Chamber Brings National Small Business Week to Chemung

National Small Business Week is celebrated during the first week of May every year. The aim of this week is to honor the entrepreneurs and small businesses of our county, who have played their part in bringing new ideas to life, and growing our economy. This year, the Chamber is once again recognizing the significant contributions of Chemung County’s entrepreneurs, and small business owners the week of May 1st - May 5th.

Sponsored by Excellus BlueCross BlueShield, Visions Federal Credit Union, Gough Holding Corporation, Southern Tier Economic Growth, and Saratoga Eagle, the Chamber is hosting a variety of networking events, webinars and seminars to help business owners learn how to grow their businesses, and how to scale up their own operations.

This week’s events include:

**KICK-OFF: Monday, May 1st**  |  Join us at 1:00 p.m. at One Hanover Square as we kick-off Small Business Week with a proclamation from the Chemung County Executive, and a Ribbon Cutting celebration for our local small businesses and those without a storefront.

**SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN**  |  The Chamber will showcase our local small businesses throughout Chemung County with creative and engaging content. Make sure to follow Chemung Chamber on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn, through email campaigns, on the Chamber website, and through our local media outreach.

**EDUCATIONAL SEMINARS/WEBINARS**  |  Throughout the Week, the Chamber and partners will host a series of seminars/webinars to assist our local small businesses with the following topics: Leadership Building, The 5 C’s of Credit, Customer Discovery, Planning for Business Financing and Understanding Your Options, Online Reputation Management, and Funding Your Small Business.

**SALUTE TO SMALL BUSINESS WEEK AWARDS BUSINESS AFTER BUSINESS**  |  May 4th from 5:00-7:00 p.m.  Join us on the Lake Street Pedestrian Bridge in Downtown Elmira as we recognize individuals and businesses who, through their independent entrepreneurial spirit, play a vital role in building the community and the economy. Music by John Manfredi, food by Ill Eagle, and beverages by Saratoga Eagle. Registration is appreciated. * In the event of inclement weather, the celebration will take place in the lobby of Ill Eagle Taphouse* (continued on page 10)
Wisner Market to Return June 1

Wisner Market will return in Downtown Elmira on May 27. The weekly summer market will operate at Wisner Park on Thursdays from 10:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m., rain or shine, and will continue through September 7.

Also known as Lunch in the Park, Wisner Market was first launched by Elmira Downtown Development 1997 to support local small businesses and provide the community with a social gathering place in downtown. The popular event quickly took root and now features over 2 dozen vendors, offering baked goods, produce, crafts, and more, alongside food trucks and live music.

For more information or to find out how to be a vendor, contact Downtown Development at mail@elmiradowntown.com or follow the Wisner Market Facebook page.

Eclipse Themed Events Encouraged

On the afternoon of April 8, 2024, a total solar eclipse will follow a narrow path of totality across thirteen US states. New York will be one of these states, with full viewing just north of Chemung County in Rochester and Buffalo. During this rare occurrence is anticipated to be a major tourism draw, with the moon completely blocking the face of the sun, darkening the sky and even causing the temperature to drop.

Although Chemung County will not experience a total eclipse that day, we will still see an impressive 98% coverage with the process starting around 2:00 p.m. and continuing for over four hours. The Chamber’s CVB is inviting tourism businesses to join in the spirit of celebration of this rare event by creating eclipse-themed events or offerings to be consolidating into a calendar that will be promoted for several months prior.

For more information, contact Cynthia Raj at Cynthia@chemungchamber.org.

Eldridge set to Reopen with Train Day and More

Eldridge Park will reopen on Memorial weekend with a lineup that will thrill kids of all ages. The park will partner with the Chemung Valley Railway Historical Society to host a Train Day on Saturday, May 27 from noon - 6:00, in celebration of Chemung County’s extensive railroad history. Among the activities will be free rides for kids on hand crank train cars, miniature train rides around the Mark Twain miniature golf course, model train displays, tours of the restored Erie Train Car, and more.

The weekend festivities will continue on Sunday, May 28 with the legendary Sgro Brothers performing on the Eldridge Park Stage from 5:00-7:00 p.m. for the first concert of the season. Harmonica playing Dominic and Anthony Sgro has entertained masses across the globe, including performances that include the Ed Sullivan Show, The Grand Ole Opry, and even at the White House for President George W. Bush.

