New Chair Gensel Cites Priorities

Chamber Chair James (Jamie) Gensel of Fagan Engineers & Land Surveyors launched his administration at the Annual Meeting on February 2nd with acknowledgment, ambition, and goals to help make Chemung County and the Southern Tier more equitable and inclusive. “Coming back to Elmira after graduation spurred me to do what I could to increase the quality of life for our area.” Said Jamie Gensel. Adding “I wanted to make it more attractive to retain our best and brightest. I volunteered at many great local organizations and learned from many of you in this room, the pillars of the community. I advocated and worked on various projects to help bring more to our area, assisted in developing long-range plans for our municipalities, and worked on grants to assist our community in obtaining the resources necessary to leverage private investment. These shared goals are why I joined the Chamber Board in 2016.”

Mr. Gensel cited areas he is interested in developing while Chair of the Chamber. In random order, the priorities cited by Mr. Gensel were:

- Investing locally. According to Forbes, buying local pledges: create jobs, enhances diversity, strengthens local networks, boosts environmental sustainability, and increases real estate values. Locally owned businesses recirculate a far greater percentage of revenue locally, which is one of the easiest ways businesses and municipalities can boost our economy.

- Advocacy. No single factor impacts members’ bottom line more than the government. Working with City, State, and federal levels, as well as our partners in the Southern Tier to continue to shape policies, ideas, and opportunities to improve the business environment.

- Workforce Development. The Chamber and its partners will continue cultivating the vital dialogue between local business and education community members. As we navigate Workforce Development and Skills Training issues in the Southern Tier Region to develop the workforce of the future, we will continue to be the conduit between business and education to insure the success of the Southern Tier, and beyond.

Mr. Gensel closed his remarks with an optimistic message to members, “I am excited for the future of our County. I, along with our Executive Committee, as well as the full Board of Directors, are committed to being of service to our community and to find new ways to continue to deliver value to our members and engage with new stakeholders.”
Automated Events Calendar

From family-friendly happenings, to festivals, to live music, to farm markets, Chemung County has an abundance of things to do throughout the year, and finding out the details has never been easier.

The Chemung Chamber is happy to announce an automated event calendar has been added to its tourism website at www.marktwaincountry.com. The new calendar pulls tourist-friendly events across the county from a variety of digital sites, including Facebook, EventBrite, Google, and more, so it’s always robust and up-to-date. The mobile-friendly calendar also allows easy access to GPS directions.

Event Calendars are typically the most visited page on a destination's website, and an engaging and easy to use calendar makes it a breeze for tourists and locals to find things to do without searching. In addition, it also offers local attractions another way to help promote their events with no additional cost.

Community members are encouraged to check out the calendar to keep current on community happenings. Attractions hosting events of interest to tourists and the general public are encouraged to be certain their events are listed, or to submit them through the website for consideration.

Farm to Table Restaurant Comes to Horseheads

After success as a food truck offering food made with fresh, regionally sourced ingredients, Ella's Acres Homestead Kitchen has opened a restaurant at Arnot Mall to better serve their growing followers who often travel long distances to experience new foods and combinations.

Co-owners Markus Brown and his wife, Samantha Hernandez's dream was to provide a scratch dining option based on fresh ingredients sourced from the growing bounty of the Finger Lakes Region. The ever-changing menu is determined by what area farmers have in season, ensuring patrons a variety of new tastes to explore.

Ella's is open for dine-in or take-out on Fridays & Saturdays from 11:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m., and on Sundays from 11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. You can learn about current menus at the Ella's Acres Facebook page or by calling (607) 333-5531.

History Museum to Host 14th Annual Taste of Downtown Benefit

The Taste of Downtown, a premier downtown Elmira event, will be held on Thursday, March 30 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Chemung Valley History Museum in Elmira, and will feature live music by Elmira's own K@T & Keef Beats. The event serves as the primary fundraiser for the Elmira Street Painting Festival, which has been coordinated by Elmira Downtown Development since its inception in 2008.

Now in its 16th year, the Elmira Street Painting Festival began as a humble hope that has evolved into a regional celebration of art, music, and food. The weekend-long event brings awareness of the restaurants, services, and retail in downtown Elmira while supporting the art community. This year's event will take place on July 14-16 and will launch on Friday night with live music at an Alive After 5 events.
Girls on the Run of the Southern Tier Spring 2023 Season

The Girls on the Run of the Southern Tier Council, a community collaboration led by the Steuben Rural Health Network at The Institute for Human Services, Inc., would like to announce that the 2023 Spring Season is quickly approaching—HURRY! there is still time to register! The spring 2023 season kicks off the week of March 6th and will run twice a week for 10 weeks, with a 5K Celebration on Sunday, June 4th at Haverling High School Track (Bath Central School District), to commemorate the completion of the season – highlighting that the finish line is just the beginning!

