

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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**FULTON  
MONTGOMERY**  
Region, New York

Fulton  Montgomery  
REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**BUSINESS**

**HISTORY**

**RECREATION**

2023 Edition sponsored by The Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce

# table of contents

**3** Welcome

**4** CEOs on the Future of Healthcare in the Region



**6** Lanzi Family Restaurants

**10** Montgomery County:  
Heralding the Past



**12** Fulton County: History Lessons

**13** Disc Golf Haven



**18** Mohawk CoWorks

**22** HFM Business Education Partnership

**26** Mountain Bike Festival  
Boosts Tourism



**28** Longest Tenured Chamber Members

**30** CDBG Microenterprise Grant Program

**31** Fulton Montgomery Counties Region Profile

# Hello, and Welcome to the Fulton Montgomery Region!

My name is Anne Boles, and I am proud to introduce myself as the Executive Director of the Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce. I am honored to hold this position, with the goals of revitalizing the Chamber's mission and building upon the successes my many talented predecessors have achieved in our region for more than 100 years. For our members, I'd like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for YOUR membership in the Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce. Because of your commitment and dedication to your businesses and organizations, we have so much potential for ways to collaborate with you, celebrate your achievements and support the work you do each day. You are the driving force of the economy in our area, and we are here to assist in making that force strong and vibrant.

For future members of the Chamber, or for those who don't know about us, I would like to introduce you to what we do, through our newly updated Mission, Vision and Values statements. I think they say everything about who we are and what we do:

**Our Mission:** We support our members and our region as a partner for business, workforce, and tourism development.

*(An organizational mission, also known as a mission statement, is a brief, broad statement about an organization's goals and how it intends to meet those goals. It often addresses what the organization offers and how it hopes to serve its customers, community, employees, investors or other stakeholders.)*

**Vision:** To be the trusted resource in the region providing relationship building, advocacy, resources, and solutions.

*(An organization's vision describes what the organization hopes to become in the future. Visions high-*



**Anne Boles**  
*Executive Director*  
Fulton Montgomery  
Regional Chamber  
of Commerce

*light the values and aspirations that lay at the heart of the organization.)*

## **Our Core Values:**

*(Core Values are the central, guiding beliefs and principles that form the foundation of a company and for its employees. They also frame how the company deals with customers, partnerships, and stakeholders.)*

**TEAMWORK:** We depend upon each other as we drive towards common goals. We strive to be respectful and collaborate in planning and execution.

**DEPENDABILITY:** We build trust by holding ourselves and each other accountable to our commitments. We are reliable as individuals and as a team in all that we deliver to our region.

**INTEGRITY:** We strive to do the right thing. We are honest in our communication, compassionate, and committed to serve with empathy, respect, and dignity.

**SERVICE:** We are focused on the well-being of people in the region in which we live. We strive to build our knowledge as we continue to focus on the needs of all our constituencies.

**INNOVATION:** We strive to have the desire and willingness to challenge the status quo. We are creative in the way we face challenges, and committed to drive superior results to continue the reinvention of the Chamber.

**PASSION:** We strive for excellence, seek to drive continual improvement, and have a little fun while we do it. We are willing to help and are dedicated to our community.

Being a member of the Chamber includes myriad benefits, including • New Business Contacts, • New Business Contacts, • Networking, • Referrals, • Publicity, • Strong Voice in the Halls of Government, • Marketing and Advertising Opportunities, • Weekly

**Please see WELCOME, Page 9**

## **Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce**

[www.fultonmontgomeryny.org](http://www.fultonmontgomeryny.org)

2 N. Main Street, Gloversville, NY 12078

(518) 725-0641

# CEOs Positive about Present and Future of Healthcare in Our Region

2023 is a year of change in leadership at St. Mary's Healthcare in Amsterdam – a time of positive change for the healthcare system and conversely for our region as St. Mary's continues to take a lead in helping to keep healthy our residents as well as our businesses and its employees.

St. Mary's Healthcare is a full-service healthcare system that includes a hospital with emergency care, emergency psychiatric, inpatient psychiatric, inpatient substance detoxification, obstetrics and maternity, and surgical center; four urgent care centers; the Tesiero Cancer Center; Wilkinson Residential Health Care Facility; Rao Outpatient Pavilion where services include imaging, lab, pediatrics, primary care, specialty care and urgent care; and eight primary care centers located across Montgomery and Fulton Counties.

Jeffrey Methven, CEO of St. Mary's Healthcare Amsterdam, took over the helm of the healthcare system in January of 2023 and has made positive changes today and for the future of St. Mary's Healthcare. His journey to St. Mary's includes a background with extensive healthcare experience, and education, that makes him a great fit for the position. He received his undergraduate degree at LeMoyne College, and a master's degree from the Simon Business School at the University of Rochester. He grew up in Corning, NY and got his first job in healthcare in Corning in 1996. He then joined Strong Health in Highland, NY. He then became Vice President of Human Resources at Saratoga Hospital in 2006. He added Vice President of Ambulatory Care to his resume there and became Executive Vice President of Saratoga Hospital with a total of 17 years there. He was then tapped for the CEO position at St. Mary's and began his tenure in January of 2023. He and his wife, Amy – a teacher – have three children. He is thankful for the great people he has met along his journey in healthcare, many who mentored him and supported him along the way.

Methven has adopted a “servant” leadership style



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

at St. Mary's which aligns directly with the St. Mary's Healthcare mission and values. He also values empathy, transparency, and meeting both the associates at St. Mary's, as well as patients, “where they are.” For St. Mary's associates and providers, his goal is to make sure they have what they always need to provide excellent patient care.

Although Jeff Methven has been at St. Mary's for less than a year at the time of this publication, one of the things that he is most proud of is the culture at St. Mary's. “We have built a time-honored, positive culture here thanks to the upbeat, positive nature of our associates and providers,” said Methven. “This goes to the heart of what we do and who we are.”

He reports that the associates at St. Mary's have a tremendous loyalty to the organization's mission. There



**PHOTOS PROVIDED**

**A St. Mary's Healthcare group take part in Earth Day activities.**

is also a lot of longevity amongst the employees. They are proud of Amsterdam and the entire service area and are passionate about the organization and appreciate and value the rich history of St. Mary's Healthcare. He appreciates that passion and allegiance to the organization. “We really are a family here at St. Mary's,” said Methven. We are a large organization within the region as far as our employee base, but we are still small enough that people know each other, and you are not just a number – both for our associates as well as our patients. We provide high-touch, personal care to every patient and I think our communities appreciate that part of our corporate culture. This individualized care makes us unique in today's healthcare arena.”

Methven stressed the healthcare system's com-

mitment to the community. “It is important to us to stay a committed independent, community health care system. Both the Hospital and our associates feel a responsibility to our communities. Everyone at St. Mary’s, from the members of our board of directors through our leadership, providers and associates – we want to continue to be engaged with, and visible to, our community,” said Methven.

In discussing the patient experience across St. Mary’s Healthcare, Jeff Methven said, “The patient experience at St. Mary’s is personal. Patients come to St. Mary’s and look to us to get better and we offer the services and expertise to do so, close to our patients’ homes. We offer personal, compassionate care that you may not get anywhere else. We see ourselves a family serving family where care is unique.”

On his “to do” list is to make sure the organization continues to be independent and financially viable. “We are looking at a Master Facilities Plan that will be a blueprint for the future for current infrastructure investment and looking also at the possibility of newer facilities going forward. Investing in expand-

ed programs and services, meeting the needs of the patients in our service area and continuing to invest in new technologies like telemedicine are important goals for our future. I want to see us to be identified as a “Best Place To Work” in our region with the continued positivity in our organizational culture. We will be continue to be proud of our quality patient experience – internally, regionally, and even recognized on a national level. I would also like to see new community partnerships and collaborations with new partners that people in the regional might never have even thought possible, while staying independent.

Continuing the conversation about the future of St. Mary’s Healthcare, we discussed how the St. Mary’s of tomorrow can continue to be one of the focal points of healthcare delivery in our region. “At the end of the day, the community feels confident turning to us in their time of need when they need us. We will become more ambulatory for them and continue to push services out to our communities. Hospitals are

**Please see ST. MARY’S HEALTHCARE, Page 20**

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## **President/CEO upholds Nathan Littauer Hospital and Nursing Home legacy**

Nathan Littauer Hospital and Nursing Home is a full-service, acute care hospital with a skilled nursing home. Littauer provides the finest in state-of-the-art technology and a caring, dedicated staff of health care professionals. Over the years, the hospital has expanded its services to offer health care that is comprehensive, accessible, and relevant to the needs of the communities served.

Sean Fadale, Nathan Littauer Hospital and Nursing Home’s CEO started in October 2020. His prior leadership roles include serving as Vice President of Operations and Vice President of Business Development at Nicholas H. Noyes Memorial Hospital in Dansville, NY; Director of Sports Medicine and Therapy Services for the Carle Foundation Hospital in Urbana, Ill.; and Corporate Director of Rehab Works and Home Healthcare Services at Warren General Hospital in Warren, Penn. Throughout his career, Fadale has focused on enhancing patient care services and improving clinical outcomes by creating partnerships with physicians and practicing strategic financial discipline. His career is rooted in healthcare. He earned his bachelor’s degree in sports medicine from Mercyhurst University, and both his master’s degrees – in physical therapy and business administration – from Gannon University. Beginning his career as a clinician and practicing as a physical therapist and athletic trainer provided him with valuable insights about the demands of balancing patient care, operational priori-



**Sean Fadale, MBA, FACHE: President/CEO of Nathan Littauer Hospital and Nursing Home.**

ties, and strategic initiatives.

Sean Fadale started at NLH at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. His first 18 months focused on the community, as they were meeting the needs of the patients, employees, and how to strategically use resources.

His leadership style is inclusive, transparent and aligns with the hospital’s goals and values. He is available 24/7 to his team.

He enjoys working in the Fulton Montgomery region, and feels his career has come full circle. He sees similar aspects of the first community he worked

**Please see NATHAN LITTAUER, Page 20**

# Lanzi Family's tradition continues in restaurants throughout area



The Lanzi Family members together own and operate a string of successful restaurants throughout both Fulton and Montgomery Counties – around the Great Sacandaga Lake are Lanzi’s on the Lake (Mayfield), Sport Island Pub (Northville), Lakeside Tavern & Marina (Gloversville); they also own and operate Johnstown’s Partner’s Pub and Lorenzo’s Southside, their newest venture, in Amsterdam.