To keep up to date on Eldridge hours and events, go to www.eldridgepark.org.
United Way of the Southern Tier Online Auction

United Way of the Southern Tier’s online auction fundraiser features a children’s book autographed by Dolly Parton as well as amazing items donated by local businesses, and individuals.

The beautifully illustrated book “Coat of Many Colors,” based on the song written by Parton, tells the story of a young girl in need of a warm winter coat. When her mother sews a coat made of rags, the girl is mocked by classmates for being poor. But Parton’s trademark positivity carries through to the end as the girl realizes that her coat was made with love “in every stitch.”

The book is autographed “Love Dolly Parton 2023” on the inside cover. The starting bid for this autographed keepsake is $50.

Other items up for bid at www.32auctions.com/UWST2023 include:

• Two tickets (food & non-alcoholic beverages included) to the final round of the PGA Championship at Oak Hill Country Club in Rochester.

• A home-cooked, 8-course “Taste of Asia” dinner for six people.

• A Family Fun Package featuring Eldridge Park in Elmira, Harris Hill Amusement Park in Big Flats, and Dippity Do Dahs in Corning.

• Wine, art, food, and much more!

Proceeds from the auction will go to programs supporting children, senior citizens, and people in need in Chemung and Steuben counties. Proceeds from the autographed book and other Dolly Parton items in the auction will support United Way’s chapter of Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library, a free book-gifting program that mails a book each month to enrolled children under age 5 who live in Chemung and Steuben counties.

Bids can be placed until 8 p.m. Thursday, May 4, the night of United Way’s Annual Awards Dinner, which will be held at the Corning Museum of Glass. Winning bidders will be able to pick up their items at the end of the dinner or can make arrangements to pick up the items at another time.

City cleanup returning to Downtown Elmira

Spring is in full gear and the City of Elmira is looking for volunteers to help clean up the winter debris around the city.

The Downtown Cleanup returns for 2023 and will be held at Wisner Park on Saturday, May 13, from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

The cleanup is a partnership with Elmira Downtown, City of Elmira, Elmira Kiwanis Club, and other community agencies and businesses all coming together to pick up debris left over from winter.

Elmira Downtown says that over 400 volunteers have been involved with the cleanup in the past, and are always ready to welcome more in helping Elmira be a more beautiful place to live, work, and play. To volunteer, visit www.elmiradowntown.com.
Valicenti Welcomes Nathaniel C. Adams as Data Manager

Valicenti Advisory Services, Inc. is pleased to announce that Nate Adams has joined the firm as Data Manager. This position requires excellent computer skills, accuracy and attention to detail and the ability to multi-task and to work independently. Nate posts and reconciles daily account transactions and monitors system information ensuring the accuracy of all data. He opens and closes accounts on the system and provides daily updates to the website.

Nate graduated from Corning Community College with an Associates of Science degree in Business Administration and from Keuka College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Organizational Management. Nate brings with him six years of experience in the banking industry having been a consumer loan officer, a consumer loan processor and a mortgage specialist.

“Welcome to the team! We are thrilled to have you at our office. We know how much of an asset you will be to the firm and we look forward to growing alongside you for years to come.” said Jeffrey Naylor, Executive Vice President/CFO/CCO.

Online For-Credit Summer Courses
Scheduled to fit your busy life.

Elmira College offers a number of online, for-credit summer courses that are open to working professionals interested in advancing their careers.

A flexible schedule at a competitive price.

Why wait? Start now.

elmira.edu/summer
Cayuga Health System and Arnot Health Explore Collaboration

Cayuga Health and Arnot Health announced today that they are exploring a collaborative relationship that would mutually benefit the communities they serve. Over the next several weeks, the senior leadership of both healthcare organizations will undertake a feasibility study to identify potential ways to work together to enhance regional access to sustainable, high quality, and affordable healthcare.

“We are excited to begin a series of discussions with Arnot Health and Jonathan’s team to better understand how we may be able to work together,” stated Dr. Martin Stallone, President, and CEO of Cayuga Health. “At Cayuga Health we are continuously mindful of the changing landscape of healthcare delivery and the needs of the communities that we serve. We are a growing health network, and we are constantly exploring and researching new ways in which we can nurture and enhance health care services within our upstate New York communities.”

“We believe that community partnerships, with like-minded organizations, are imperative to ensure the quality and sustainability of essential health care services that community members and businesses across our region rely upon,” stated Jonathan Lawrence, President, and CEO of Arnot Health. “We look forward to learning more and to seeing where this discussion may lead.”