Girls on the Run is a national physical activity-based positive youth development program for 3rd-8th grade girls. Participants develop and improve competence, feel confidence in who they are, develop strength of character, respond to others and oneself with care, create positive connections with peers and adults and make a meaningful contribution to community and society. Each session is led by trained volunteer coaches who guide and mentor the girls. The ten-week program concludes with all participants completing a celebratory 5k event which gives them a tangible sense of achievement as well as a framework for setting and achieving life goals. Girls on the Run has served over 1.2 million girls since its inception in 1996.

Girls on the Run of the Southern Tier will implement programming at 10 sites throughout Steuben, Chemung, Yates, and Schuyler Counties for the Spring 2023 season. The hosting sites include: Campbell-Savona Elementary in Savona, Center Street Elementary in Horseheads Dundee Elementary (in partnership with Yates County Extended School Day Program), Horseheads Intermediate in Horseheads, Glenn Curtiss Elementary in Hammondsport, Howard A. Hanlon Elementary in Odessa, Tuscarora Elementary, in Addison, Vernon E. Wightman Elementary in Bath, and Dana Lyon in Bath.

They will be accepting registrations until 4:00 p.m. on March 24th, 2023. Register at www.gotrst.org/programs. Program registration fees are calculated on a sliding scale based on family income and household size. There are full scholarships available, will need to show proof of income. The registration fee includes: t-shirt, draw string bag, water bottle, materials for the program, journal, 5K finishing medal, and a 5K race bib.

Each team has limited space and registration is first come, first served. Please contact the Council at 607.776.9467 ext. 229 to learn more! Follow Girls on the Run of the Southern Tier on our Facebook page @GirlsOnTheRunSouthernTier.
A New Layering: Lighting the Night with Transformational Public Art

In the Fall of 2022, Artist Sam SOMO Somostrada set a seven-story record at the City of Elmira Centertown Parking Garage, creating the largest public art mural in Chemung County, presented by Community Arts of Elmira's Elmira Infinite Canvas and then City of Elmira Second District Councilperson Brent Stermer.

The collaboration consisted of multiple Creative Community Partnerships, including the City of Elmira, Chemung County, local business and manufacturing sponsors, and regional foundations. In late January 2023, glowing green, blue and red hues began lighting the night in the stairwells of the Centertown Parking Garage, layering a new aspect of transformational public art impact on Elmira Infinite Canvas for the Elmira community and for tourism.

It’s great to see a vision come to life with lighting and safety improvements for the Centertown Parking Garage - all part of the City of Elmira’s Downtown Revitalization Initiative grant funding.

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SBA Working Capital Loans Available in Pennsylvania and New York

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) announced that Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) are available in Pennsylvania and New York for small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture, and most private nonprofit organizations with losses from drought that occurred from May 15 through Sept 20, 2022.

The declaration covers the Pennsylvania primary county of Tioga; and the adjacent counties of Bradford, Lycoming, and Potter in Pennsylvania; Chemung and Steuben in New York.

“When the Secretary of Agriculture issues a disaster declaration to help farmers recover from damages and losses to crops, the Small Business Administration issues a declaration to eligible entities, affected by the same disaster,” said Kem Fleming, director of SBA's Field Operations Center East.

Under this declaration, the SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loan program is available to eligible farm-related and nonfarm-related entities that suffered financial losses as a direct result of this disaster. Apart from aquaculture enterprises, SBA cannot provide disaster loans to agricultural producers, farmers or ranchers. Nurseries are eligible to apply for economic injury disaster loans for losses caused by drought conditions.

The loan amount can be up to $2 million with interest rates of 2.935 percent for small businesses and 1.875 percent for private nonprofit organizations, with terms up to 30 years. These working capital loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable, and other bills that could have been paid had the disaster not occurred. The loans are not intended to replace lost sales or profits.

Applicants may apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via SBA's secure website at https://disasterloanassistance.sba.gov/ela/s/ and should apply under SBA declaration # 17771.

Disaster loan information and application forms can also be obtained by calling the SBA's Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955 or sending an email to DisasterCustomerService@sba.gov.

Chemung County Habitat For Humanity Looking for Donations to Help Build Strength and Stability

At Chemung County Habitat for Humanity, they build. They build because they believe that everyone, everywhere should have a healthy, affordable place to call home. When a family helps build or improve a place they can call home, they are also building a better community, a better life for themselves.