Lorenzo’s Southside pays homage to the history of the Lanzi Family restaurants, opening almost a century after the first of the establishments. The first of the Lanzi Family restaurants, Lanzi’s, was located, like Lorenzo’s Southside, on the burgeoning south side of Amsterdam. The restaurant was opened by Lanzi patriarch, Luigi, in 1920. His son, Lorenzo, opened his own restaurant in Amsterdam in the 1950s. Lorenzo’s five sons, Lou, Joe, Anthony, Chris and Larry, joined the family business and now the fourth generation of sons are coming into their own in these businesses that put the Lanzi Family on the map.

Each of the restaurants has a different personality and offers variety to its thousands of customers in the region and beyond. Besides delicious food and drink and great service, another highlight of each of the establishments is that you can be assured that you will be greeted by a member of the Lanzi family when you are there.

The Lanzis purchased Lanzi’s on the Lake Restaurant and Marina in Mayfield, their first restaurant on the Great Sacandaga Lake, in 1993. The

Lanzi “magic” quickly turned it into one of the most popular spots on the Lake, which is 29 miles long and 5 miles wide at its widest point. Lanzi’s on the Lake was recently refurbished and is establishing itself as the event center on the lake and in the region, with modern amenities and versatile spaces to accommodate gatherings of various sizes. With multiple spaces, each thoughtfully designed and elegantly decorated, they cater to intimate gatherings or grand affairs with ease. The lakeside location offers a serene and scenic backdrop, creating a truly magical atmosphere for any event.

Opening a business on the Great Sacandaga Lake was a dream for the Lanzi’s. “We grew up in this area,” said Lou Lanzi. “We had camps on the lake and love it there. We live in God’s country – the Adirondacks – and we feel so lucky to live here, every day in all four seasons. It was an easy choice for our family.”

Success on the lake spurred them to build Sport Island Pub in Northville in 1997. You can really relax in the cozy in the cozy Adirondack-inspired atmosphere inside, or in-season you can dine outside and take in scenic views of Great Sacandaga Lake. From steaks to seafood at Sport Island Pub you can enjoy delicious Italian family recipes all year round both for lunch and dinner. You can also park your boat at one of the Courtesy Docks available after a day full exploring summer fun on the lake, or even snowmobile to Sport Island during winter season.

Partner’s Pub came next in 2009. Partner’s Pub

was already a mainstay in Johnstown – a neighborhood restaurant and pub where ‘everybody knows your name.’ The Lanzi’s enhanced the beverage offerings, and the Partners menu has garnered many favorites of the people who frequent it. It truly is a place for good friends and great food in historic downtown Johnstown. The Pub also offers music every Thursday night.

Lakeside Tavern and Marina was opened by the Lanzi’s in 2014 and has become one of the “go to” places on the Great Sacandaga Lake during any season. The Adirondack vibes both inside and out are one of the signatures of Lakeside. The Lanzi’s added an outside pavilion, “The Channel Bar” in 2021 where diners and revelers can get even closer to the water and enjoy music and events outside in the summer months. The Channel Bar has a decidedly tropical, resort feel. The Channel Bar is enclosed and heated during the colder months so that you can still feel like you’re on vacation at Lakeside Tavern!

Lorenzo’s Southside opened in April of 2020, just as the world was shutting down due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Lorenzo’s really harkens back to the beginnings of the family business with homemade pasta and Neapolitan pizza baked in special ovens at the restaurant...and a location which is just about a block from the original Lanzi’s restaurant. Because of the COVID-19 restrictions in place when the restaurant first opened, takeout was the only thing offered for the first couple of months of its existence. Dine-in patrons weren’t able to be seated for another couple of months. As restrictions lifted, Lorenzo’s became a standout in the crowded field of restaurants in Amsterdam. With its imported wood-burning pizza oven, the Lanzi’s have become ex-

Please see LANZI, Page 9

## ADDITIONAL CHAMBER MEMBER RESTAURANTS IN THE FULTON MONTGOMERY REGION

308 Prime at Holiday Inn Johnstown-Gloversville  
308 N. Comrie Avenue, Johnstown, NY 12095  
(518) 762-4686 | www.ihg.com

Bosco’s Family Restaurant  
165 Division Street, Amsterdam, NY 12010  
(518) 842-5077 | Facebook

Brittany’s Diner & Grocery Store  
105 State Highway 67, Fort Plain, NY 13339  
(518) 993-2099 | Facebook

DomAdi’s Deli  
1451 State Highway 5S, Amsterdam, NY 12010  
(518) 212-6444 | www.domadisdeli.com

Dunkin’ Donuts  
2815 Amsterdam Road, Glenville, NY 12302  
(518) 857-9664 | www.dunkindonuts.com/

Fox Run Golf Club  
129 Fox Run Drive, Johnstown, NY 12095  
(518) 762-3717 | www.foxrungolfclub.net

Gloversville Palace Diner  
62 S. Main Street, Gloversville, NY 12078  
(518) 725-9056

Great Sacandaga Brewing Co., Inc.  
3647 State Highway 30, Broadalbin, NY 12025  
(518) 883-7012 | greatsacandagabrewing.com

Hales Mills Country Club  
146 Steele Road, Johnstown, NY 12095  
(518) 736-4622 | www.halesmillscountryclub.com

Harold’s Restaurant and Lounge  
176 W. Fulton Street, Gloversville, NY 12078  
(518) 725-9018

Higher Ground Distilling Company  
2513 State Highway 30, Mayfield, NY 12117  
(518) 527-5490 | highergrounddistilling.com

Hotel Broadalbin  
59 W. Main Street, Broadalbin, NY 12025  
(518) 883-5414 | www.historicbroadalbinhotel.com

House of Pizza  
219 Fifth Avenue Ext., Gloversville, NY 12078  
(518) 725-9400

Please see RESTAURANTS, Page 8

Check our Facebook pages and our website for information on:

MUSIC - ARTS - LITERATURE - THEATER

ARTWORK IS ON EXHIBIT AND FOR SALE AT:

SVAN Arts Center - 303 South Main Street, Northville  
Tourist Information Ctr. - Rt. 29 & Rt. 30 roundabout, Vail Mills  
Northville Library Gallery - 341 South Third Ave., Northville

PROMOTING THE ARTS THROUGHOUT THE SACANDAGA REGION  
www.svanarts.org

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**www.fuelnfood.com**

## Restaurants from page 7

### Loopie's Irish Pub

410 Mohawk Drive, Tribes Hill, NY 12177  
(518) 829-8000 | Facebook

### McDonald's of Amsterdam

158 Market Street, Amsterdam, NY 12010  
(518) 843-1023 | www.mcdonalds.com

### McDonald's of Fultonville

37 Riverside Drive, Fultonville, NY 12072  
(518) 853-3826 | www.mcdonalds.com

### McDonald's – Gloversville

Fifth Avenue Extension, Gloversville, NY 12078  
(518) 725-6949 | www.mcdonalds.com

### McDonald's – Johnstown

200 North Comrie Avenue, Johnstown, NY 12095  
(518) 762-4961 | www.mcdonalds.com

### McDonald's of Palatine Bridge

22 Dutchtown Plaza, Palatine Bridge, NY 13428  
www.mcdonalds.com/

### Mountain MaMa's Cantina & Eatery

391 S. Main Street, Gloversville, NY 12078  
(903) 266-0500 | mountainmamascantina.com

### New York Lunch

21 Bleecker Street, Gloversville, NY 12078  
(518) 725-4170 | Facebook

### Nick Stoner Inn & 19th Hole

1810 State Highway 10, Caroga Lake, NY 12032  
(518) 835-8039 | Facebook

### Peaceful Valley Maple Farms

116 LaGrange Road, Johnstown, NY 12095  
(518) 774-0949 | peacefulvalleymaple farms.com/

### Peking In Johnstown Corp.

50 E. Main Street, Johnstown, NY 12095  
(518) 762-2828 | www.pekingcorp.com/

### Perry Lanes Bowling Corp.

1 Maple Avenue, Johnstown, NY 12095  
(518) 762-8618 | Facebook

### Plaza's Italian Bistro

130 N. Pine Street, Gloversville, NY 12078  
(518) 725-4007 | plazasbistro.com/

### Popeye's Louisiana Kitchen

120 Veeders Mill, Amsterdam, NY 12010  
(215) 317-2734 | www.popeyes.com

### Railside Café

454 N. Perry Street, Johnstown, NY 12095  
(518) 762-3292 | Facebook

### Recovery Sports Grill

4999 State Route 30N, Amsterdam, NY 12010  
(518) 842-5500

### Rogers' Cideryard LLC

260 County Highway 131, Johnstown, NY 12095  
(518) 332-2732 | Facebook

### Romana's Italian Kitchen

219 N. Comrie Avenue, Johnstown, NY 12095  
(518) 762-3931 | www.romanasny.com/

### Sam's Seafood Steakhouse

281 N. Comrie Avenue, Johnstown, NY 12095  
(518) 762-7267 | samsjohnstownny.com/

### Shorty's Southside Tavern

51 Broad Street, Amsterdam, NY 12010  
(518) 842-7800 | Facebook

### Slate – A Rustic Tavern

2401 NY-10, Caroga Lake, NY 12032  
(518) 604-4332 | Facebook

### Stockyard Public House

754 Corbin Hill Road, Sprakers, NY 12166  
(518) 762-3931 | www.thestockyardpublichouse.com

### Stump City Brewing, LLC

521 W. Fulton Street Ext., Gloversville, NY 12078  
(518) 831-0722 | www.stumpcitybrewing.com

### Taco Bell

207 N. Comrie Avenue, Johnstown, NY 12095  
(518) 762-9883 | tacobell.com

### V I C E

32 S. Perry Street, Johnstown, NY 12095  
(518) 705-4282 | Facebook

### Vintage Café

21 W. Main Street, Johnstown, NY 12095  
(518) 762-0030 | Facebook

## FOODS AVAILABLE TO GRAB AND GO:

### Betty Beaver Fuel Stop (2 locations):

Canajoharie: 117 East Main Street  
(518) 673-5556 | Facebook

Fultonville: 39 Riverside Avenue  
(518) 853-3763 | Facebook

### Bowman's Market

50 East Pine Street, Gloversville, NY 12078  
(518) 725-7517 |

### Canada Lake Store & Marine

103 Old State Road, Caroga Lake, NY 12032  
(518) 835-6069 | www.canadalakemarine.com

### Deli Master | Adirondack Country Market

49 North Main Street, Broadalbin, NY 12025  
(518) 883-7006 | www.delimastermarketplace.com/

### Dygart Farms Creamery

243 Dygart Street, Palatine Bridge, NY 13428  
(518) 495-4887 | dygartfarmscreamery.com

### Fuel-N-Food

3006 State Highway 30, Gloversville, NY 12078  
(518) 661-6917 | www.fuelnfood.com

### Mohawk Harvest Cooperative Market

30 N. Main Street, Gloversville, NY 12078  
(518) 725-9387 | www.mohawkharvest.org

### NAC's Meat Market

2513 State Highway 30, Mayfield, NY 12117  
(518) 613-4280 | Facebook

### Pilot Travel Center

164 Riverside Drive Fultonville NY 12072  
(518) 414-0591 | Facebook

### Stewart's Shops

(various locations in Fulton and Montgomery Counties)  
(518) 581-1200 | www.stewartsshops.com

