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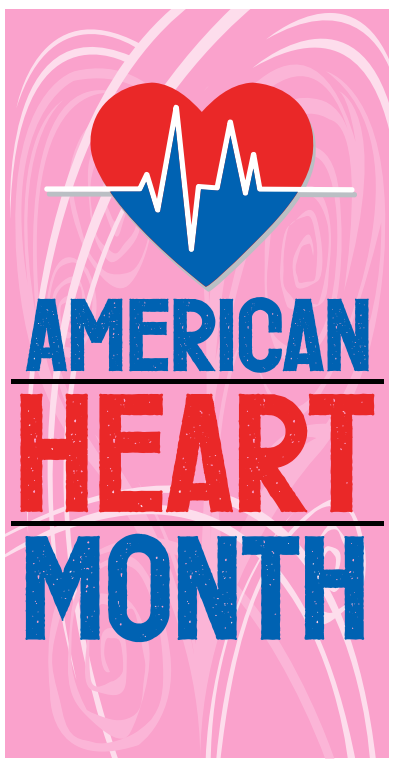

Heroes Helping Heroes

Contributing Writer
Joni Blackman

Last September, New York State Governor Kathy Hochul signed an executive order allowing her to deploy the National Guard and bring in healthcare workers from out-of-state to alleviate staff shortages at hospitals and other care facilities due to the challenges of the COVID-10 pandemic. By early December she was dispatching troops to hospitals and nursing homes across the state.

National Guard and Heritage Ministries

Heritage Ministries President and CEO, Lisa Haglund, shared this week that Heritage skilled nursing communities in Chautauqua County chose to accept assistance from the National Guard at their skilled nursing and rehabilitation communities in Chautauqua County.

"The pandemic has presented so many challenges for the healthcare community, and we continue to explore additional opportunities to support our employees. While our staffing ratios have remained higher than many

Members of the National Guard came to visit residents of Heritage Ministries.

healthcare organizations nationally throughout the pandemic, this week, at our request, members of the National Guard arrived at our rehabilitation and skilled nursing communities in Chautauqua County as a part of Governor Hochul and New York State's on-going commitment and pledge to assist our healthcare community in our time of need. We welcome the National Guard soldiers, their passion to serve, and their support with open arms as we

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JamestownGazette.com

Jamestown Public Safety Annual Report Released

Article Contributed by
City of Jamestown

The Jamestown Police and Fire Departments released their joint 2021 Public Safety Annual Report, today focusing on data collected by both departments, programs and initiatives started in the 2021 year, and goals for the departments heading into 2022. The accomplishments of the Police Department include a focus on more community engagement, including over 1,100 beat patrols in 2021, and certification of the JPD's SWAT Team.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

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Washington 5th Graders Learn More About the Rainforest by Using Technology

Washington Middle School fifth grader, Luca Mistretta, works on his Rainforest ELA project using CLIPS, an Apple computer program that inspires students to tell stories with engaging visuals.

Article Contributed by

Jamestown Public Schools

"I learned that Meg Lowman studied the entire Rainforest. But she studied the canopy the most, including using a blimp that was 250 feet up to get to the plants and animals in the canopy," said Washington Middle School fifth grader Leyondre Glover.

Leyondre explained just one of the many facts he and his classmates discovered as part of the English Language Arts Rainforest unit. The main ELA goals of the unit are summarizing informational text and comparing the overall text structure of two or more pieces of text so the students first read and learn about the Rainforest. Co-teachers Deb Rein and Priscilla Menzies decided to incorporate technology into the Rainforest study. Students used "CLIPS," which is an Apple computer program that inspires students to tell stories with engaging visuals.

"As teachers, it is our responsibility to complete our curriculum, but also to share the world with our students," said Mrs. Menzies and Mrs. Rein. "This includes the good and the bad. If we don't impress upon them the importance of the resources found in the rainforest and the human impact that changes them, they won't have the whole picture. Deforestation is just one-way humans are diminishing our rainforests and we could be losing valuable species. There are many species of plants and animals not yet discovered that need to be preserved for scientists to uncover their potential."