Chemung County Habitat For Humanity are in need of tools and supplies for their volunteers to use at build sites. Last year more than 200 volunteers put in nearly 2000 hours... and put the tools to good use, and now it’s time to replace some of them. Items in need are:

- Paint Supplies - Rollers, Scrapers, Trays
- Work Gloves
- Contractor Trash Bags
- Cleaning Supplies - Shop Towels, Paper Towels
- Hand Tools - Hammers, Screwdrivers, Pliers, Wrenches
- (3) 5-gallon Bucket of Primer Paint
- (1) 5-gallon Bucket of Sherwin Williams brand "Alabaster" Paint
- (3) 5-gallon Bucket of Drywall Compound
- Gift Cards - any amount from Lowes, Walmart, Valu Home Center or any other local businesses

Chemung County Habitat for Humanity also accepts donations of construction materials, including plumbing, electrical supplies and fixtures, flooring, roofing and hardware. They also accept office supplies and equipment.

If you have any of these items to donate, please contact the office at (607) 734-1361 or email info@chemungcountyhabitat.org for a list of current needs.

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Elmira Works Coworking Space Now Available

Capriotti Properties has announced the completion of Clemens Square's newest establishment, Elmira Works Coworking Space. This newly renovated space offers short-term, affordable meeting and work space options, in a dynamic space perfect for small businesses, professional meetings, remote work, or studying, all in a well-designed and inspiring atmosphere. With the prevalence of remote working exploding over the last few years, comes the demand for a conveniently located, professional space specifically designed around focus and flexibility.

This unique and welcoming space accommodates a variety of different work areas to best suit your needs, including private desks, communal "bowling alley" table, a lounge, conference room, various comfortable and inviting seating areas, as well as sound-proofed and comfortably furnished phone booths, perfect for remote meetings. The space is also equipped with fast internet, unique light fixtures, as well as a kitchen, complete with espresso machine, supplying complimentary snacks and other beverages.

The Elmira Works space at Clemens Square is conveniently located at the heart of Downtown Elmira, also right next to the Center Town Parking Garage, making parking a breeze. To reserve a space or learn more about the extensive amenities Elmira Works has to offer, visit their website at elmiraworks.com.

Visit www.capriottiproperties.com/commercial-spaces to see other office or retail spaces they have available.

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Glove House

March 23, 2023, 5-7 pm
Clarion, 760 E. Water St., Elmira
Great networking opportunities, presentations, food, door prizes, and cash bar.

www.glovehouse.org  607-734-5238  @glovehouseinc
Dear Business Colleagues and Friends,

Happy St. Patrick’s Day! In Chemung County, everyone is Irish on March 17th – a day of Irish food, drink and celebrating while supporting local businesses.

I’m filled with gratitude for the Chemung County Chamber of Commerce’s 117th Meeting of the Members on February 2nd where our guests “Celebrated Chemung”! The venue was the beautiful historic Clemens Center which played the role of the perfect host. Our guests dined on local fare from Rye Bar & Restaurant, Louie’s, and the Cakery while networking with friends, colleagues, and maybe even met some new friends. Our guests listened to live music by Kat with Keef Beats, local musicians. If you have not heard them, I highly recommend them, so check them out at one of our local establishments. Our program included the annual business meeting, which said goodbye to our outgoing chairman, Michael Printup -who is not actually going anywhere, he’s still on the board and we are lucky to have him. We welcomed Jamie Gensel as our new chairman, and we look forward to having him at the helm. And thank you to J.D. Iles who presented a wonderful speech about Chemung County!

On February 15th, the Chemung Chamber worked with the Corning Chamber of Commerce and Watkins Glen Chamber of Commerce on the Tri-County Business After Business at Hardinge. More than 150 people gathered and networked while watching demonstrations. I see more of those partnerships in the future.

So now what? In addition to our Business After Business meetings, the Chamber plans are underway for business/community events. For starters — the 30th Annual Economic Forum on March 15th, Chemung Restaurant Week from March 24th – April 2nd, and a small business community event happening in May - to be announced soon!

If you are a member that only participates once a year with local businesses and the community, we hope that your new year’s resolution is to be more involved with your Chamber. Use your membership to its fullest capacity! Our team is here to support you and guide you. Make sure you follow us on social media, read our emails, and attend our events. We are always looking for member participation to help coordinate, and volunteer at the many Chamber events, as well as suggesting new innovative events to promote our business community year-long. So, if you have an idea, please let us know.

I am also grateful for the role that our businesses plays in the community. It always has been, and always will be so important to invest in locally. The people in our communities support our businesses. Whether your business is large or small, brand new or established, having you as a chamber member makes our network of businesses stronger. I appreciate each member.

