Forum Cites Prescription for Progress

Despite a snowy morning, more than 225 members attended the 30th Annual Economic Forum on March 15th at the Clarion Inn, and heard views of a panel of leading local executives. This year’s Economic Forum made compelling cases for the region’s potential to capture a new wave of sustained prosperity.

Moderated by Jeanne Eschbach, Executive Director Workforce Education & Academic Pathways at SUNY Corning Community College, the program featured a diversified panel of leaders from Finance, Manufacturing, Housing & Development, and Healthcare. The forum is hosted by Southern Tier Economic Growth and the Chamber. Each panelist highlighted their impact, and prosperity for the Southern Tier.

Scott Beecher, President & CEO of Ward Diesel Filter Systems, described their products, which are designed to help mitigate harmful exposures and issues for members of the fire and EMS industries. Ward Diesel participates in many advocacy aspects within the fire industry as well as local, state and national government. He also provided an overview of his family of companies, purchased with several other manufacturing companies and including BOSS Security & Automation, BEST Corporate Park, Ward Apparatus and others.

Susan Bull, President & CEO of Arbor Housing & Development showed members the exciting projects that are currently underway in Elmira. Susan gave members a Project Lifecycle which shows the steps that are involved from site identification to post-development. She also shared the timeline of the Reynolds Way Apartments and renderings for 310 Academy Place, 319 William, 406 E. Church Street, and 416 E. Church Street. Available, and quality housing allows employers to attract and retain diverse employees at all levels.

Edward Holzlein, VP of Operations, North America for CAF USA spoke about recent projects with included trains to Maryland, Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Houston and Kansas City. Ed also talked about the new Capital Project, the Boston Green Line which is expected to start in spring of 2024. Ed also discussed workforce development initiatives and visions to recruit, train, and retain the more than 400 jobs that are expected for final assembly on these Capital Projects in the next 18-months.

Jessica Renner, VP, Enterprise Strategy & Chief Risk Officer Regional President, Southern Tier Region of Excellus BlueCross BlueShield gave insight on COVID-19 impacts from a Health Plan perspective as well as new features of Employee Benefits such as virtual access during work hours, and Whole Person Care including addressing social services. Jessica also discussed employers adjusting business models to account for remote employees, and talent retention with increased investments in employee benefits, and also addressed health equity which increasing access to care at lower expense through remote patient monitoring, and telemedicine.
Harris Hill Heralds the Arrival of Spring!

Locals know spring has officially arrived in Chemung County when gliders begin to fill the skies over Harris Hill. Weather permitting, sailplane rides will be available on Saturdays and Sundays from 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. beginning in April, and daily from mid-June through Labor Day. Fall rides will resume on weekends after Labor Day and continue through October.

Harris Hill Soaring is one of the oldest and largest glider clubs in the country, and among the first to offer rides to the public. Gliders are towed to an altitude of approximately 4,000 feet above sea level before being released to soar silently over the breathtaking views of the S. Finger Lakes. Rides last 15-20 minutes and cost $140. Passenger weight limit is 245 lbs. as dictated by FAA safety regulations. Passengers are flown in a high-performance two-seat glider, with room for a single passenger and pilot. The runway is located next to the National Soaring Museum, which houses the world’s largest glider collection. For more information, go to www.harrishillsoaring.org & www.soaringmuseum.org.

Harris Hill Amusement Park to Launch 76th Season

Also opening this month is Harris Hill Amusement Park. The park will welcome visitors on Monday-Friday from 5:00 p.m.– 8:00 p.m., and Saturday & Sunday from noon—8:00 p.m., starting April 10. Daily hours of noon-8:00 p.m. will begin mid-June and continue through Labor Day weekend. A longtime local favorite, the park first got its start in 1947, and offers kiddy rides, putt-putt, go-karts, golf driving range, batting cages, an arcade, and the original soda bar! For more information, go to harrishillamusements.com.

Clemens Center to host Fundraising Gala

The Clemens Center will host its annual Backstage Pass Gala, on Saturday, April 22 from 6:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. The event offers guests a chance to enjoy an exclusive behind-the-scenes look at the theatre while helping raise funds to support and sustain its historic venue and the performing arts community programming. This year’s event goal is to raise $70,000 and will include heavy hors d’oeuvres, cash bar, exclusive backstage tours, live entertainment by Mentalist Christopher Grace, live and silent auctions, wine pull, and will wrap with a dance party and dessert. Both VIP and General Event Admission tickets are being offered and can be purchased at https://bit.ly/BPG23Tix.

