The Chamber Invites Annual Award Nominations

Each year, the Chemung County Chamber of Commerce recognizes outstanding members of the community who have made significant contributions to the Southern Tier. The success of our community hinges on the vision, and selfless acts of service of many local leaders. The Chamber is excited to celebrate these inspiring men, women, and organizations who are making an impact in their workplace, and communities to help make our region a vibrant, and wonderful place to call home.

The Chamber welcomes nominations for several distinguished honors:

**ATHENA Leadership Award:** This award honors individuals who strive for the highest levels of professional accomplishment – women and men who excel in their chosen field, have devoted time and energy to their community in a meaningful way, and who open paths so that others may follow.

**Community Builder Award:** This award recognizes the outstanding volunteer efforts of an individual in Chemung County who has exceptionally enhanced the quality of life in our community significant ways.

**New Business Award:** This award recognizes an outstanding new business and its efforts to become a prosperous member of the growing and dynamic business community.

**Partners in Education Award:** This award celebrates the outstanding efforts by a Chemung County school or college teacher, staff member or volunteer who is working towards this cooperative object in a creative, yet constructive way, on behalf of students and the community.

**Partners in Education Career Achievement Award:** This award honors an individual who has fostered vital connections and inspired success for local students over the course of their career.

**Trailblazer Award:** This award acknowledges an individual who has gone above and beyond the requirements and expectations of their employed position to enhance the quality of life in our community.

**Young Professional Award:** This award was established to support and recognize upcoming leaders within our community, ages 25-40, by celebrating their current achievements and future aspirations.

The Chamber will present Milestone Awards to any Chamber member firm marking an anniversary date that’s an increment of 25 years. If your firm is celebrating such a milestone, please contact the Chamber. The nomination deadline for all awards is November 13th.

The winners will be celebrated at the Annual Awards Ceremony on Friday, December 8th from 6:00-10:00 p.m. at the Elmira Country Club.
Thrills & Chills Fall Campaign to Return

Fall is approaching and the Chamber’s Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) is turning its sights toward preparing for the annual Thrills & Chills, a promotion of fall and Halloween-themed events taking place throughout Chemung County!

Thrills & Chills was launched in 2012 as an initiative to boost events occurring from late September through early November and entice fall visitors to the Finger Lakes to come to Chemung County. This year’s campaign will be promoted with billboards, a digital fall event calendar, and social media ads targeted throughout the Finger Lakes Region and N. Pennsylvania.

If your business has autumn offerings that you would like included on the calendar or if you’d like more information, contact Cynthia Raj at the Chamber at cynthia@chemungchamber.org. There is no fee to participate!

Bradley Maze Pays Tribute to LaFrance

The Annual Corn Maze at Bradley Farms has returned to Southport and is open daily from 9:00 a.m.--6:00 p.m. through Halloween! This year’s maze honors the hardworking locals who made LaFrance Fire Truck Company the leading brand of fire engines worldwide, making Elmira proud for generations. It is open daily from 9:00 a.m. -6:00 p.m. through Halloween. In addition to the maze, several of the onsite displays for children are also open.

Bradley Farms has been a family-owned business since it first opened in the 1920s. Beyond the corn maze, the farms fall offerings also include a pumpkin patch, hayrides, fresh produce, and apple cider, and the legendary Phantom PhrightNights, the Twin Tiers top rated haunted attraction for 30 years.

John W. Jones Recognized as Heroic American

John W. Jones is a local hero with whom we can take great pride, and his story is being further shared at a national level. Jones portrait has recently been inducted as one of 260 in a traveling art exhibit entitled Americans Who Tell the Truth (AWTT), a collection that highlights citizens who “courageously address issues of social, environmental, and economic fairness.” The portrait collection includes both current and past heroes, and is intended to inspire a new generation of Americans who will act for the common good of their communities and the earth.

Born into slavery in Virginia, Jones escaped on foot to make his way north in search of freedom, before eventually choosing to make his home in Elmira. Once settled, he became a significant force in the Underground Railroad, safely aiding over 800 freedom seekers along their travel to Canada. Jones was also an outspoken abolitionist and critic of the Fugitive Slave Act in 1850. He served as sexton of the First Baptist Church in Elmira for forty-three years and is remembered for arranging proper burials for nearly 3,000 Confederate soldiers.

The public unveiling of Jones’ portrait took place at the Arnot Art Museum in July, and the portrait has since been moved as part of the AWTT exhibit at the Rockwell Museum in Corning, where it will be on display through October 8, 2023.
Katie Watkins Joins Welliver as Assistant Project Manager

Welliver, provider of comprehensive construction services in New York State and Northern Pennsylvania, is pleased to welcome Katie Watkins as Assistant Project Manager.