There is so much to look forward to in the coming months. We will see you soon!

Respectfully,

Jennifer Herrick-McGonigal
**Recent Events**

**Annual Meeting of Members**

*Thursday, February 2nd | Clemens Center*

More than 175 Chamber members attended the 2023 Annual Meeting of Members.

*Presenting Sponsor:*
Chemung Canal Trust Company

*Welcome Cocktail Sponsor:*
Watkins Glen International

*Venue Sponsor:*
Clemens Center

*Program Sponsor:*
The Hilliard Corporation

*Presentation Sponsor:*
The Dunn Group

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Fagan Engineers & Land Surveyors, P.C.
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Southerntier Custom Fabricators

*Bronze Sponsors:*
CAF USA
Chemung Supply Corporation
Empire Access
Excellus BCBS
Southern Tier Economic Growth

*Catering by:*
Rye Bar & Restaurant
The Cakery
Louies

*Beverages provided by:*
Saratoga Eagle Sales & Services
Lighthouse Liquors & Wines

**Chemung County State of the State Presentation**

*Tuesday, February 14th*

More than 80 people attended the Chemung County State of the State Presentation with Mental Health Commissioner, Dr. Ann Marie Sullivan at ILL Eagle Taphouse in Elmira.

**Hardinge**

*Tri-County Business After Business Reception | Wednesday, February 15th*

More than 150 Chamber members attended Hardinge Tri-County Business After Business Reception, providing members of the Chemung, Corning Area, and Watkins Glen Chambers with the opportunity to network.

To view the full calendar of events, programming, or to register, please visit:

www.chemungchamber.org
Join us for a foodie-filled week to relish in the delicious specials and menu deals offered by the participating restaurants while simultaneously supporting local businesses. Check out www.chemungrestaurantweek.com to see all the participating restaurants and their specials.

**March 3**

**Friday, March 3**

**American Freight Ribbon Cutting Ceremony**

Grand Central Plaza | 1020 Center Street Suite 1A, Horseheads, NY 14845

Open to the public

**March 14**

**Tuesday, March 14**

**Charity Accreditation**

[Webinar] with Better Business Bureau

10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Free for Members | $5 Non-Members

**March 15**

**Wednesday, March 15**

**30th Annual Economic Forum**

Clarion Inn Elmira Horseheads

760 East Water Street
Elmira, New York 14901

8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

$30 per person | Table of 8 $240 | Table of 10 $300

Includes breakfast buffet

Program Sponsor

Community Bank

Gold Sponsors

Chemung Supply Corporation

Excellus BlueCross Blueshield

Hilliard Corporation

Southern Tier Custom Fabricators

Silver Sponsors

Kennedy Valve

Perry & Carroll

**March 16**

**Thursday, March 16**

**Navigating Governmental Funding Opportunities for Development Projects**

**In-Person Seminar** with City of Elmira

Chemung Chamber of Commerce

400 East Church Street, Elmira *Lower Level Boardroom*

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

**March 23**

**Thursday, March 23**

**Glove House Business After Business Reception**

Clarion Inn Elmira Horseheads

760 East Water Street | Elmira, New York 14901

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

**March 24**

**Friday, March 24 - April 2**

[Chemung Restaurant Week] 2023

Join us for a foodie-filled week to relish in the delicious specials and menu deals offered by the participating restaurants while simultaneously supporting local businesses. Check out www.chemungrestaurantweek.com to see all the participating restaurants and their specials.
Welcome New Members

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607-259-4675

Edward Jones Investments
1246A West Church Street | Suite A
Elmira, NY 14905
607-733-2223
www.edwardjones.com

Heart Story Consulting
#1015, 742 South Meadow Street | Ste 200
Ithaca, NY 14850
607-241-0385
heartstoryconsulting.com

Finnerty Accounting and Bookkeeping LLC
831 West Church Street | Elmira, NY 14905

Thank You Renewing Investors

Arbor Housing and Development
Carbonic Systems Incorporated
Community Bank, NA
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Chemung County
CPE InterLink
Elmira Downtown Development, Inc.
GST BOCES
Michelle Hamula Agency
Pioneer Credit Recovery, Inc.
Pladis Global
Solutions Federal Credit Union
Southern Tier Health Care Credit
Southern Tier Tobacco Awareness Coalition
Studio LMG
Suburban Propane
Warehouse Carpet and Flooring Outlets, Inc
WENY TV
Willowcreek Golf Club

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200 Madison Avenue, Elmira
Erwin Walk-in Care
418 S. Hamilton Street, Painted Post
Horseheads Walk-in Care - Suite 101
100 John Roemmelt Drive, Horseheads

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arnothealth.org

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