Original Roller Coaster Cart to Return to Eldridge Park

Thanks to the students at GCT BOCES Conservation & Auto Body class, an original Speedway Roller Coaster cart from Eldridge Park will soon be added to the park’s museum collection. The Speedway Coaster is still remembered fondly by many in the community. Formerly located in the center of the park, the wooden coaster was a highlight attraction at Eldridge from 1937 to 1983, measuring 1,900 feet long and 53 feet high. The three-car trains were propelled by a chain lift system and thrilled riders for a ride that lasted a minute and a half. The cart is set to be ready for display this summer.
Alicia Fellows Has Been Named Executive Director for Person Centered Services.

Fellows’ appointment follows Bridget Bartolone, former CEO of Person Centered Services, who announced her departure in 2022. At that time, Fellows was appointed Interim Executive Director by the Board of Managers effective November 30, 2022.

“We couldn't be more pleased with the future direction planned for Person Centered Services and for Alicia to lead our organization in further developing and executing these plans to advance how we serve those with intellectual and developmental disabilities,” said Rhonda Frederick, President of the Board of Managers. “Therefore, our Board of Managers voted unanimously for her to lead Person Centered Services as its permanent Executive Director.”

Alicia has been with Person Centered Services since its inception in 2018 and served as Chief Operating Officer before becoming the Interim Executive Director. Prior to that Alicia helped develop the pilot program created to test the Care Coordination model eventually adopted. She has been in the field serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities for 23 years.

“I'm humbled and honored for this opportunity to lead our organization and its incredibly talented team of professionals dedicated to the mission of helping those with intellectual and developmental disabilities reach their potential. A mission that has long been near and dear to my heart,” said Fellows.

As a Care Coordination Organization, Person Centered Services’ mission is to connect people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to the care, support and opportunities that maximize their quality of life. Person Centered Services Care Coordinators work closely with its experienced partners throughout the region to provide the best connections, programs and supports, including its 26 agency owners and all other agencies in its service area that provide programming.

Person Centered Services provides Care Coordination for over 17,000 people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in 18 counties, reaching throughout the Western New York, Finger Lakes, and Southern Tier regions.
Appleridge Spring Fashion Show 2023

Appleridge Senior Living brings a new event to the community on Wednesday, April 19th from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Join them for their first annual Spring Fashion Show fundraiser to benefit Bampa’s House Comfort Care Home in Corning. Enjoy a fashionable luncheon featuring delicious chef-prepared cuisine, and lively conversation.

Appleridge residents, and community members will be modeling the latest spring trends. Featuring apparel by Talbots of Horseheads and fine jewelry from Ray Jewelers of Elmira.

Tickets are on sale now and are $15 for Appleridge residents and $20 for the public. Accepting cash or check. Pick-up tickets at Appleridge Senior Living, 168 Miller St. Horseheads.

For more information, please call 607-767-6190 or visit their event page at: www.appleridgeseniorliving.com/events.

SUNY CCC Visiting Scholar Series to Feature Dr. Meg Lowman

SUNY Corning Community College has announced Margaret “Meg” Lowman, Ph.D., as the 2023 Walter R. Smith Visiting Scholar Series speaker. A renowned conservationist and native of Elmira, New York, Dr. Lowman is the author of The Arbornaut: Exploring the 8th Continent in the Trees Above Us, an illustrated memoir that details four decades of her exploration of the vast abundance of life found in forest canopies.

Dr. Lowman, known affectionately throughout the world as “Canopy Meg,” is a global pioneer in forest canopy ecology. She is one of the world’s foremost “arbornauts” — someone who explores and studies the vast forest canopies that makeup what Dr. Lowman has termed the Earth’s “eighth continent.”

A tireless educator, strong advocate for girls, women, and minorities in science, Meg has published numerous books, is a sustainability advisor, contributes to boards, and speaks widely and frequently to diverse groups, schools, and international symposiums and conferences.

She has been nicknamed “the real-life Lorax” (from Dr. Seuss) by National Geographic and “Einstein of the treetops” by the Wall Street Journal.

The 2023 Walter R. Smith Visiting Scholar Series will take place on Tuesday, April 25 at 7:00 p.m. Dr. Lowman will give a 60-minute presentation, followed by a Q&A, and a book signing.

This event is free and open to the public. Registration is required. Those interested in attending can register online at www.corning-cc.edu.
Cayuga Health System Named Presenting Sponsor of Finger Lakes Wine Festival

A well-known family-oriented health system has been named the new presenting sponsor of a popular Western New York festival at Watkins Glen International as the Finger Lakes Wine Festival Presented by Cayuga Health System will return July 8-9, 2023, the track announced.

Cayuga Health has served as the Official Wellness Partner for Watkins Glen International since 2017 and is already the presenting sponsor of the Walking Trail at Watkins Glen International.