### Wal-Mart Amsterdam

101 Sanford Farm Shopping Center,  
Amsterdam, NY 12010  
(518) 843-6890 | walmart.com

### Wal-Mart Gloversville

329 S. Kingsboro Avenue, Gloversville, NY 12078  
(518) 725-2403 | walmart.com

## Welcome from page 3

email blasts and monthly newsletter • Community Commitment, • Partnerships and Collaborations, • Business Resources, • Ribbon Cuttings, • Individualized WebPage on the Chamber websites, • Business After Hours, **AND MUCH MORE!**

The Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce has always recognized the importance and value of small business, not only to our state's economy, but more importantly, to our regional economy as well. Small businesses are the backbone of our economy, employing over half of New York State's private-sector workers. This directly parallels the Chamber's make-up, with the bulk of our membership being small, locally owned businesses, many of which are retailers and service businesses.

The Chamber reminds everyone of the benefits of shopping locally, and keeping those dollars in our communities. When you shop locally, you also help to ensure the success of our local shop owners and their employees who in turn provide you with the best of customer service and products. Please keep "Shop Local" in mind all year long! Just recently, I read an

article regarding how sales tax has increased state-wide, and here in the Fulton / Montgomery Counties region we have enjoyed a significant increase in revenue, 14% and 13% respectively. It is a positive direction and shows that our community and beyond sees what we see in our area, that is an incredible place in which to work, live, and play. Our partners at The Fulton County Tourism Visitors Bureau and Montgomery County Tourism have strategically planned out campaigns and initiatives to continue growth and success, and we are very grateful for the opportunity to continue to partner with the separate entities and work toward the same goal of growth in economic development and tourism.

We are excited what the future holds for our businesses and for this Chamber – and we hope you are, too. Please stay connected with us by reading this magazine, sign up for our weekly email blast, follow our social media, and more. We have lots of programming to keep businesses successful – please take advantage of all these opportunities our Chamber has to offer! Get more information on our website, [www.fultonmontgomeryny.org](http://www.fultonmontgomeryny.org) or call us at (518) 725-0641.

## Lanzi from page 7

perts in the art of authentic Neapolitan pizza. With many of the ingredients for the pizza, homemade pasta and more imported from Italy, they show that attention to details like this really matter.

The Fulton Montgomery region has supported the Lanzis for over a hundred years. "The community is very supportive of our family and our businesses," said Lou Lanzi. "From travelers to the lake, for those living and visiting Amsterdam, and from people from all over the country, they are really impressed with our region and we are glad to be part of this area."

Lanzi continued, "As our grandfather, Luigi, would say, "Come in as a guest and leave as our friend." The entire Lanzi family continues to live by those words everyday and it truly is what makes them such a success as restaurateurs in the Fulton Montgomery Region.



**Lorenzo's Southside**  
1 Port Jackson Square,  
Amsterdam, NY 12010  
(518) 212-2256  
[www.lorenzossouthside.com/](http://www.lorenzossouthside.com/)



**Lakeside Tavern and Marina**  
306 Woods Hollow Road,  
Gloversville, NY 12078  
(518) 883-5253  
[www.lanzislakesidetavern.com/](http://www.lanzislakesidetavern.com/)



**Lanzi's on the Lake Restaurant & Marina**  
1751 State Highway 30,  
Mayfield, NY 12117  
(518) 661-7711  
[www.lanzisonthelake.com/](http://www.lanzisonthelake.com/)



**Partner's Pub and Grill**  
21 S. William Street,  
Johnstown, NY 12095  
(518) 762-4961  
[www.partnerspubandgrill.com/](http://www.partnerspubandgrill.com/)



**Sport Island Pub**  
108 Riverside Boulevard,  
Northville, NY 12134  
(518) 863-2003  
[www.sportislandpub.com](http://www.sportislandpub.com)



PHOTO PROVIDED BY MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY & ARCHIVES  
Diane Hale Smith, Amsterdam resident, and Monica Hauck Whealton, from the New York State Archives, looking at some artifacts from the Montgomery County Department of History & Archives archival collection during the Open House event held in April.

## Montgomery County Department of History & Archives expanding its resources

By **KELLY YACOBUCCI FARQUHAR**  
Montgomery County Historian/RMO

2023 has been a year for some exciting things happening at the Montgomery County Department of History & Archives in Fonda! First, in April, the National Park Service accepted the Montgomery County Department of History & Archives as a research facility for Underground Railroad resources on their National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom. The network includes more than 700 sites, programs and facilities in 39 states, plus Washington D.C. and the U.S. Virgin Islands and according to the National Park Service press release those listed “provide insight into the diverse experiences of freedom seekers who bravely escaped slavery and those who assisted them.”

The Montgomery County Department of History and Archives, a local history and genealogy research library, has a substantial and growing collection of materials related to Underground Railroad history including primary sources such as birth records, bills of sales, manumissions, and legal documents related to enslaved

people in Montgomery County and newspaper articles on local abolitionist activity. Researchers to the department are welcome to use these primary materials, as well as secondary sources on Underground Railroad, in addition to a cultural resources survey conducted in 2010, identifying sites associated with Underground Railroad and abolitionist activity and African American in Montgomery County.

Also exciting is that our nation is approaching the 250th anniversary of the birth of the United States of America, culminating from events that occurred during the War for Independence or the Revolutionary War. Tryon County, the area that became Montgomery County, was the scene for numerous raids, Committee of Safety meetings, battles and conflicts that had a remarkable impact in the struggle for independence.

Montgomery County has established a 250th Commission to plan events, activities and educational programs that commemorate Montgomery County's significant role in the events of the Revolutionary War. Beginning in 2025 and continuing through 2033, the Montgomery County 250th American Revolution Commission, whose members represent county government and local histori-

cal societies, will work with local historical groups to provide an opportunity for the public to learn about our heritage and promote the county's significant connections to the Revolutionary War.

And finally, Montgomery County's Old Courthouse, the stately Greek Revival building where our Department of History and Archives is located, has also recently been listed on New York State's Haunted History Trail. Over the years, visitors and staff alike have reported unexplained occurrences in the building that was once the site for notable libel and murder trials.

Who continues to walk the floors of the 1836 structure after the doors close for the day? Is it an employee who spent a great deal of time working with the ancient records? Or could the occurrences be a glimpse into events from time gone by? You can see for yourself by stopping by the Department of History & Archives during normal business hours or at special events held at the Old Courthouse. Save the Date! A paranormal related event was being planned at the Old County Courthouse for October 7. Follow History and Archives and Visit Montgomery County NY on social media to stay posted as more details regarding this spooky event emerge!

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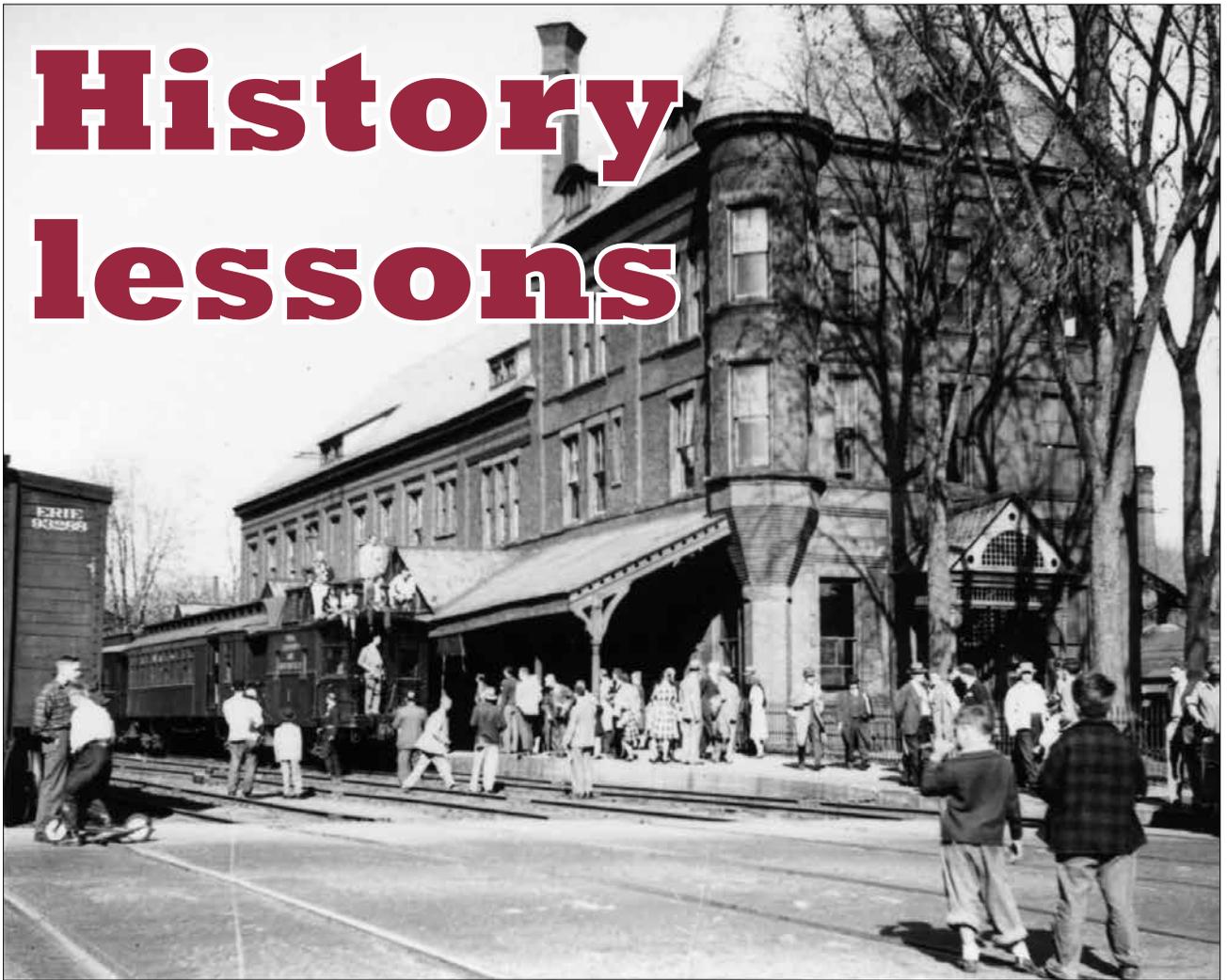
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# History lessons



FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE FULTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, GLOVERSVILLE  
FJ&G RR Station, Gloversville, John Rockwell RR Collection.

