book features a chapter on the "Ridge Runners Camp" that is located in Bleeker, NY.

The Salerno Brothers will



98 women and two men representing the thirty-six states that ratified the 19th Amendment, were dressed in white and wearing purple and gold replica sashes, to pay tribute to suffragists and their fight for women's rights. Nancy Brown and Bonnie Valachovic, co-chairs of The Elizabeth Cady Stanton Hometown Association in Johnstown, were among the walkers in the parade. Photo by Pasadena Celebrates 2020.

show off their unique display of the 200+ pound Adirondack Whitetails, shot in New York's north country.

All three featured guests will have copies of their books and hunting videos available for purchase. In addition, many other authors and industry experts are scheduled to be on hand throughout the weekend to discuss outdoor, and hunting/fishing

topics with attendees.

Attendees are also encouraged to bring in their old fishing lures and antique outdoor equipment for a free appraisal by representatives of Johnny Appleseed Antiques.

In conjunction with this year's show, the "Take Me Fishing & Hunting Raffle" will be held, with prizes including Guided Fishing & Hunting Trips with Professional Guides

throughout NYS. Door prizes of gear and equipment will be given away throughout the weekend.

Admission to the event is \$5 for adults and \$1 for Children under 16. For more information on the event & featured guests, go to www.adkshow.com or contact Mike Hauser at 518-725-5565; mhauser@frontier-net.net.

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For more information, contact the Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce, at (518) 725-0641.

Reflections of The Elizabeth Cady Stanton Hometown Association's Rose Parade Outwalkers

By Nancy Brown

Co-Chair of The Elizabeth Cady Stanton Hometown Association

Representing the suffragists of New York would be impossible for one person. There are simply too many luminaries, not to mention the throngs of unrecognized women who served in suffrage clubs in every county in the state.

Yet there I was in Pasadena, pinning on my banner to represent New York State, accompanied by Bonnie Valachovic, who was representing Montana, for the Pasadena Celebrates 2020 float in the Rose Parade on January first. Joining the other 99 outwalkers behind the 50-foot rose and iris covered float, complete with a eucalyptus leaf covered Statue of Liberty, we were humbled. We were looking forward to shining a light on the hard work of the women and men of previous generations who worked so

selflessly to pass the nineteenth amendment to the United States Constitution, which granted many women the right to vote. The Stealth Bomber flew over, Alicia Keys' "Girl on Fire" blasted from the speakers, and we headed out, left foot first.

But as we marched the five and one half miles of the parade route, something very unexpected happened. The crowd didn't seem to recognize us just as a symbol of history, they saw us as a symbol of hope. The middle-aged man who put his hand over his heart as we passed. The elderly woman nodding her head with tears in her eyes. The teenage boy with both fists pumping in the air. The young women standing and whooping. Our chants changed as we marched from, "Votes for Women!" to "Use your Vote!" and the crowd joined in. In honor of float rider civil rights icon, Do-

lores Huerta, we began, "Si se puede!" Spanish for "Yes we can!" Again the crowd roared back. The energy never stopped, we were waving furiously and high-five-ing hands even through the last block.

As the parade ended, we weren't the same people we were when it started. Those spectator faces - every age, color and gender - nearly one million by most accounts, had empowered us. The suffragists we were honoring were proof that grassroots organizers can make a change. We can't let it stop with them. Those cheers reminded us that there is still work to be done, not just for women, but for equal rights for all. Let this year's Pasadena Celebrates 2020 float kick off a new decade of activism, collaboration, and change, so we can genuinely earn the applause that we so generously received.

Mountain Valley Hospice Names Director of Clinical Services

Mountain Valley Hospice named Donna Roy-MacDonald, RN, BSN, MBA as the organization's Chief Clinical Officer.

Roy-MacDonald has over 15 years of proven, progressive leadership success in a variety of healthcare settings, from large medical centers to specialty outpatient clinics and dental practices. She will be responsible for the coordination of interdisciplinary care planning, as well as leading the Quality Assurance Performance Improvement (QAPI) program.

MVH CEO/President Kara Travis said, "Donna brings the level of professionalism and expertise we held out for, but most importantly she is a genuine, caring leader who approaches her team from a perspective of education and coaching. She embodies the MVH Values and concepts of 'Relationship-Based Care'

and 'Commitment to My Co-workers..'"