“Cayuga Health is not only a great neighbor to us at WGI, but also a great partner,” said WGI President Michael Printup. “We have a unique relationship that allows us to take advantage of the acreage and ancillary events at the track to promote health, wellness, and fun throughout the season here.”

The Finger Lakes Wine Festival Presented by Cayuga Health System is a destination event, featuring camping, music, and 90-plus wine and artisan food vendors from across New York State.

“Cayuga Health continues to be grateful for our partnership with Watkins Glen International and the opportunity to be part of the Finger Lakes Wine Festival,” shared Martin Stallone, MD, CEO of Cayuga Health System. “WGI is an integral part of the communities we serve and this is a marquee event. Both are reasons we are pleased to offer our support.”

Fans can check out ticket and camping options for the Finger Lakes Wine Festival Presented by Cayuga Health System at flwinefest.com.
Finn Academy Receives 5-Year Charter Renewal

Finn Academy, a tuition-free public charter school in Elmira, has been granted a full five-year charter renewal by the State University of New York Board of Trustees Committee on Charter Schools. The extension follows the school’s submission of a renewal application in August 2022, which was followed by an on-site visit by a team of SUNY officials.

"The full accreditation is proof Finn Academy is moving in the right direction", said board Chair Renee Sutton. "It's testimony to some extremely hard work done by the school community," Sutton said. "We put together a plan to make sure we were meeting the needs of students with disabilities and those who are economically disadvantaged."

Finn Academy opened in September 2015 at the former Ernie Davis Middle School, 610 Lake St. in Elmira, with a reported first-day enrollment of 212 for kindergarten through third grade. Today, the campus educates students kindergarten through sixth grade, and has a current enrollment of 345.

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BUSINESS AFTER BUSINESS RECEPTION

Food and Door Prizes
Come see our new Event Space!

THURSDAY, April 20
5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

409 WILLIAM ST
ELMIRA, NY 14901
607.734.9535
mealsonwheelschemung.org

To Register visit the chemungchamber.org or call 734-5137

Volunteer Opportunities Available
32nd Annual Chemung County Senior Games

Senior Games is an annual sporting, fitness, and fun event held every year. Over 400 athletes aged 50 and over compete in a variety of events including golf, bocce, bowling, volleyball, archery, softball, and pickleball. Events are divided into 8 age brackets, with medals awarded to the top three finishers in each age group. The 2023 Senior Games event will take place May 23 - June 16, 2023.

The Chemung County Senior Games highlight the active life of people over the age of 50. Our participants exercise regularly, and some train all year long. They work with an alliance of partners in the field of health promotion and education to encourage health through exercise, physical activity, nutrition, and positive lifestyle choices. The Games represent a collaborative public/private effort that would not be possible without the commitment of numerous volunteers, as well as the Department of Aging and Long Term Care staff, partners, and private sponsors.

Registration forms are available online at [www.chemungcountyny.gov](http://www.chemungcountyny.gov). The entry fee is $10.00. There is an additional charge for Archery, Bowling, Golf, and the Field Day/Picnic. Please see the registration form for costs. A $5.00 fee will be added for the last minute day of event registrations. First 500 paid applications will receive a Senior Games T-shirt. For more information, please contact the Department of Aging and Long Term Care at (607) 737-5520.

Small Business Week

The Chemung County Chamber of Commerce will celebrate Small Business Week May 1 - 5 with a series of fun, and educational events, celebrations, and more. The week will begin with an Opening Ceremony complete with ribbon cutting, and some special announcements. A breakfast exclusively for small business owners/managers will also be featured, as well a social media challenge, and a Small Business Celebration event with awards. Excellus BlueCross BlueShield, Visions Federal Credit Union, and Gough Holding Company are the sponsors of the week’s events. Visit [www.chemungchamber.org/smallbusinessweek](http://www.chemungchamber.org/smallbusinessweek) for details as they become available. We look forward to celebrating with you.

Sponsorship Opportunities are Available

Each year, the Chemung County Chamber of Commerce Chamber produces an assortment of events throughout the year that provide an effective way for your business to gain access to targeted audiences. Event sponsorships are valuable options to gain exposure, attend events with your colleagues, and support the advancement of our community. When you engage with the Chamber, you become part of a genuine community of people dedicated to business and personal success in and around Chemung County. We’ve created an annual guidebook of our events, and programming to give members and investors the chance to identify sponsorship opportunities that align with the audiences, and topics that matter most to you in support of your business objectives. We can also create a tailored plan to meet your specific needs and ensure a year-round return on investment.