## The Mohawk people, settlers, industries and the arts helped to shape Fulton County

By SAMANTHA HALL-SALADINO  
Executive Director  
Fulton County Historical Society

Present day Fulton County sits on the ancestral homelands of the Mohawk people. The Mohawk, or *Kanien'kehaka*, are part of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, an organization of six nations often considered the oldest participatory democracy on earth. Here, the Sacandaga River connected the Hudson and Champlain waterways to the Mohawk Valley.

The earliest European settlers were Palatine German refugees, who the Mohawk empathized with and allowed to settle on their lands in an area that became known as the Stone Arabia patent. Other land patents followed, including Kayaderosseras and Kingsborough. The latter eventually fell under the ownership of Sir William Johnson in the 1750s.

Johnson was an Irish immigrant who arrived in the British colonies in 1738 at the invitation of his uncle Peter Warren. Originally meant to oversee the clearing and settlement of his uncle's lands on the south side



FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE FULTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, GLOVERSVILLE

### The Jackson House hotel, Mayfield.

of the Mohawk River, Johnson realized that the trade routes were on the opposite shore. He cultivated strong relationships with the Haudenosaunee, specifically the Mohawk, and learned their language and culture. His construction of Mount Johnson, across the river from his uncle's settlement, represented the first of the lands he would amass. Johnson was a decorated soldier; his service in King George's War and the Seven Years' War earned him the title of Baronet. Because of Johnson's close relationships with the Mohawk, he served as Superintendent of Indian Affairs of the northern colonies. In 1762, he founded Johnstown and constructed Johnson Hall. The settlement included an Anglican church and a school for both Mohawk and white children. At the time of his death in 1774, Johnson had amassed a prodigious amount of wealth and land.

Fulton County was the preeminent leader in the glove and tanning trade. The area's natural resources made it an ideal spot for the industry to thrive, and by the late 19th century about 90% of the world's gloves were being produced here. This booming business brought immigrants from Germany, Russia, Italy, Ireland, France, England, and elsewhere, creating ethnically, culturally, and religiously diverse communities that included both ur-

ban and rural elements.

The arts flourished here, with a number of theaters and opera houses in operation, as well as a small movie studio in the early 20th century. Inspired by the majestic beauty of the Adirondacks, a colony of artists made summer homes along Canada Lake. Novelist and artist Robert W. Chambers, known for his works of horror and historical fiction, built a grand home in Broadalbin. Sacandaga Park and the cities of Gloversville and Johnstown brought big name performers.

Please see HISTORY, Page 14



FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE FULTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, GLOVERSVILLE

Sacandaga Park.

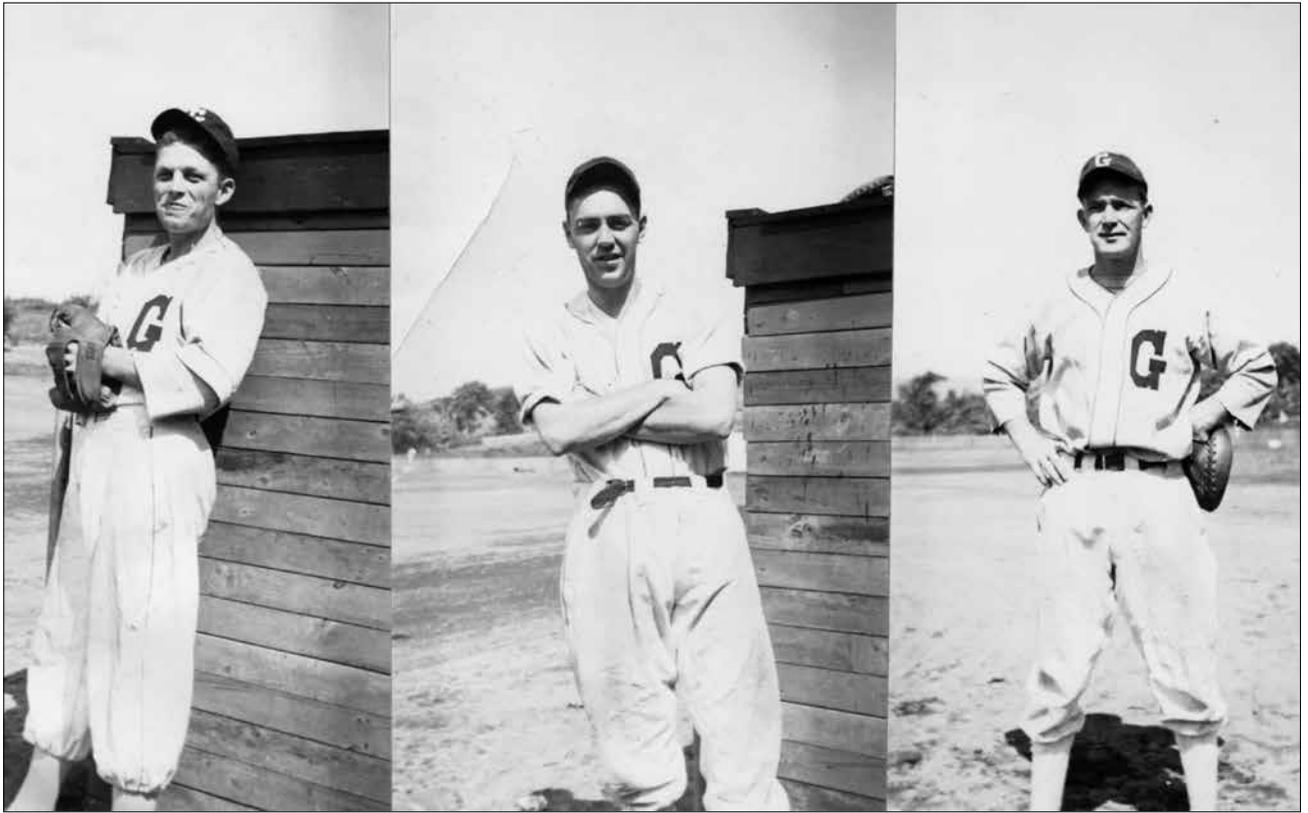
## History from page 14

Fulton County has produced some of the world's most inspiring and innovative people, including suffragist Elizabeth Cady Stanton, pioneering business woman Rose Knox, and author Richard Russo.

Today, the county remains a place where history, the arts, innovation, business, and outdoor adventure mingle to create a great place to live and visit. For more information about the history of Fulton County, and to learn about the Fulton County Historical Society and Museum's exhibits and programs, please visit [fultoncountyhistoricalsociety.org](http://fultoncountyhistoricalsociety.org).



FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE FULTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, GLOVERSVILLE  
**Office and Layoff Knit-True Handwear Corp., Gloversville taken in February, 1956. Irene Lawton Viskup far left leaning on table.**



FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE FULTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, GLOVERSVILLE  
 Guy Shatoen, Frank Boden, and Whitney Tulacz were members of the 1937 Glovers baseball team.



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# Montgomery County on par to become disc golf haven

BY MORGAN McCLARY  
Director of Communications and  
Tourism, Montgomery County

When a frisbee hits the chains of a disc golf basket, the faint sounds of clink, clink, are one of the few noises heard amongst the towering oak, maple and pine trees which make up the Thomas H. Burbine Memorial Forest in Charleston. As disc golf continues to rise in popularity as one of the fastest growing sports in the nation, enthusiasts from across the Northeast will travel to Montgomery County and play.

Since Burbine officially opened in 2021, visitors have utilized the course during all four seasons. According to UDisc, an app used by disc golfers, there were 401 unique players that logged into UDisc and played at Burbine in 2022. Of those players, 230 were visiting the course for the first time and traveled some distance to do so. A total of 38 players visited from more than 150 miles away and 15 trekked at least 300 miles from states as far as New Mexico, Texas, Indiana and Florida.

Burbine, which is a two mile long 18-hole course, is unique because it's built through mature pines and hardwoods. It includes an open-carry water hole and



is considered challenging. But don't let the "Beast of Burbine," (another difficult hole), scare you. The sport is easy to learn. It's similar to traditional golf, but with a flying disc instead of a ball and clubs. Another advantage is the minimal barrier of entry, which appeals to those interested in trying out a new hobby without needing to invest in pricey equipment.

The annual Blues at Burbine Tournament is extremely popular and has quickly made a name for itself attracting novices and pros alike. The event, spon-





PHOTOS PROVIDED

Disc golf players hiking to the next hole.

sored by Visit Montgomery County NY and DisCap, sold out quickly the past three years. A majority of the 72 registered players traveled from outside of Montgomery County to attend.

“This tournament has become incredibly popular and is bringing in some of the best players not only in the region but also surrounding states. Burbine is a challenging course, where players need not only strong technical skills but an equally strong mental game in order to post a good score,” said Tournament Director Mark Hay.

Within a few short years, a second course will be completed on the eastern side of the county, keeping the community on track to be a disc golf haven. Dove Creek Disc Golf Course at Sassafrass Hollow, will traverse the woods of Sassafrass Park. And similar to Burbine, it will incorporate unique and challenging features to attract competitors. Dove Creek’s estimated completion is August 2024. Nine of the 18 baskets are expected to be installed by August 2023.

As the sport continues to gain traction, the allure of Montgomery County’s disc golf courses will undoubtedly enhance tourism and draw enthusiasts, showcasing the potential of this recreational activity to elevate the county’s profile and economic vitality.

“Disc golf is a relatively new sport for many of us, but it’s already had such a profound impact on our community,” said Montgomery County Executive Matthew Ossenfort.