Roy-MacDonald most recently worked at St. Peter's Hospital in Albany, where she led teams in Patient Safety and Quality Improvement efforts since 2016. Her expertise with identifying opportunities for lean system and process changes will be valuable in keeping Mountain Valley Hospice's benchmark scores in the top percentile for Hospice and Homecare organizations.

She brings experience as a super-user with transitions to new Electronic Health Record programs from the initial planning stages to coaching and support during roll-out and ongoing training at several organizations, which will be helpful with Mountain Valley Hospice's goal to fully optimize the Suncoast program.

Roy-MacDonald's impressive nursing career also

includes experience with disability services, private practice, Veterans' Affairs, Home Health Education, Long-Term Care, Inpatient Orthopedics, Medical/Surgical and Intensive Care. She was the recipient of the Rhode Island Federal Administrative Employee of the Year by the Federal Executive Council, as well as the Excellence in Nursing Administration Award from the Massachusetts Nurses' Association. Roy-MacDonald earned her MBA from U. Mass. Boston and her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from University of Southern Maine in Portland.

Roy-MacDonald said, "Hospice care became near and dear to my heart through a recent experience with my mother. The support and responsiveness of the staff was emotionally fulfilling for my mother and family, as they provided comfort and reassurance that we were doing



all we could to make the end-of-life journey as peaceful as possible for my mother. I am grateful for this experience, and I'm excited about being a part of Mountain Valley Hospice's initiatives to bring this potential to others."

Mountain Valley Hospice supports patients and fami-

lies in the Fulton, Montgomery, Saratoga and Hamilton Counties of New York State. The Nancy Dowd Hospice Home is an elegantly rustic, 8-bed facility with 24/7 care for those seeking comfort. Anyone can make a referral or request a tour of the building. For details, visit mvh-cares.org.

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Chamber Member Events



**Friday,
Feb. 14, 2020**

Walleye Challenge

Join the Fulton County Tourism Department of the Fulton Montgomery County Regional Chamber of Commerce at the "Walleye Awakening" event, to celebrate the eve of the 2020 Walleye Challenge on the Great Sacandaga Lake.

The event is set from 5-9 p.m. at Lanzi's on the Lake, 1751 NY Route 30 in Mayfield, NY and admission is free. The public is welcome to attend this Fish-A-Palooza Party to celebrate the 2020

Walleye Challenge!

Bring the Family, and enjoy music by "Our Secret Love Society," and Fireworks by Santore at 7 p.m., along with a Beach Bonfire and Food and Drink Specials.

For more information, see the Walleye Awakening Facebook event page, or contact the Fulton County Tourism Department at the Chamber, (518) 725-0641.

**Thursday,
Feb. 20, 2020**

How Did They Play? The 1920s

What kinds of toys did kids have in the 1920s? What kinds of games did they play? Visit the Fulton County Historical Society for this drop-in event on Thursday, Feb. 20, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. to find out and try some of them yourself. The museum exhibits will also be open during this time. The

event is free (donations appreciated).

The Fulton County Historical Society is located at 237 Kingsboro Ave. in Gloversville.

**Friday,
Feb. 21, 2020**

Paint and Sip Fundraiser

Join Kristin Agerter of Bottles and Brushes will help you embrace your inner artist. Using slate from a 100 year old house in Johnstown as your canvas, Agerter will lead you in a step-by-step creation of a beautiful piece featuring our own museum elk. All art materials will be supplied. Program starts at 6 p.m.

Artists can bring their own refreshments to enjoy while they paint. Space is limited. All proceeds will benefit the Fulton County Historical Society's programs and preservation efforts. Cost is \$35 for FCHS Members, \$40 non-members. Pre-registration is required. Tickets are available at the museum's website, or by mailing a check to the FCHS at P.O. Box 711, Gloversville, NY 12078.

**Friday,
Feb. 28, 2020**

2020 State of the County Address - Fulton County

Fulton County Administrative Officer Jon Stead will present a look back at our county,

and a look forward toward 2021, during the 2020 State of Fulton County Address, set for the 8-10 a.m. at the Holiday Inn Johnstown-Gloversville, 308 North Comrie Avenue, Johnstown.