For more information, or to find out how you can sponsor a Chamber signature event, please visit [www.chemungchamber.org/sponsorship-opportunities/](http://www.chemungchamber.org/sponsorship-opportunities/)
Dear Members,

It is safe to say that Spring has arrived – maybe? Which means that the County will witness an increase in activity, both on the business side and community event side. Looking back to the month of March, I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate and thank our dynamic roster of speakers who participated in the Economic Forum for an informative presentation, and sharing their time and talents with our business community. Also, a very big thank you to our sponsors and business members who attended. I was a little worried with the snow.

Also in March, the 2nd Annual Chemung Restaurant Week dished out delicious meals from March 24th-April 2nd. Thank you to our participating restaurants, and to the positive advertising and media support that the Chamber received during the week. Our members can still check out the creative commercials from the Chamber team, and Dusty Hewit from Long Run Communications on our social media pages. Which is a gentle reminder to follow Chemung Chamber on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn and please remind your team members to sign up for our monthly newsletter and weekly e-mail blasts.

On March 23rd, The Chamber hosted a Business After Business for Glove House, which was planned by one of our Leadership Chemung participants. What a wonderful night to be reminded the history of Glove House and the importance the organization plays in our community to our most vulnerable youth. Through Business After Business, Public Affairs and Business Education Roundtable committee – the Chamber team continues to advocate fostering partnerships, and collaborations between our member businesses. We are fully engaged with leadership in Chemung County, along with all our members and we are focused on building these relationships – as we all do better by doing better for each other. So, we encourage our members to attend our networking events. Next stop - April 20th at Meals at Wheels.

Events coming up: Small Business Week - series of fun and educational events, celebrations, and more, several Business After Businesses and the 35th Annual James V. Clune Memorial Golf Tournament on August 4th. All these programs/events have sponsorship/advertising opportunities for our members to leverage advertising, and marketing opportunities. The Chamber sponsorship booklet is now available online at chemungchamber.org/sponsorship-opportunities/. Also, the Chamber has advertising opportunities for our monthly newsletter.

Speaking of events/programs, the Chamber is always looking for new committee members for several of our initiatives. If you want to make a difference in Chemung County - please share your talents and voice to an established organization like your chamber.

We are grateful for the support of our members and generous sponsors who helped make our events/programs possible, and we look forward to continuing to connect throughout the year. And finally, if you have any ideas – or innovative solutions to common business challenges, or just want to chat, please feel free to email me at jennifer@chemungchamber.org

Sincerely,
Jennifer Herrick-McGonigal
President
To view the full calendar of events, programming, or to register, please visit: www.chemungchamber.org

**April 20**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 20**

**REDUCING THE CARBON FOOTPRINT OF YOUR BUSINESS**

WEBINAR with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Chemung County

10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. | Free for Members

**April 20**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 20**

**MEALS ON WHEELS**

**BUSINESS AFTER BUSINESS RECEPTION**

409 William Street | Elmira, New York 14901

5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. | $5 Members

**April 28**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 28**

**PROPOSED SEXUAL HARASSMENT PREVENTION POLICY UPDATES**

WEBINAR with Barclay Damon

10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. | Free for Members

**May 1**

**MONDAY, MAY 1**

**LEadership Building**

**IN-PERSON SEMINAR** with Clinical Associates

Chemung County Chamber of Commerce

400 East Church Street, Elmira

*Lower Level Boardroom*

10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. | Free for Members

**May 4**

**THURSDAY, MAY 4**

**Leadership Chemung Commencement**

*PLEASE JOIN US IN CELEBRATING THE GRADUATION OF THE CLASS OF 2022-2023!*

Elmira Country Club

1538 West Church Street | 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

$30 per person (includes breakfast buffet)

Table of 6 $180 | Table of 8 $240

Presenting Sponsor

[Logo]

Chemung Canal Trust Company
**Recent Events**

**Glove House**

*Business After Business Reception | Thursday, March 23rd*

Dr. Keith McGriff, President of Glove House, welcomes more than 50 Chamber members that attended Glove House Business After Business Reception at the Clarion Inn Elmira.

**American Freight**

*Ribbon Cutting Reception | Friday, March 3rd*

Andrea Johnson (center) cuts the ribbon at American Freight store located at 1020 Center Street in Horseheads for their grand opening.

**Roundin' Third Sports Grill**

255 West Water Street
Elmira, NY 14901
(607) 733-0199

**The Starlight Room**

3018 Lake Road
Elmira NY 14903
(607) 733-3333

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Tioga Downs Casino

**Stay Connected!**

Join our email list to stay updated on events, news, webinars & seminars, and more!

www.chemungchamber.org/join-our-email-list