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# Mohawk CoWorks: Co-Working Independently Together

Deana and Chris Mancini created Mohawk CoWorks as not only space to accommodate their growing businesses (they own real estate, property management, and construction businesses) but also as a resource for businesses who needed space with great amenities. They found this space in an old dental office building, a 5000-sf property at 2 Guy Park Avenue in the city of Amsterdam. Opened in March of 2023, there is not only plenty of parking, private offices and communal spaces, but the property also offers private mailboxes, 24-7 member access, conference and event space, furnished offices, communal spaces, copying and printing, high-speed internet, full kitchen, and more. Their first floor has been newly renovated and has avail-



Photos on this page and the next show the spaces at Mohawk Coworks.

PHOTOS PROVIDED

able an additional 11 private offices. You can rent space for an hour, a day, a week, a month or a year – they have spaces to fit whatever you may need. The modern, flexible spaces are perfect for remote workers who want to step out of their homes, and professional spaces for those who want to use great spaces without having to own the spaces themselves. Whether an established business, or a new business who is looking for incubator space, Mohawk CoWorks has it all.

Deana and Chris set up the space to help other businesses grow. Not only do they offer modern, great work and event spaces, but they encourage those using the space to network and market to one another. In their marketing materials, they include that “By leveraging each other’s strengths and working together as a community, we all win!” They offer monthly social and professional networking events so businesses can get to know their neighbors and community members, and encourage business amongst themselves to enhance growth opportunities for all. This summer, they held a number of Food Truck Friday events to bring people together, and as a way to market their space to those who might want to take a look. They are also trying different events, like a “build your own bouquet” event that will also offer beverages from a local brewery. Deana and Chris have also connected with HFM PTECH, inviting the students and staff to hold an entrepreneurship class at the property. They have also hired a community liaison, Ayana Cintron, who will coordinate showing the space, but also will put together events to bring the community and businesses together.

Interested in a tour and to see what great amenities Mohawk CoWorks offers? You can schedule one online at their website at mohawkcoworks.com or see what they offer on Facebook or Instagram. However you access this great business, we are glad they are in our region!



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## St Mary's Healthcare from page 5

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financially challenged right now, and as we continue to be all things to all people, we must be financially responsible while doing so and continuing to deliver core services and following our mission. We will investigate non-traditional partnerships, collaborations and relationships while expanding programs and maintaining our independence. We will be thoughtful as we go through our current facility planning process as we look at all of our facilities, making conscientious investments in our physical plants while continuing to improve technology and be state-of-the-art.”

St. Mary's recently received quality designations for their patient-centered medical homes (primary care centers) by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) – Amsterdam, Canajoharie, Gloversville, Johnstown and Northville. Methven sees the primary care network as the foundation of their healthcare system. To keep their primary care network strong, they will continue to make sure there is an availability of resources for the providers that are in our communities. Also they will place emphasis on

## Nathan Littauer from page 5

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in and sees alignment in three pillars for a successful community: solid education partnerships, strong relationships with County governments, and active engagement with The Chamber.

The patient experience at Nathan Littauer is very important and one of the main goals of their strategic plan. It is primarily two aspects: patient satisfaction/patient centered care, and employee engagement. Three years is a relatively short time as President/CEO, and Sean has recognized when you are able to engage employees cognitively, emotionally, and physically, you will have a high-performance team that is fully engaged and able to thrive. Sean is proud to implement a new employee engagement program, with a foundation of transparency, trust, and communication. A daily tiered huddle system is the backbone of multi-disciplinary communication and key metrics. The inaugural program has already seen success, as tenures of employees are as long as 47 years. It is a priority that the goals of patient are met, and employee experience is positive, not only at the hospital, but at the primary care/urgent cares as well.

Sean is committed to a course of action that will standardize work processes and is researching ways to incorporate technology for effective communication with the patient, families, and employees.

NLH is a small hospital system, but offers a wide range of services and can shift and pivot of what needs to be there faster than bigger systems to fit the needs

strong recruitment efforts to encourage new providers to work in our communities while also encouraging the retention of the current providers at these primary care centers. He sees opportunities to expand these services in the future. “Population health and taking care of the whole patient is so important and we have to make sure the supports are in place for these important pieces of our healthcare system.”

Methven sees so many positives in the future of St. Mary's, as well as in our region. “St. Mary's focus is to be our community's first choice for healthcare. We will continue to build relationships and want to also continue to be community leaders. My door is always open, and I want to be involved in the community as do our associates. St. Mary's wants to continue to be an important part of Amsterdam, and the Fulton and Montgomery Counties region.”

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of our patients.

For plans to expand to new areas, collaboration and partnership is always in the forefront of Sean's mind. Recently, the hospital has opened a new Quick N Sick/Specialty Care Center in the Town of Amsterdam and partnered with Albany Medical Center on the venture. On the main campus, the hospital opened the new Medical Arts Primary Care Center in October 2020.

Primary Care Centers are hugely important as they look to the future and access to specialty care. Sean makes it a priority to visit each center, and understands the needs of the community, the density of providers and what services will meet the needs of patients. The goal is to improve access instead of friction and have community facilitators.

Sean sees the value in partnership and collaboration, as he works with local administration at St. Mary's Healthcare, Albany Medical Center, Saratoga Hospital and meets with other local healthcare CEOs.

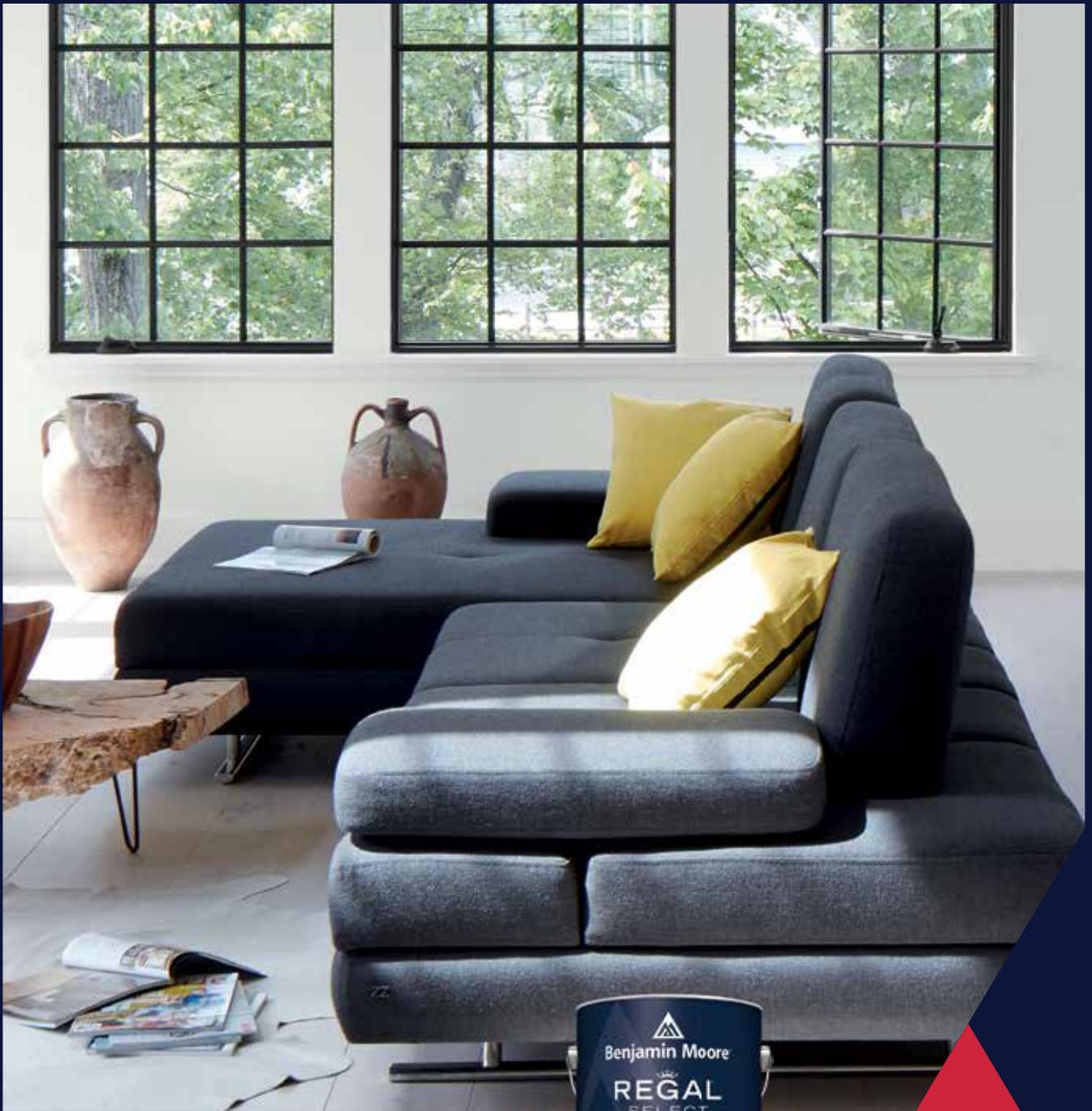
What is true today is true tomorrow. NLH continues to uphold its long-standing legacy in our region. They will continue to be one of the largest employers (currently employs 900-1000), be an economic driver for our region, and be the first choice for patients in our community with access to care.

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# HFM Business Education Partnership provides opportunities for local students

The Chamber's HFM BEP (Hamilton-Fulton-Montgomery Business Education Partnership) is an important collaboration between the Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce and Hamilton-Fulton-Montgomery Board of Cooperative Education Services (HFM BOCES) and its component school districts. A collaboration between HFM BOCES, SUNY's Fulton-Montgomery Community College, and the economic development entities in the three counties first began in 2007 as the HFM BEA (Business Education Alliance), a group whose main goal was linking the business community in the three counties with the education system and to promote the availability of employment and careers in the region. Today, this group, now HFM BEP, continues this important work, connecting the school districts and programs with our regional businesses to help support a well-prepared, capable and adaptable workforce. In turn, these partnerships help improve student achievement and educational competitiveness.

The strength of these connections between business and education has resulted in the success of three regional education programs. The first, HFM PTECH (Pathways in Technology Early College High School), redefines secondary education with a project-based learning curriculum that focuses on skills in specific career clusters, and the opportunity to obtain an associate degree while enrolled in HFM PTECH. The program looks and functions like a hybrid between college and the workplace, emphasizing individualized pathways to completion, workplace experiences, mentorships, in-depth project-based learning and real-world experiences. Pathways offered at HFM PTECH include Advanced Manufacturing, Agriculture, Business, Computer Science and Health Science/Medical with 20 associate degree options available at both Fulton-Montgomery Community College at SUNY Cobleskill, located in Schoharie County.