Watkins has always been interested in the way buildings are designed. After starting her career on the architectural design side of the industry, she was surprised to discover that construction was her true passion – playing an active part in the process, getting her boots dirty out in the field, developing relationships with owners and subcontractors, walking the jobsite, and watching a project evolve from conceptual design to a completed functional building.

In her role as assistant project manager at Welliver, Watkins will assist in the day-to-day operation on the construction site, coordinate subcontractors and materials, and oversee labor and safety management. In addition, she will leverage her field experience as well as skills in organizing, scheduling, site inspections, and quality assurance to help her navigate the ever-changing construction landscape and find new ways to make the construction process more efficient.

“Welliver is proactive in building interest in the construction industry, especially for women who can play an important role in bridging the gap between project management and the field,” said Anne Welliver-Hartsing, President. “Katie’s natural skillsets – organization, communication, attention to detail, and ability to see the big picture will bring a different approach and valuable perspective to our projects.”

Previously, Watkins worked as a field engineer for a renewable energy company where she gained valuable hands-on experience managing challenging, and heavy workloads while integrating project management with field operations.

“Welliver is a good fit for me – the size of projects, variety of market sectors, corporate environment, and opportunities offered to women in construction will help me grow my career,” said Watkins. “I am eager to fully understand the role of each team member, embrace and learn from their diverse backgrounds and skillsets, and champion team collaboration to ensure the project’s success.”

Cities Rise Neighborhood Clean-Up

Join Chemung County Habitat for Humanity for a Community Clean-up in Elmira on September 15th and 16th from 9:00 a.m. to Noon. They are looking for 100 volunteers to help spruce up along West 1st, West 2nd, West 3rd, and Davis Streets.

Volunteers are needed to help with trimming hedges, cutting weeds, trash pick-up, minor repairs, and painting. Volunteers will receive a t-shirt and snacks. Volunteers ages 6 and older are welcome to participate. For more information, and to register, please click here.

This event is made possible because the City of Elmira and Chemung County Habitat for Humanity are partnering with Cities for Responsible Investment and Strategic Enforcement (Cities RISE), a neighborhood revitalization program launched by the NYS Attorney General’s Office to help rebuild New York communities.
Excellus BlueCross BlueShield Hosts Elmira Community Based Summit

Join Excellus BlueCross BlueShield on October 3rd from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Elmira Country Club to find out more about investment opportunities available for not-for-profit organizations, while learning about their health equity strategy, community investments/partnerships, and the impact they have on the community.

Breakout groups will allow you to connect with local organizations to discuss social determinants of health, and specific needs surrounding your community. Staff from Excellus BlueCross BlueShield will also be available to share information on the resources available to you.

Please RSVP by Tuesday, September 26th to Amber Granger, Community Investments and Partnership Manager at amber.granger@excellus.com.

Excells BCBS will also be holding an additional Community Based Organization Summit, on Wednesday, September 20th (to be held at their Johnson City office, 47 Riverside Dr Johnson City, NY). Please feel free to RSVP for whichever summit best fits your schedule.

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The First Arena Welcomes Elmira River Sharks

Elmira River Sharks are the newest franchise in the Federal Prospects Hockey League. Following the Elmira Jackals of the UHL and ECHL, and the Elmira Enforcers and Mammoth of the FPHL, the River Sharks look to ring in a new era of hockey in the City. The River Sharks will begin their season on the road in Watertown, on Tuesday, October 10th. The team’s First Arena debut will take place Friday, October 13th.

"We look forward to welcoming you all back to First Arena. It was our goal to keep the lights in this facility on and run the Arena to the best of our ability for this community. We have in place a management team that is very capable of working together to operate the facility efficiently and effectively. We are extremely excited about all the opportunities coming to the people of Chemung County and the surrounding areas this year." Said Mark Margeson, Chairman of the Chemung County Legislature, and Joe Roman, Chemung County IDA Executive Director.

"I am proud to return to Elmira, as a former Elmira Jackal and Elmira Enforcer, I am very comfortable returning to this area and look forward to uniting hockey with this community." Said Head Coach Tyler Gjurich. Adding "This community and fan base deserves to have a hard working, winning team. The support in this city is amazing. I’m excited to be a part of the opportunity with the Chemung County IDA, as well as Chemung County Chamber of Commerce in preserving professional hockey in Elmira. We look forward to the wonderful partnerships and engaging this community together. MJ Maerkle, Elmira River Sharks Assistant Coach has been working diligently behind the scenes to ensure the success of the Arena along with the entirety of the management team. Thank you all, we look forward to seeing you on opening night!"