This breakfast buffet and presentation is a "don't miss" event for business owners, employees, and residents of our communities.

Admission is \$25 per person to attend.

To RSVP, contact Nicole Tennant at the Chamber, (518) 725-0641 or via email: info@fultonmontgomeryny.org.

**Saturday,
March 14, 2020**

15 Miles on the Sacandaga Canal? - The Canal Craze

The Fulton County Historical Society will host David Brooks, Education Director at Schoharie Crossing State Historic Site, at 2 p.m., as he presents "15 Miles on the Sacandaga Canal? - The Canal Craze."

Brooks will discuss the construction and success of the Erie Canal and the subsequent "canal craze" that sparked the idea of a Great Sacandaga Canal. Discover the area's efforts to expand their commercial reach as they sought to draw raw goods and resources from the Sacandaga Valley and throughout the Adirondack Mountains down to the Mohawk Valley. Cost is \$5 suggested donation, FCHS Members free.

**Saturday,
March 7, 2020**

Miniature Golf and Family Fun Day

The Mental Health Association in Fulton & Montgomery Counties will host its 22nd Annual Miniature Golf and Family Fun Day at the Amsterdam High School from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The event offers 18 holes of indoor miniature golf for all ages, along with crafts, face painting, carnival games and other unique activities for children and their families. Hot dogs, make your own sundaes, healthy snack options and other refreshments will be available. Master Balloon Artist Daryl Baldwin will dazzle with his fantastic balloon creations from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and face-painting artists promise to put a smile on the children's faces with their imaginative face painting from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. All proceeds will benefit the various programs and services the Association offers in our community. Tickets may be purchased at the door: \$5 for golfers and \$3 for children under 5, or non-golfers.

For additional information call the Mental Health Association at 518-762-5332 ext. 100 or visit us on Facebook or our website, www.mentalhealthassociation.org.



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on these and other events happening in Fulton County,**

www.44lakes.com/calendar

and Montgomery County,

www.visitmontgomerycountyny.com/events-calendar

Gloversville Seeks Volunteers To Help Plan '100in1 Day'

The Gloversville Downtown Development Specialist at The Fulton County Center for Regional Growth seeks volunteers, community groups, businesses and local residents to participate in and join a committee to plan 100in1 Day: Gloversville, set for Saturday, May 2.

100in1 Day is an international movement currently in 60 countries, and acts as a "civic incubator," where ideas and contributions are generated and validated by active and engaged citizens. According to Gloversville Downtown Development Specialist James Hannahs, "The event is meant to bring people together on one single day to perform 100 (or thereabouts) acts of positivity for their community with as much expression and openness as possible. More broadly, 100in1 Day is meant for every citizen to be unequivocally involved and fearlessly contribute."

Hannahs said that in 2019, Gloversville debuted as the first city in the United States to successfully launch a 100in1Day event. "It reached all corners of the city with vibrant activities and oceans of volunteers," he said.

Event organizers said they are now looking for help in the forms of input, time, and support. Volunteers can engage in activities of every size and scope, and virtually anyone can foster an idea that sprouts into an activity. Hannahs said the activities "can be as small as handing out promotional cards in walking 'hotspots,' or planting flowers around stop signs and lampposts, or working in conjunction with other volunteers to paint a downtown mural. The possibilities are certainly endless."

Activities hosted last year included community-wide spring cleanups, car washes, free fitness classes, craft workshops, food drives, free

community concerts, dance competitions, item giveaways, sporting events and tournaments, art shows, and more.

Hannahs said, "2020 marks a special year for our city's development, in both our individual communities and our surrounding regions. We are entering the fourth year of our city's new beginning, and it's because of your efforts in helping build a better future. We are continuing to show how an active community is the foundation of creating positive and lasting change that echoes for generations. Our children will learn about fostering and nursing community-sourced ideas and their impacts on a city's successful development ventures. Through your continued hard work, we can help them truly understand the importance of being an active and engaged citizen of the City of Gloversville."

The planning committee for the event is looking for ea-



ger, enthusiastic, and engaged community members to help plan and execute the day. Hannahs said committee members "can be a business owner, someone who works downtown or anyone in the community who is looking to help us make a positive, lasting impact on our city."