The Career and Technical Education program offers students an avenue for career exploration and enrichment through practical learning applications. Juniors and seniors from HFM BOCES component school districts who are interested in pursuing career training as part of their high school experience are eligible to attend.

Pathway Programs take place in HFM BOCES school districts with freshman who want to explore pathways and career options and then implement what



**PHOTO PROVIDED**  
First Choice Financial Federal Credit Union, Gloversville employee Shawn Glionna is a graduate of the HFM PTECH program.

they learned after they graduate and enter the workforce. These students will obtain stronger workplace skills and improved behavioral/social tools with the long-term goal of improved student-life outcome.

Regional business representatives are encouraged to participate in these programs in a number of ways, including as mentors to the students, as guest speakers, as guest judges for student presentations, on advisory councils, and by providing at their businesses job shadowing experiences, internships, workplace tours, and workplace challenges.

These real-world experiences provided by regional businesses and educational programs have supported dozens of students to obtain their associate and bachelor's degrees and obtain well-deserved careers at regional businesses. We would like to introduce you to three of these success stories, who speak to the excellence of their educational and work experiences as they reach for their life and career goals in our region and beyond.



At First Choice Financial Federal Credit Union, located in Gloversville, there are two current, successful employees who are also graduates of the HFM PTECH program – Shawn Glionna and Colby Ageter. They

both really enjoy working at the credit union; Shawn as a teller at the main office, and Colby as a teller at the branch located in the Wal-Mart store in Gloversville.

Shawn directly relates his educational experiences at PTECH and its programs to making him a successful employee and student as he furthered his education at SUNY Oneonta, from which he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Economics. His end goal is to become a stockbroker or financial advisor. He attributes his experiences at PTECH, at FMCC, and at the Credit Union for helping him become the goal-driven young man that he is.

He said that the business mentors with whom he came in contact with at PTECH helped him gain a real-world look at the career opportunities that are available in the Fulton-Montgomery region. “Mentors that I encountered when working on projects gave us a look at scenarios that really take place at businesses in our community. These mentors really made an impact on me as they not only taught me about the world of work, but also about what’s available in our area.” He also attributes PTECH teachers and extra-curricular activities that he participated in at PTECH as especially impactful. “Mr. LoMastro really made an impact on me at PTECH,” said Shawn. “What I learned in his classes over three years game me a great starting point. He was also the advisor to the Future Business Leaders of America club at PTECH, which I really appreciated and learned a lot from.” He also talked about his experience at Fulton-Montgomery Community College, from which he received his associate degree. “I was a tutor at FM in Financial Accounting, which I really enjoyed. That coupled with the support that I got from the faculty there who really deepened my interest and gave me the strength to do something in finance really meant a lot to me,” said Shawn.

Colby Ageter also had great experiences while attending HFM PTECH on his way to reaching his goal of having a career in information technology. That goal has seen him graduate from PTECH with an associate degree in computer information systems from Fulton-Montgomery Community College, and he is now studying for his bachelor’s degree in that major from SUNY Polytechnic.

One thing that was especially helpful to Colby while he was at PTECH was his experience with a number of local businesses when they came to PTECH to participate in mock interviews with the students. “The mock interviews exposed me to many businesses over the project that helped me to hone in on what I want to do,” said Colby. “The opportunities to speak with these businesses game me real-world interactions that not only helped me learn about all these businesses in



PHOTO PROVIDED

**Colby Ageter graduated from PTECH with an associate degree in computer information systems from Fulton-Montgomery Community College.**

our region, but also what they want and what they are looking for in future employees. I also enjoyed seeing the different mentors come into PTECH multiple times over the course of my time there – it made me familiar with them and their businesses, and made me feel at ease knowing the support that PTECH was getting from these businesses.”

While at PTECH, Colby also participated in an internship with the Fonda Fultonville Central School District in its Information Technology (IT) department. “I wanted a mix of everything that I might experience on the job in an IT department and this internship gave me a great opportunity to do this,” said Colby. “It showed me more about the solution and development side of IT and I appreciated the experience. It helped me know that this was what I wanted to do with my career.” He also learned a lot about himself during this experience, saying “I learned that I had the skills that I learned at PTECH to use in the real world, that I could make it in the workplace. I really got to apply what I learned which made me feel confident.”

Although their experiences at PTECH were different, both Colby and Shawn have similar experiences in their work at the credit union. About First Choice Financial Credit Union, Shawn said, “The people who I work with here are something special and they have trained me very well. They offer me all kinds of opportunities. I feel like I’m part of a family here, everyone is so supportive and we all work so well together.

**Please see BEP, Page 24**

I also enjoy my interactions with our Credit Union members who are easy to work with and so nice.” Colby said, “Working here I feel everyone has an open door to me. It feels like a family, my co-workers are so supportive as are the members. I like that there are opportunities for advancement and for training in many areas.” They both also feel that their experiences have taught them that communication in the workplace, and as students, is key. “The numerous projects we worked on at PTECH helped me so much, they made me a better student and employee. I couldn’t have done what I have done without my experiences at PTECH and my exposure to the region’s businesses,” said Colby. And Shawn added, “My PTECH experience helped me train for, and get my job. I worked really hard to be where I am, but I couldn’t have done it without PTECH.”

William Dickson is currently a Controls Engineer at Beech-Nut Nutrition Corp. in Amsterdam. He got his education at Johnstown High School, and at the HFM Career and Technical Center during his junior and senior years, where he graduated from the Engineering Technology Program. From there he attended SUNY Polytechnic Institute in Utica, NY, graduating in 2021 with a B.S. in Electrical Engineering Technology. He is now working on a master’s in engineering management through the University at Buffalo.

Like Colby and Shawn, the Chamber’s connections on behalf of CTE introduced William to local businesses, “The Engineering Technology program at CTE introduced me to local businesses in a number of forms, through guest speakers from local companies, attending events at manufacturing facilities, to having an internship with a local company.” He also talked about how his experiences helped him make the decision to study Engineering, “I come from a lineage of engineers, my maternal grandfather, and great grandfather were successful engineers in the Czech Republic. I knew that I was interested in the general field of engineering, but I was unsure of what specialty would suit me best and what I would really be getting into. I think what solidified this decision for me was an assignment we were given early on in the CTE program – we were asked to explore the job outlook for a handful of potential roles we were all interested in. In this assignment we took an in-depth look at the growth of jobs and the cause of turnover in the industry. I saw that there was an increase in engineering roles projected, and much of the turnover was coming from retirements – an indication that people were coming into the field and staying. I also saw the earnings outlook and just how many employers were looking for engi-



PHOTO PROVIDED

**William Dickson, currently a Controls Engineer at Beech-Nut Nutrition Corp, credits CTE as an important component of his success.**

neers, reinforcing my decision to continue that path.”

A trip to a regional business that he took during his junior year at CTE also had an impact. “We took a trip to GlobalFoundries in Malta for world manufacturing day in the first year of the CTE program. We were given a presentation on the company to show us what they were all about, and what they were looking for in employees. This was a surreal experience for me as it was my first time at a manufacturing facility, and the Malta Fab site felt like a sci-fi movie to my 16-year-old self.”

He also had a great experience as an intern in the region. “In the last semester we had to intern with a local business, so I spent a week with Power & Composite Technologies in Amsterdam, where I shadowed their engineers and was given real exposure to the day to day as an engineer and a manufacturing environment,” said William. I also made a great connection with an engineer there who was relatively early in his career and could very well relate to the position that I was in.”

The connections that the Chamber makes for students and businesses obviously have a profound impact on students in the programs that the HFM BEP supports as evidenced by these success stories. And the working relationship between the Chamber and the education entities continues to play a big role. Jay DeTraglia, Assistant Superintendent for Educational Services at HFM BOCES said of the relationship, “The HFM BOCES Career and Technical Education (CTE) program and PTECH have established a long-term partnership with the Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce. This collaboration has pro-

**Please see STUDENTS, Page 25**

## Students from page 24

vided numerous opportunities for our students, including internships, mentoring, job shadowing, and work studies. The FM Chamber has facilitated numerous connections with our regional businesses which has supported workforce development while enhancing the educational experiences of our students. We look forward to continuing our work together to advance the connections between education and business.”

“At Beech-Nut we are proud to be part of the FM Chamber and have these partnerships with PTECH & CTE. We see firsthand how eye opening and engaging it is for the students to learn about Beech-Nut career opportunities and our manufacturing processes when they come to tour the facility. Partnerships and programs like these help young students create connections between interests, education, and careers,” said Brittany Duncan, Talent Acquisition Specialist, Beech-Nut.

For more information about the Hamilton-Fulton-Montgomery Business Education Partnership program, please contact the Chamber’s Director of Workforce Development Nicole Walrath at nicolew@fultonmontgomeryny.org or Natalie May, Business and Education Partnership Coordinator at mayn@fultonmontgomeryny.org or call (518) 725-0641.



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# Second Annual Mountain Bike Festival at Wheelerville Trails Proved to be a Boost to Fulton County Tourism!



PHOTO PROVIDED

BY CARLA KOLBE

## Fulton County Tourism Coordinator

“Of all the paths you take in life, make sure a few of them are dirt.” And Wheelerville Trails, located in the small hamlet of Wheelerville – appropriately named – on NY Route 10 in Caroga Lake, is the perfect venue to do so!

On August 12 and 13, 2023, the second annual Wheelerville Trails Mountain Bike Festival took place, packing in visitors from all over the country. The event promised a wild weekend of two-wheeled fun in the southern Adirondacks, and it delivered.

“Last year’s event (2022) went beyond all expectations, and the dedication of the mountain bike community is truly what brought the festival to the next level,” states Jeremy Manning, Wheelerville Trails Manager. “The summer 2023 event just nailed down the event as a mountain biking destination for riders spanning the country and Canada.”

The 2nd annual Wheelerville Mountain Bike Festival featured the return of the Live Free and Fly Downhill Race, Jump Jam, wheelie competition,

guided rides, skills clinics, food, music and outdoor gear raffle. Wheelerville also introduced new trails, a new skills area for kids and bigger and better jumps.