For more information, please visit www.elmirariversharks.com or their Facebook page here.

YWCA Charity Golf Tournament

The YWCA Elmira & Twin Tiers is pleased to announce the YWCA Charity Golf Tournament. This tournament will be held on Sunday, September 17, 2023 at Tomasso’s Golf Course and Restaurant in Waverly, NY with a 10:00 a.m. Shotgun start.

Each year, the YWCA will be donating a portion of the proceeds to a local charity that serves our community. This year they will be donating a portion of the proceeds to Suicide Prevention in Chemung County. It is a charity that is near and dear to the YWCA Elmira.

The YWCA Elmira is asking for participation in the tournament by entering a team, sponsoring a team through an organizational or corporate sponsorship, sponsoring a hole, or donating a prize. For more information, and to register, visit www.ywcaelmira.org/events.

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Appleridge Senior Living Hosts Fall Open House

Join Appleridge Senior Living, the area’s premier independent retirement community, as they host a Fall Open House event on Saturday, September 16th from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. located at 168 Miller Street, Horseheads, NY.

Take a guided tour and learn more about the Appleridge Lifestyle with our experienced professional staff members. Explore the over 12,000 sf of modern amenity space and a luxury model apartment staged with furniture.

Engage with friendly resident ambassadors that are happy to share their firsthand experiences of the vibrant lifestyle at Appleridge. Enjoy light refreshment compliments of the dining staff and a special gift as a token of appreciation.

Contact the Director of Marketing & Sales, Libby Crumb with any questions at 607-767-6190 or lcrumb@appleridgeseniorliving.com.

Appleridge Senior Living is a premier, senior living community, with 112 luxury apartments located within the Finger Lakes countryside with 22 acres of resort style living. Residents of Appleridge, enjoy an option of apartment styles with numerous floor plans, and amenities including full kitchen, dining options, housekeeping, garages, transportation, and stimulating activities, surrounded by beautifully landscaped grounds and friendly neighbors.
John G. Ullman & Associates, Inc. Announces Major Corporate Expansion Initiative

John G. Ullman & Associates, Inc. (JGUA) is thrilled to announce a major corporate expansion initiative, culminating with the opening of a new office in Charlotte, North Carolina.

The initiative marks the third major expansion for the firm, the first coming in 1998 with the opening of an office in Rhinebeck, N.Y., followed by the expansion to a new JGUA headquarters in the Chemung County Airport Corporate Park in 2018.

The introduction of the JGUA Charlotte office will further enhance the ability of the firm to provide comprehensive financial planning services to its clients in the region, in addition to advancing the footprint of the JGUA brand and service model.

“I could not be more thrilled to announce our impending expansion to the Charlotte market,” remarked JGUA President & Chief Operating Officer Jason Nickerson, CFP®, EA. “This announcement marks a monumental day in the renowned history of our firm.”

“As we mark our 45-year anniversary, this expansion underscores our resolute dedication to our clients, affirming the enduring ethics and values that have steered our firm throughout this remarkable journey. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our exceptional team, whose unwavering efforts have brought this expansion to fruition. While there is still work ahead, this announcement marks a momentous stride in fortifying the footprint of our firm for an even brighter future.”

The JGUA Charlotte office is scheduled to begin operations on September 5th, 2023, and will be led by Senior Advisor Todd Brost, CFP® and Associate Advisor Jakob Brost, MS. The two advisors will maintain their current client relationships without interruption, while continuing to provide a high-level of service and support to those clients.

“One of the most important elements of this expansion is not forgetting what got us here,” said Nickerson. “A highly-dedicated, hard-working team, our commitment to the highest levels of ethics and values and the proactive and comprehensive services we offer our clients. Through the implementation of our plans for growth, we have the ability to continue establishing special bonds with our clients in the personalized way that is so important to the work we do. This will enable us to continue making an impact for generations to come.”

Further information on the expansion will be released in the coming weeks. Any questions relating to the initiative, or requests for additional information and interviews, should be directed to Ryan Sargent, at sargentr@jgua.com, JGUA Marketing & Communication Manager.

Leadership Chemung
Developing individuals for future leadership roles in Chemung County and the Southern Tier.

Registration Open Now!

Leadership Chemung implements a curriculum that incorporates local leaders to help participants in a variety of topics designed to develop and enhance their skills and knowledge for leadership roles in their professional lives.