Cayuga Health, based in Ithaca New York, serves Tompkins, Cortland, Cayuga, and Schuyler Counties. They operate two hospitals including Cayuga Medical Center (CMC- Ithaca, NY) and Schuyler Hospital (Montour Falls, NY). Arnot Health, based in Elmira NY, has one of the most historic health care facilities in the region.
Join for our first fundraising event of the year as we kick off the summer with an evening of live jazz performed by local musicians, cocktails, food & art.

As the sounds of “The CH Jazz Quintet” featuring Hugh Douglass, Dave Arenius, Zack Knewstub, Tom Killian & Jesse Bennett, fill the summer air enjoy, cocktails & Hors d’oeuvre stations prepared by Elmira Country Club.

You can also try your luck at our Wine Pull highlighting some of the finest Finger Lakes wines, or bid on a piece of art created by artists Able2 supports.

Every dollar earned will help provide the critical funds needed to continue our 24/7 and community-based supports to persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families, and the community. Tickets are available for purchase at Able2, 1118 Charles Street, Elmira or through our website www.able-2.org/events/brushstrokes-in-blue/.

Community Arts of Elmira Elmira Infinite Canvas - Mural Fest 2023

Celebrate the Elmira Shines Public Art Mural Project during the Elmira Infinite Canvas - Mural Fest 2023, Saturday, June 3, 2023, 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Hosted by Community Arts of Elmira, Mural Fest features multiple muralists working on the Railroad Avenue Wall, located next to The Hilliard Corporation on the Elmira Cultural Connector, and near the Chemung River Echoes public art installation.

On the Mural Fest block enjoy the arts and culture of live mural making, Los Panchos Mexican Restaurant, and Taste of Jamaica food trucks, creative vendors, music, interactive youth art and more! Contact info@communityartsofelmira.com for sponsorship levels, and tune in for added attractions and updates at the Mural Fest Facebook Event here, and at the Community Arts of Elmira Elmira Infinite Canvas Interactive Google Map here. Community Arts of the Elmira are grateful to Mural Fest’s Presenting Sponsor, The Hilliard Corporation, for its continuing support of Elmira arts, cultural opportunities and celebrations!
Corning Achieves a Decade of Distinction as ENERGY STAR Partner of the Year

Corning has been named an ENERGY STAR® Partner of the Year (PoY) in the industrial category for the 10th consecutive year, a distinction only 10 companies have achieved in the United States Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) ENERGY STAR program.

“We are on an ongoing quest to make customers and the company more competitive and to support healthier communities around the world,” said Tom Capek, senior vice president and chief engineer. “A decade of recognition from the ENERGY STAR program demonstrates Corning’s commitment to our global efforts to increase energy efficiency and to support our mission of continuously improving reliability, efficiency, and productivity.”

Corning also achieved the EPA’s Sustained Excellence designation for the eighth consecutive year. The EPA presents the Sustained Excellence award to partners that have received an ENERGY STAR PoY recognition for a minimum of two consecutive years and that have gone above and beyond the criteria needed to qualify for recognition.

Corning launched the GEM program in 2006 to create and execute effective energy strategies. At that time, energy management was a new concept for many large manufacturers. The administration of New York’s then governor, George E. Pataki, and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority provided initial funding for Corning to launch its GEM program, recognizing Corning’s pioneering efforts.

Today, GEM has grown to include energy teams at every Corning facility around the world who are working to increase efficiency and sustainability across the enterprise.
Catholic Charities Hosts Successful Empty Bowls Fundraiser

As the largest fundraiser specifically for Catholic Charities’ Emergency Services, this event raises awareness of the effects of poverty and hunger in our communities. Attendees experience a simple lunch of soup and bread in solidarity with those living in poverty. Empty Bowls is unique in the collaboration with local potters to create handmade, commemorative bowls for attendees. There is also a partnership with Barb & Mark McClure, owners of Barb’s Soup’s On in Elmira, to offer guests delicious homemade soup. It was the perfect combination of excellent food, beautiful bowls, and a worthy cause.

The Empty Bowls Campaign was able to raise over $21,000 to serve those in our community who turn to Catholic Charities for support. These funds will provide food and personal hygiene items through our homeless services and our three pantries at the Samaritan Center, High Street, and Schuyler Outreach, as well as delicious meals through the Elmira Community Kitchen.