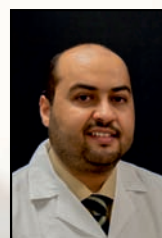
In-person meetings will be held once per month starting in February and will conclude in May. Some email communication may be necessary thereafter. Hannahs said the group may ask members to help contact possible community groups, musicians, etc. to help fill-in programming for the day and for ancillary logistics.

He said, "We don't expect participation to require more than two or three hours per month in total." Committee members do not have to work at the event but are welcome to. There will be a more general call for volunteers for the day as the event draws closer.

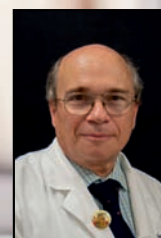
Please contact James Hannahs, Gloversville Downtown Development Specialist to help plan the event or to have an activity listed. Email: jamesh@fccrg.org or phone (518) 725.7700 ext. 1004.

Full details about 100in1 Day: Gloversville and other downtown events are available at www.downtowngloversville.org.

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Business Education Partnership News



Nicole Walrath
Director of
Workforce Development
NicoleW@fultonmontgomeryny.org



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

Career Day at Foothills PTECH

Foothills PTECH is will hold their second annual career day for freshmen and sophomores at Foothills PTECH (inside Johnstown High School) on Friday, Feb. 14 from 9-11 a.m.

Foothills PTECH would like businesses in the following career pathways (computer science, business and health studies) to participate in February's Career Day:

business administration, marketing, digital advertising/sales, information technology, computer support specialists, web developers, game designers/programmers, graphic designers, nurses, technicians, nursing home administrators, dietitians, doulas and any healthcare-related field. Businesses are asked to prepare an interactive and/or creative (PowerPoint, videos, games, portfolios, etc.)

presentation highlighting the company background, education/certification requirements, expectations, job duties, etc. Students will rotate by pathway and grade level every 15 minutes.

Set-up will begin at 8:30 a.m. in the media center/library. If you are interested in participating or need further information please contact Nicole Walrath at nicolew@fultonmontgomeryny.org.

HFM PTECH



Last month juniors at HFM PTECH went on workplace tours of businesses related to their career pathways. Students in the health studies pathway visited Nathan Littauer Hospital; advanced manufacturing students visited Global Foundries in Malta; business students toured Townsend Leather; and cybersecurity and information technology students visited the Federal Bureau of Investigation Field Office in Albany. While visiting these businesses, students learned about opportunities that are available to them such as internships and future careers.





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Agriculture PTECH

AT RIGHT: In January, Ag PTECH sophomores presented their research and visuals for the Feed the World project, that tasked them with comparing agricultural practices of the past and present in different countries, with those of the United States. A special thank you to our guests, Brooks Brown of the New York Farm Bureau and John VanDerwerken of Montgomery County Soil and Water Conservation for listening to presentations and helping to evaluate the projects.



Amsterdam High School College and Career Pathways



AT LEFT: Freshmen in the College and Career Pathways program at Amsterdam High School held a Shakespeare Film Festival and Expo last month. The event started with the students showing five scenes from the play Hamlet, that they directed and acted in, with tips being given by Aaron Flynn, an HFM BOCES employee and actor/director. Following the films, students held a newspaper expo where they presented newspapers they created dating back to the Renaissance era.



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Business Education Partnership News

Foothills PTECH Fair Trade Expo Set for Foothills PTECH in February



Sophomores invite business professionals to attend a Fair Trade Expo on Thursday, February 6 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Foothills PTECH (inside Johnstown High School). A

Sophomores have been serving as activists to inform the public about unfair labor practices, while also promoting awareness of products that are produced ethically and locally. The business community and members of the public are invited to circulate between ten booths to learn about human rights, child labor and ways to support fair-trade practices. The expo will take place in the school's media center/library. Please RSVP to Billie Hladik (Foothills PTECH secretary) at bhladik@hfmbooces.org by February 5.



Career & Technical Education

Junior Cosmetology student, Dainon of the Greater Amsterdam School District, had the opportunity to show off his skill-set while giving his principal, Mr. Tyrone O'Meally, a haircut last month at the Career and Technical Center.



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DATE:
THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2020

PLEASE RSVP TO
NICOLE TENNANT
AT
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OR
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