Some statistics from the event:

- Estimated 1000 people attended the event over the course of two days

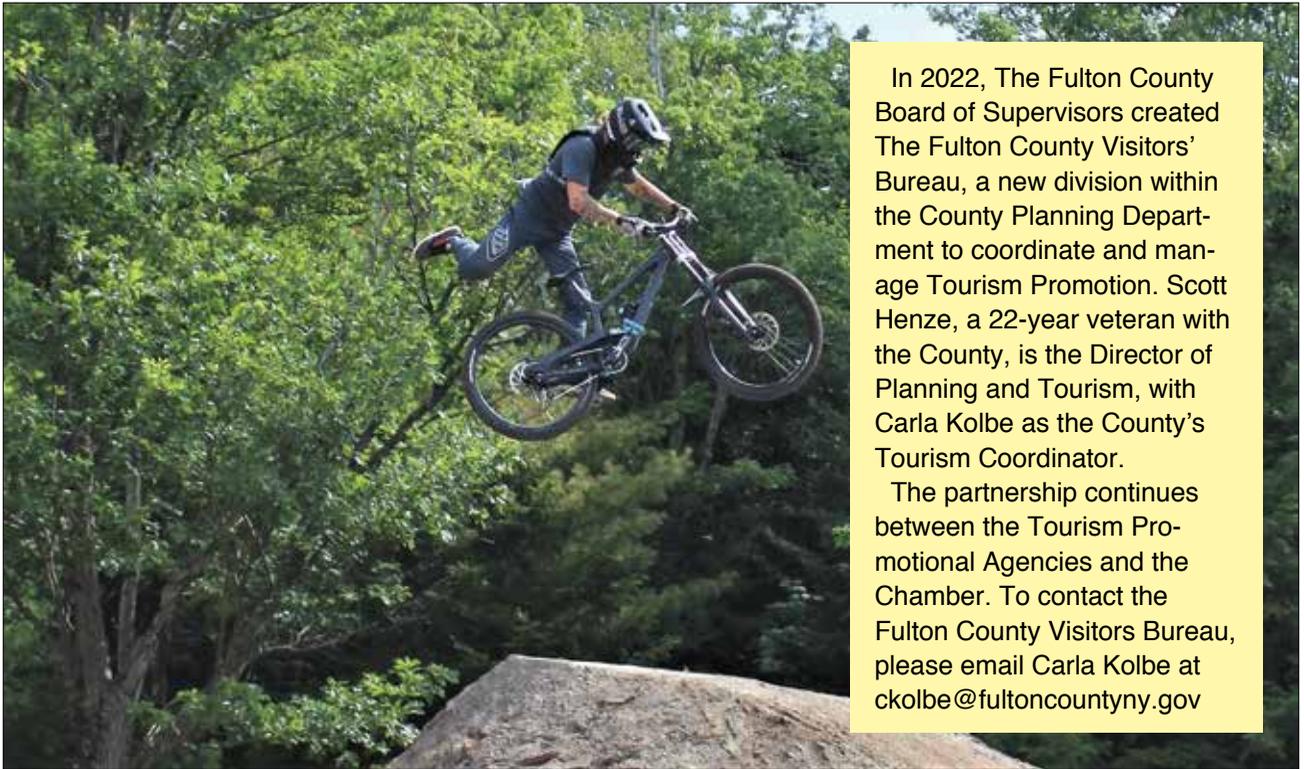
- Dozens of riders participated in the Jump Jam

- 60 participants in the Live Free and Fly Downhill Race: Men’s, Women’s, and Youth divisions

- Local accommodations reported 100% capacity including Caroga Lake Campground, Nick Stoner Inn, and Lakeside Motel Canada Lake. To accommodate overflow, the Royal Mountain Ski Area/Motocross & Supercross facility offered additional camping facilities for the event.

- Due to the success of the event and Wheelerville Trails, Saratoga Shredders Mountain Bike Club (dedicated to getting kids on bikes) will be utilizing Wheelerville Trails as their designated downhill location

In what seems to work well in Fulton County, New York, if you build it, they will come. In 2016, Manning himself was on the Caroga Town Board when



In 2022, The Fulton County Board of Supervisors created The Fulton County Visitors' Bureau, a new division within the County Planning Department to coordinate and manage Tourism Promotion. Scott Henze, a 22-year veteran with the County, is the Director of Planning and Tourism, with Carla Kolbe as the County's Tourism Coordinator.

The partnership continues between the Tourism Promotional Agencies and the Chamber. To contact the Fulton County Visitors Bureau, please email Carla Kolbe at [ckolbe@fultoncountyny.gov](mailto:ckolbe@fultoncountyny.gov)

PHOTO PROVIDED

### **A participant at the second annual Wheelerville Trails Mountain Bike Festival.**

they were discussing expanding outdoor recreation opportunities. With a 116-acre parcel of land purchased by the town specifically for outdoor recreational use in 1961, Manning, an avid mountain biker himself, worked with members of the local mountain bike community and professional trail builders to develop the plan. Knowing himself the distances mountain bikers would travel, Manning could envision the draw to the small Adirondack town's economy and tourism.

Through the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Smart Growth Funding, and a collaboration with the Adirondack Foothills Trails Alliance, the Town of Caroga and the Fulton County Planning Department, Wheelerville Trails began constructing trails in June of 2020.

"I never imagined it would be what it is today," says Manning. "We have riders from all over the country and Canada. It's taken on its own life. The vision of our talented trail-building team, combined with support from the Town of Caroga is truly responsible for making this place what it is."

Fulton County Chairman of the Board of Supervisors and Caroga Town Supervisor Scott Horton admits he is astounded at how quickly Wheelerville Trails has made such a big impact.

"Just over three years ago we didn't even have a shovel in the ground, and in such a short time this has evolved into one of the premier downhill mountain bike trails in the northeast," said Horton.

Horton reflected about the 2022 premier festival that brought in hundreds and secured key vendors to the site.

"The weekend events were packed with awe, excitement and adventure whether you were a participant or spectator on both Saturday and Sunday. The Live Free and Fly Downhill Race, Jump Jam, wheelie competition consumed the first day of the event. Day two hosted the opening of Michael Morreale Tribute Trail with a morning ceremony and revealed the new Wheelerville Skills Park. Both days offered exhibitions, skills clinics, trail riding, food and outdoor gear raffle opportunities to keep participants and spectators engaged for a full weekend."

Miles of expert, intermediate and newer novice trails can be experienced at Wheelerville Trails, with new additions, expansions in progress and slated for the future. On September 9, 2023, they hosted their first ever Wheelerville Enduro race event. The inaugural enduro race was the first of its kind in the Adirondacks, where riders competed on their favorite downhill trails at Wheelerville. The Enduro Race also packed in participants from all over the country.

With the exception of the trails closing in late fall and early spring with mud seasons, this is a year-round recreation park open free to the public. During the winter months, Wheelerville Trails are open and kept busy with fat biking. Visit, [www.wheelervilletrails.com/](http://www.wheelervilletrails.com/) or Fulton County Tourism at [www.44lakes.com](http://www.44lakes.com) for more information.

# These Businesses believe in our Chamber and in our region!

These great businesses in our region have been members of the Chamber for over 40 years! These businesses are some of the most successful and invest in our region in a number of significant ways, not the least of which is Chamber membership! Some of them have changed names, locations, or ownership since they first joined our Chamber, but one thing hasn't changed – their support and importance to our communities and our region!

We want to tell you something about our longest-tenured members here and thank them for their continued support of the Chamber and of our region!

**GABRIEL CONTRACTORS OF AMSTERDAM** – member since January, 1966 – 57 years!  
382 Truax Road, Amsterdam, NY 12010  
(518) 842-7547  
[gabrielpaving.net/](http://gabrielpaving.net/)

Gabriel Contractors offers a number of services to businesses and residents in our region – asphalt paving, seal coating, concrete, excavation and demolition and snow plowing and removal. They offer free estimating services on any size project. Gabriel Contractors has been accredited by the Better Business Bureau since February 2, 2001 and they currently have an A+ rating from the group. The business equates a lot of its success to its team of estimators, operating personnel and consulting technicians who are trained to estimate and construct each project as if it were their own. Gabriel Contracting's number one priority is to obtain and maintain a loyal following by providing customers with high-quality work no matter what size the job.

**MCDONALD'S OF JOHNSTOWN** – member since September 1972 – 51 years!  
200 N. Comrie Avenue, Johnstown, NY 12095  
(518) 762-4961  
[mcdonalds.com](http://mcdonalds.com)

McDonald's of Johnstown is one of 13 restaurants owned by Josef Gialil. His other McDonald's restaurants are located all over the Fulton/Montgomery Region and the Capital Region of New York, including restaurants in Gloversville and Amsterdam. Gialil's restaurants were the first to offer kiosk service in the Capital Region, and have raised money for not-for-profit organizations throughout the region.

**BROWN'S FORD OF JOHNSTOWN** – member since November 1972 – 51 years!  
121 N. Comrie Avenue, Johnstown, NY 12095  
(518) 762-4609 | [brownsford.com](http://brownsford.com)

Brown's Ford is not only the Fulton Montgomery Region's premier Ford dealer, but can also lay claim to being the same for the entire Mohawk Valley of New York! They make it their mission to provide you with an experience unlike any other car dealership. They are your one stop shop for all your car needs!

The Johnstown Brown's Ford dealership was the first for the family, followed by Brown's Ford of Amsterdam and then Brown's Collision and Coachworks, also in Amsterdam. At Brown's Ford, they have devoted themselves to helping and serving their customers to the best of their ability. Whether you're looking for a new Ford truck for sale to get you through

**Additional Chamber members who have 40+ years of membership in the Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce – Thank You for investing in the Chamber and in our region!**

your daily commute or a Ford Bronco for family road trips, their expert staff will help you find what you’re looking for!

**W.E.S.T. & CO., C.P.A.s, P.C.** – member since November 1973 – 50 years!  
 97 N. Main Street,  
 Gloversville, NY 12078  
 (518) 725-7127  
 www.westcpapc.com

WEST & Company has been counseling businesses and their executives in all aspects of financial management for years. They place great emphasis on communication and planning. Most of their clients use them as a sounding board to discuss a wide variety of financial and organizational issues.

In each aspect of their practice, from basic accounting and auditing services to preparation for not-for-profit organizations, corporations, and individuals, they ensure their clients are in compliance with current regulatory requirements. They offer each client the opportunity for year-round counseling in all areas of financial management.

They hold their firm to the highest standards of quality control, including participating in the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants’ Peer Review Program since its inception and each time having received an unqualified opinion – the highest level of opinion for accounting firms. The firm and their certified public accountants are all members of the American Institute of Certified Public Accounts and the New York State Society of Certified Public Accountants.