Ellen Topping, Chief Program Officer of Catholic Charities, commented, “Events like Empty Bowls remind me of how we continue to accomplish our mission with the generosity of our community. Together, we offer hope by empowering individuals and families to reach self-sufficiency and bring comfort to those who are alone and in need.”

An overview of Catholic Charities programs was shared, along with a presentation by the Junior Ladies of Charity from Notre Dame High School.

Special thanks goes out to Notre Dame High School which hosted the event this year. The support of their Staff and Students was greatly appreciated. Students welcomed guests to the event, served the guests, and provided music both before and during lunch.

Catholic Charities recognizes the potters and their students who contribute handmade bowls each year: Gene Carr, Retired; Corning Community College Students and Erica Unterman; Elmira College Students and Chris Longwell; Doug Holtgrew, Retired; Horseheads High School Students and Cynthia Cratsley; Notre Dame High School Students and Hannah Leeber.

Corporate Sponsors of the event included The Hilliard Corporation; Chemung Canal Trust Company, Person Centered Services, Visions Federal Credit Union; Cameron Manufacturing, Elmira Structures, Erway Ambulance Services, Gough Holding Corporation, Kennedy Valve, and Wegmans.

Catholic Charities’ Emergency Services provides homeless services, rental assistance, food pantries, free meals, and prescription drug assistance in Chemung and Schuyler Counties. Anyone in need of assistance may call 607-734-9784.

To make a donation to support these services, visit Catholic Charities’ website at www.cs-cc.org. If you are interested in volunteering or hosting a Bags of HOPE supply drive, please contact Katie Rhodes at 607-317-5577 or send a message through the Catholic Charities’ website.
Dear Members,

April was a busy month for the Chamber team taking part in and preparing for two major events. Shabnam Allwood, the Chamber’s Manager of Membership, assisted on the committee that brought the Growing Skilled Trades event to the Town of Big Flats with over 550 students – GST2 provided an opportunity for local area High School students will have the opportunity to participate in demonstrations in advanced manufacturing, construction, and skilled trades with hands-on interactive exhibits from area businesses. More information and pictures to come in June Newsletter.

The Chamber team continues to work hard to promote Chemung County’s small businesses with connection and promotion. This month – the Chamber brings National Small Business Week to Chemung County. We are a community that realizes the importance of supporting locals – so keep spending your money here to stimulate the local economy.

Please mark your calendars for May 9th as the Business Council of New York State hosts a Webinar for Chemung Chamber members: New York State Update Regulatory Legislative and Politic Issues Impacting Businesses. Our members will receive an email for directions on the webinar – so check your email on a regular basis and register for the webinar.

For over thirty years, Leadership Chemung has provided professional development to Chamber members to inspire future leaders. This year, Leadership Chemung witnessed twenty-eight participants from our local businesses throughout the county. The Chamber strives to provide our future leaders with an environment to develop best practices, work with local non-profits while creating connections with other professionals. Thank you to Corning Community College for hosting Leadership Chemung. On May 4th, The Chamber will celebrate the Class of 2023 with commencement at Elmira Country Club.

If you’re planning ahead, next month, the Chamber will host three Business after Business events: Go to www.chemungchamber.org/events-programming/chamber-events for more information. Three opportunities to introduce yourself to other members, exchange business cards, make new business contacts, win a door prize, and enjoy refreshments.

Do you have information or a special event at your business that you would like to promote: Members can use Advertising and Marketing opportunities through chamber events, newsletters, website, and social media. For more information, please visit chemungchamber.org/wp-content/uploads/Online-Ad-Rates-2023.pdf

Enjoy the warm weather. The Chamber team looks forward to connecting with you soon. Thank you for your continued support!

Sincerely,
Jennifer Herrick-McGonigal
President
There are 31 million small businesses in the U.S., which roughly make up around 99% of all the businesses in the country. In 1963, after the proclamation from President John F. Kennedy, the first National Small Business Week was celebrated to honor the top entrepreneurs in every state with awards and special recognition. After this inaugural celebration, the week became an annual practice to encourage other small business owners and enable them to learn from the success stories of the top performers.

Since 1963, the U.S. Small Business Administration has worked to assist and counsel small businesses to flourish in the land of opportunity. This has led to an annual increase in the number of small businesses in the country. According to statistical data, the probability of young people choosing to start their own business is 188% higher today than it was in 1970.