Candidates must submit an application with two references to be reviewed by the Leadership Chemung Committee. About 20-30 individuals representing a cross-section of the community will be selected to participate in the program.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT www.chemungchamber.org
Hardinge Inc. Awarded Nearly 1-Million-Dollar Grant from the National Nuclear Security Administration

The U.S. Department of Energy’s National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) has awarded Hardinge, Inc. a five-year grant totaling $978,053 to develop and strengthen apprenticeship training programs aligned with NNSA’s needs for traditional and emerging technician positions throughout its laboratories, plants, and sites. The selection was made after review of grant applications submitted in response to the funding opportunity announcement.

The award granted under the new DOE National Laboratory Jobs ACCESS – Apprenticeships for Complete and Committed Employment for Specialized Skills – Program. ACCESS is an NNSA-sponsored program that supports apprenticeships designed to bring specialized skills vital to the Nuclear Security Enterprise (NSE). The program focuses on skills development in the technician and skilled craft trades to meet ongoing and emerging needs at the national laboratories, plants, and sites.

“Across the NSE, we see a need for a greater number of skilled trade workers. Training in these areas is increasingly limited; therefore, the ACCESS program is working to develop training programs to fill the gaps,” said Dr. Kevin Greenaugh, Chief Science and Technology Officer, Office of Defense Programs.

Hardinge, Inc., Elmira, NY, will receive $978,053, for the project Level Up @ Hardinge, which will recruit and train apprentices in advanced manufacturing for the workforces at Los Alamos National Laboratory, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Kansas City National Security Campus, and Y-12 National Security Site.

Person Supported Receives Bike Thanks to Grant

The Arc of Chemung-Schuyler is pleased to announce that it was the recipient of a grant from the IM ABLE Foundation. These funds were used to purchase a Rifton Tricycle, with specific adaptations to meet the mobility needs of an individual supported by the agency.

Bike recipient, Paul, was thrilled with the delivery of his new bike, which will enable him to be more independently active.

The mission of the IM ABLE Foundation is to remove obstacles that prevent people like Paul from being physically active by providing grants, resources, fitness opportunities and motivation. We change attitudes by redefining what is possible. For more information or to support IM ABLE’s mission to provide opportunities for people with adaptive needs, please go to imablefoundation.org.

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arnothealth.org
35th Annual James V. Clune, Jr. Golf Tournament

On Friday, August 4th, 35 teams competed in the annual tournament held at the Elmira Country Club. Team’s enjoyed the lunch served on the patio and Shotgun start at noon. After the tournament, players had a dinner reception, and opportunities to win a variety of ticket basket raffles and a 50/50.

Hilliard Corporation took 1st Place, Hale Roofing, Inc. came in 2nd Place, and Valicenti Advisory Services came in third. The winning team included James Lazenby, Jonah Place, Ricky Pruden, and Scott Robert.

Swan Morss/The Dunn Group, M&T Bank, and Valicenti won the Skins contest.

Don Romeo (Rainbow Lettering) with the Valicenti Team won Men’s Longest Drive competition and Maria Terry (LECOM) won Women’s Longest Drive.

Mark Stemmerman (Chemung Supply Corp.) won Men’s Closest to the Pin contest, and Vicki Balon (Perry & Carroll) won Women’s Closest to the Pin.

**Tournament Champion**

The Hilliard Corporation
(Score 60)

Team: James Lazenby, Jonah Place, Ricky Pruden, and Scott Robert

**Second Place**

Hale Roofing
(Score 60)

Team: Mike Muldoon, John Hale, Dave Norton, and Colin Fortier

**Third Place**

Valicenti Advisory Services
(Score 63)

Team: Al Bacille, Kristen Bacille, Dom Romeo, and Carlie Chalmers
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Bond, Schoeneck & King - Snack Sponsor  
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THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS:

Chyllene Agan • Kurt Bartenstein • Katie Coletta • Christine Iles • Michelle Lewis • Margaret Lorden  
Lori Jones • Alison Mandell • Mike Wayne • Sarah Welliver • Renée Wheeler

THANK YOU TEAMS:

Andryshak Tax & Consulting  
Bobby K Entertainment  
Cameron Manufacturing  
Chemung Canal Trust Co.  
Chemung Supply Corp.  
James V. Clune Agency  
Community Bank  
Eastern Metal Signs & Safety  
Empower Federal Credit Union  
Excellus BCBS  
First Heritage Federal Credit Union  
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Hunt Engineers  
I.D. Booth  
LaBella Associates  
LECOM  
M&T Bank  
Perry & Carroll  
Sprague Insurance  
Swan Morss/The Dunn Group  
Tompkins Community Bank  
Valicenti Advisory Services  
Welliver  
Willowcreek Golf Club