Fulton-Montgomery Community College (Johnstown) ....	49
Ruby & Quiri (Johnstown/Amsterdam) .....	49
Holiday Inn Johnstown-Gloversville .....	49
Wood, Seward & McGuire & Sacco, LLP (Gloversville) ....	49
National Grid (region-wide) .....	49
Castiglione Gem Jewelers (Gloversville).....	49
Law Offices of Heidi A. Gifford (Gloversville) .....	49
NBT Bank – Gloversville Financial Center .....	49
Kingsboro Lumber Co. (Gloversville) .....	49
Betz, Rossi, Bellinger & Stewart (Gloversville).....	49
Livingston’s Furniture & Mattress Co. (Gloversville) .....	49
Peck’s Lake Enterprises, Inc. ....	49
Letter Memorial Co. (Gloversville).....	49
SWANY America Corp. (Gloversville) .....	49
C. T. Male Associates, P.C. (Johnstown).....	49
Stewart’s Shops (region-wide) .....	48
KeyBank – Gloversville .....	48
Apollo Northeast Sales and Service (Johnstown) .....	48
First Presbyterian Church (Johnstown) .....	47
United Way of the Greater Capital Region (Montgomery County).....	47
Keymark Corporation (Fonda).....	47
Kasson & Keller, Inc. (Fonda) .....	47
Canada Lake Store and Marine .....	46
Salmon Law Firm, PLLC (Amsterdam).....	45
Noble ACE Hardware (Johnstown) .....	45
Fulmont Mutual Insurance Company (Johnstown).....	45
SF Fabrics, LLC (Johnstown).....	44
Romana’s Pizzeria (Johnstown).....	43
Bornt Waste & Metal (Gloversville) .....	43
Nathan Littauer Hospital & Nursing Home (Gloversville) ....	43
Greater Amsterdam School District.....	42
Gloversville Palace Diner .....	41
Santos Construction (Amsterdam) .....	41
Palmer Pharmacy (Johnstown) .....	41
Brown Coach (Amsterdam) .....	40
Joyce Royal Real Estate (Gloversville) .....	40
Jankowski Agency, Inc. (Broadalbin) .....	40
Shrine of Our Lady of Martyrs (Fultonville).....	40
The Arc Lexington (Fulton County) .....	40

# Community Development Block Grant Microenterprise Grant Program

Own a small business or looking at a start up? The CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) Microenterprise Grant Program is a grant program to assist small businesses. The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program supports community development activities to build stronger and more resilient communities. This grant was awarded to Fulton County and is being administered by the Fulton County Center for Regional Growth (FCCRG). Small businesses can receive grants of up to \$25,000 to assist with startup or expansion costs, which create jobs.

Grants are available only to microenterprises, defined as a commercial enterprise with five or fewer employees at the time of application. Grant funding must result in the creation of at least one full-time job. In the case of a low- to moderate-income business owner, the owner can qualify as the one full-time position created by owning the business.

The minimum grant for each business is \$5,000, plus \$10,000 additional for each full-time equivalent job created, up to a maximum of \$25,000. Grant recipients are required to invest 10 percent equity in their projects.

Grants can be used for capital assets such as real estate, buildings, machinery and equipment as well as working capital. It cannot be used for construction, building rehabilitation or renovation, or for passive investing.

The grant program is designed to set small business owners up for success, so it includes an entrepreneurial training requirement. The cost of \$100.00 per attendee will be an eligible expense of microenterprise grant funds. The next set of classes is scheduled in January of 2024.

The training program is a 12-hour course given

## MICROENTERPRISE GRANTS IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY

The Montgomery County Business Development Center administers CDBG Microenterprise Grants for microenterprises and eligible agricultural entrepreneurs and business owners in Montgomery County.

For information please contact:

(518) 853-8334

Vinnie Nicosia: [vnicosia2@co.Montgomery.ny.us](mailto:vnicosia2@co.Montgomery.ny.us)

Karl Gustafson: [kgustafson1@co.Montgomery.ny.us](mailto:kgustafson1@co.Montgomery.ny.us)

Alex Kuttesch: [akuttesch@co.Montgomery.ny.us](mailto:akuttesch@co.Montgomery.ny.us)

[www.montgomerycountyworks.com](http://www.montgomerycountyworks.com)

in four modules. The course provides attendees with a comprehensive look at what it takes to run a small business profitably and effectively. The classes cover legal and employee issues, marketing, branding, e-commerce, social media, recordkeeping, finances, accounting, taxes, and how to develop a business plan. “We bring in specialists like lawyers, Department of Labor advisors, accountants, and business advisors,” said Kenneth Adamczyk, Economic Development Specialist at the FCCRG.” The classes help them grow their business.” Classes are open to anyone, regardless of whether or not you may be applying for the grant.

In addition, attendees finish the course with a host of resources to use when problems arise. “A small business is very difficult to run,” Adamczyk said. “When a problem pops up, they have somebody they can go to rather than just being out there and going it alone.”

### Microenterprise Grant Training Agenda

**Day 1:** Introduction & Business Basics

**Day 2:** Marketing, Advertising & Social Media

**Day 3:** Business Accounting, Finance and Taxes

**Day 4:** Developing a Business Plan and How to Be Successful

For details or additional information, please contact Economic Development Specialist, Kenneth Adamczyk at [kena@fccrg.org](mailto:kena@fccrg.org) or at 518-725-7700 ext. 1002. More information can be found at [www.fccrg.org/financing/cdbg-microenterprise-grant-program/](http://www.fccrg.org/financing/cdbg-microenterprise-grant-program/)

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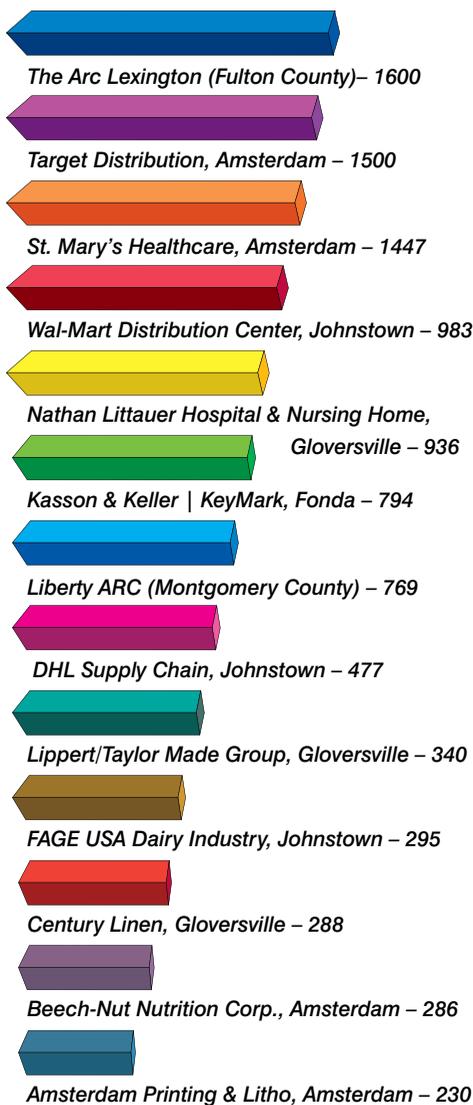
518-842-3281

# FULTON MONTGOMERY COUNTIES – REGION PROFILE

The region’s economy features commercial, agricultural, retail, industrial, warehousing and distribution, transportation, food manufacturing, and other businesses in various categories.

**POPULATION: Total 143,704**  
**Fulton County – 52,669**  
**City of Gloversville – 15,068**  
**City of Johnstown – 8,157**  
**Montgomery County – 49,623**  
**City of Amsterdam – 18,187 (via US Census Bureau)**  
**LAND AREA in square miles: 898.51**  
**Fulton County – 495.47**  
**Montgomery County – 403.04**  
**PERSONS PER SQUARE MILE:**  
**Fulton County – 107.6**  
**Montgomery County – 122.9**  
**TOTAL NUMBER OF FIRMS: 6,283**

## MAJOR PRIVATE SECTOR EMPLOYERS (# of employees)



## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES

**Fulton Montgomery**  
**Regional Chamber of Commerce**  
 2 N. Main Street, Gloversville, NY 12078  
[www.fultonmontgomeryny.org](http://www.fultonmontgomeryny.org) • (518) 725-0641

**Fulton County Center for Regional Growth**  
 34 W. Fulton Street, Gloversville, NY 12078  
[www.fccrg.org](http://www.fccrg.org) • (518) 725-7700

**Fulton County Industrial Development Agency**  
 1 E. Montgomery Street, Johnstown, NY 12095  
[www.fcida.org](http://www.fcida.org) • (518) 736-5660

**Montgomery County**  
**Business Development Center**  
 9 Park Street, Fonda, NY 12068  
[www.mcbdc.org](http://www.mcbdc.org) • (518) 853-8334

## COST OF LIVING

**Median Housing Prices (via Zillow):**  
**Fulton County - \$192,160**  
**Montgomery County - \$180,209**  
**Median Rental Cost in Fulton County –**  
**2 BR - \$815 (rentdata.org)**  
**Median Rental Cost in Montgomery County –**  
**2 BR - \$845 (rentdata.org)**

## SALES TAXES

**County = 8% (Fulton County and Montgomery Counties)**  
**State Sales Tax = 4%**

## OCCUPATIONS OF RESIDENTS (U.S. Census Bureau)

**The most common employment sectors for those who live in Fulton County are (24,881 workers):**

- Health Care & Social Assistance (18.6%)
- Retail Trade (13.3%)
- Manufacturing (11.2%)
- Construction (6.46%)
- Public Administration (6.22%)
- Other Services, except for Public Administration (5.58%)
- Accommodation & Food Services (5.55%)
- Transportation & Warehousing (4.88%)
- Administrative Supports & Waste Management Services (3.73%)
- Professional, Scientific & Technical Services (3.52%)

## OCCUPATIONS OF RESIDENTS (U.S. Census Bureau)

**The most common employment sectors for those who live in Montgomery County are (22,235 workers):**

- Health Care & Social Assistance (17.6%)
- Manufacturing (15.1%)
- Retail Trade (10.7%)
- Construction (6.62%)
- Public Administration (6.41%)
- Transportation & Warehousing (6.38%)
- Other Services, except Public Administration (5.97%)
- Accommodation & Food Services (5.25%)
- Professional, Scientific & Technical Services (3.67%)
- Finance & Insurance (2.86%)



# Care Close to **Home**

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[smha.org](https://www.smha.org)