Small businesses are a vital piece of the local Chemung County economy. We encourage our community to embrace our local small businesses during the first week of May and throughout the year. For more information on Chemung County’s Small Business Week, please go to chemungchamber.org/smallbusinessweek.

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**A New Event launched in the Town of Big Flats and Chemung County - Growing Skilled Trades – Greater Southern Tier**

Students got a closer look at skilled trades expanding opportunities through a new event called Growing Skilled Trades/Greater Southern Tier (GST2) that was held on April 27th at the Town of Big Flats Municipal Campus.

Local area High School students had the opportunity to participate in demonstrations in advanced manufacturing, construction, and skilled trades with hands-on interactive exhibits from area businesses.

The goal of the event is to provide the students with a clear understanding that there are alternative pathways to successful careers, such as On the Job Training and Apprenticeships, and the opportunity to introduce students to short term educational opportunities provided by GST BOCES and SUNY Corning Community College.

“The event will create an increased awareness of the high demand occupation available in our own backyard and across the Southern Tier,” said Nick Ahearn, Steering committee Chair and Membership Development Manager from IBEW 139. “Additionally, this will provide a great opportunity for Hands-on career exploration event, providing interactive exhibits and networking opportunities for students just beginning their HS education or those about to graduate.”

This event was made possible from the generous sponsorship, donations and partnership: The Town of Big Flats, IBEW/NECA, Isaac Heat & Air Conditioning, Laborers Union Local 785, UA Local 81, Upstate New York Operating Engineers Local 158, North Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters Local 277, Workforce Development Institute, Tompkins-Cortland Building & Construction, Career Development Council, Department of Labor, GST BOCES, Chemung County Chamber of Commerce, and many others.
**Monday, May 1st**

**Leadership Building**  
*IN-PERSON* with Clinical Associates  
Chemung County Chamber of Commerce  
400 East Church Street  |  Lower Level Boardroom  
10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.  |  Free for Members

**Monday, May 1st**

**Small Business Week Ribbon Cutting Ceremony**  
Join us as we kick off National Small Business Week  
1 Hanover Square  |  1:00 p.m.

**Monday, May 1st**

**The 5 C's of Credit**  
*IN-PERSON* with M&T Bank  
Chemung County Chamber of Commerce  
400 East Church Street  |  Lower Level Boardroom  
2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.  |  Free for Members

**Tuesday, May 2nd**

**Planning for Business Finance**  
*WEBINAR* with Chemung Canal Trust Company  
10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.  |  Free for Members

**Wednesday, May 3rd**

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

**Thursday, May 4th**

**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

**Thursday, May 4th**

**Customer Discovery and How It Relates to Setting Your Business Up for Success**  
*WEBINAR* with IncubatorWorks  
10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.  |  Free for Members
May 4

**Thursday, May 4**

**Small Business Week Celebration**

**Business After Business Reception**

Lake Street Walking Bridge
5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
$5 for Members | $10 Non-Members

May 5

**Friday, May 5**

**Funding Your Small Business**

**In-Person with REDEC**

Chemung County Chamber of Commerce
400 East Church Street | Lower Level Boardroom
10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. | Free for Members

May 25

**Thursday, May 25**

**Threat Assessment for Your Business**

**In-Person with Chemung County**

Chemung County Offices
425 Pennsylvania Ave, Elmira | Auditorium
10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. | Free for Members

May 9

**Tuesday, May 9**

**NYS Update: Regulatory, Legislative and Political Issues Impacting Business**

**Webinar with The Business Council**

9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. | Free for Members
To register, please click [here](#)

May

**Thank You Renewing Investors**

- Community Arts of Elmira, Inc.
- Elmira Heights Central School District
- Foley Enterprises, Inc.
- Isaac Heating & Air Conditioning
- Minch’s Bridge Liquor, Inc.
- O’Connor, Plumbing & Heating
- Staples
- Stewart Agency, Inc.
- Turtle Leaf Café
- White Eagle Society of Elmira

More than 60 Chamber members attended the Meals on Wheels Business After Business Reception in their new event space.
2023 ADVERTISING RATES

Advertise to area businesses each month with Today’s CHAMBER!

Today’s CHAMBER is published monthly and is emailed to more than 1400 Chamber members.

*We are pleased to be offering a full-color publication*

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For more information or to reserve advertising space, please contact the Chamber at (607) 734-5137 or email info@chemungchamber.org.