THANK YOU TO OUR TOURNAMENT TASK FORCE:

Kurt Bartenstein, Empower FCU • Alison Mandell, Retired • Joe Norman, Swan Morss Insurance  
Josh Palmer, Swan Morss Insurance • Mike Wayne, Retired
Hello Chamber Friends,

**Fall is here!** August flew by but left some great memories for the Chamber team with members and friends. The month began with the **35th Annual James V. Clune Memorial Golf Tournament** with 35 teams, a great day of golf, fun and networking. The Chemung Chamber would like to thank our members for their support. The reviews have been positive and encouraging- even with a little rain. Congratulations to the Hilliard Corporation Team for the win!

**Networking:** Thank you to Greg Vukelic and the **Saratoga Eagle** team for hosting Business After Business with laughter, networking, and fabulous door prizes. Mark your calendars for the Chamber’s September Business After Businesses including **Chemung Canal Trust Company** on September 20th and **LECOM** on September 28th. A Happy 50th Anniversary to **Hunt Engineers Architects and Surveyors** on September 14th.

**Educational Programs:** School is back in session and the Chamber team is working hard on the **MFG Day Expo** with Career Development Council, BOCES, and the committee schedule on October 6th. In addition to the EXPO, we will offer student tours in the month of October. We are grateful to our local manufacturers who open their doors to students – providing a positive outlook on manufacturing careers in our community, helping our future generation and our manufacturers thrive. There's still time to join us.

**Leadership Chemung** applications are available. Visit the Chamber’s Facebook/LinkedIn and Instagram to hear the testimonials of past Leadership Chemung graduates and the success of the program. For over 35 years, Leadership Chemung has inspired future leaders in our community by providing an extensive educational experience from Fall through Spring.

**Annual Awards:** Help us honor outstanding individuals, businesses, educators, and organizations who promote growth and prosperity in our community. The Chamber is seeking nominations for the Annual Awards. This is perfect opportunity to honor a colleague that you witnessed going above and beyond for our community. We will recognize the award recipients at the **Annual Awards Ceremony** on December 8th from 6:00-10:00 p.m. at the Elmira Country Club with a cocktail reception, dinner, awards ceremony, and networking.

**Tourism:** While every season is the perfect time to visit Chemung County - there’s nothing like the autumn season in our county. Invite your friends and family to visit Chemung County to take a hike at **Tanglewood Nature Center, & Museum** go for a glider ride at **Harris Hill**, see a show at **Clemens Center**, visit the **Arnot Art Museum** or **Chemung Valley History Museum**, enjoy fabulous food at one of our 100 restaurants (too many to list), visit our gift shops and our garden centers/Farmer’s Markets for fall mums/local vendors or cheer on our new hockey team, **Elmira River Sharks**. And so much more - Discover Chemung!

**Thank You:** To our renewing members. We are honored that you chose to continue to be part of the Chemung Chamber – your Chamber. And to our newest members: Thank you for choosing the Chemung Chamber – now your Chamber. We are ready to help you make the most of your membership. We are committed to helping your business grow and thrive. Please take full advantage of your member benefits. Visit [www.chemungchamber.org](http://www.chemungchamber.org) for more information. The Chamber team is ready to assist you and promote your business to help you achieve your goals. See you soon!

Sincerely,
Jennifer Herrick-McGonigal
President
Proven Options to Retain and Recruit your Workforce

**IN-PERSON SEMINAR** with NYS Dept. of Labor
Chemung County Chamber of Commerce
400 East Church Street | Lower Level Boardroom
11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. | Free for Members

**Chemung Canal Trust Company**
Business After Business Reception
One Chemung Canal Plaza | 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
$5 for Members

**Threat Assessment for your Business**

**IN-PERSON SEMINAR** with Chemung County
Chemung County Chamber of Commerce
400 East Church Street | Lower Level Boardroom
1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. | Free for Members

**Develop Your Elevator Pitch**

**IN-PERSON SEMINAR** with Charlette J. Smith
Chemung County Chamber of Commerce
400 East Church Street | Lower Level Boardroom
11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. | Free for Members

Dairy Queen Grill & Chill, located at 873 County Road 64 in Big Flats celebrated their grand opening with a ribbon cutting ceremony.

More than 60 Chamber Members attended Saratoga Eagle Sales & Services Business After Business Reception.
Thank You Renewing Investors

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09.14.23

The 50th Year Anniversary Party
5:30pm to 7:30pm
100 HUNT Center, Horseheads, NY 14845