The CLIPS videos needed to include: what a rainforest is, the biodiversity of the rainforest, and what animals live in each layer. The students had very specific items to research. They also included how scientists study the rainforest and then share their work. The students began with an outline of what we expected to be in their projects, they researched and completed the piece. The teachers let the students use their creativity and imaginations to create a project in their own style.

"I like using CLIPS because it's different from just reading about something or seeing it on a video," said Washington Middle School fifth grader Samantha Hopkins. "It makes what we are learning so much more interesting and makes it come alive. We also get to be creative and decide how we want our project to look but still learning about it."

The teachers know the importance of utilizing technology to enhance student learning.

"Anytime we are able to use technology as a tool for kids to show us what they learned, it's what we do because it engages the students in the task and increases their motivation to learn about the topic," said Mrs. Rein and Mrs. Menzies. "JJPS Technology Integration Specialist, Jason Kathman and Jeff Kresge, came in and introduced the students to CLIPS in December. We then used it for a Human Rights project, which was also a hit with our students. We think they learn the info better because the resources we use include real-life experiences with scientists who are in the field every day and their lives are exciting to fifth graders that spend their time in the city who may or may not have ever been to a zoo or real forest of any kind."

Astronomy is Subject of February 27 Virtual Unitarian Service

On Sunday, February 27, Dan Fellows and John Anderson will present "Astronomy Introduction: Models of Reality" at the virtual service of the Unitarian Church. The Martz-Kohl Observatory in Frewsburg, N.Y., pictured here at sunset, provides opportunities for local amateur astronomers.

Article Contributed by

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Jamestown

You are invited to learn about astronomy at the Sunday, February 27, 10:30 a.m. virtual service of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Jamestown (UUCJ).

The subject of congregants Dan Fellows and John Anderson's presentation is "Astronomy Introduction: Models of Reality." With an extensive set of slides, they will look at how scientists and others build models and then compare reality to them.

The message most closely addresses the third of the seven Principles that Unitarian Universalist congregations affirm and promote: Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations.

Dan Fellows grew up in Jamestown, graduating from Jamestown Community College and SUNY Fredonia, where he earned a bachelor's degree in physics and a master's degree in physics education. He taught science at Jamestown High School and physics, astronomy and math at the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford.

Fellows said, "Growing up, I gained an interest in astronomy, building a small reflector telescope with my father's help. Later, I took a course in astronomy from Marshall Martz, the person who developed the Martz-Kohl Observatory in Frewsburg."

Also a Jamestown native, John Anderson has a degree in electrical engineering from the Case Institute of Technology (now Case Western Reserve) and a Certified Quality Engineer certificate from the American Society of Quality. His work has included designing electronic test equipment, electronic voting machines, and wind turbines.

Anderson became interesed in astronomy during childhood with help from his uncles. For many years he has been very active at the Martz-Kohl Observatory – where he gives tours and takes pictures of the skies – as well as UUCJ, having served as treasurer of both. You can learn more about the observatory at MartzoOservatory.org.

A question-and-answer time will follow the presentation.

For those who are interested, an optional virtual coffee hour in breakout rooms follows the service.

Because of COVID-19 concerns, UUCJ Sunday services have remained virtual instead of returning to 1255 Prendergast Avenue. Anyone is welcome to participate with the link at UUJamestown.org/calendar.

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Jamestown is a progressive, liberal religious community serving the southern tier of Western New York and Warren County, Pa. The UUCJ's mission is to promote and provide a community where diverse people of all ages may explore the meaning of existence, give expression to liberal religious values, and work for a just, sustainable society.

You can learn more about the UUCJ at UUJamestown.org or on the Facebook page facebook.com/JamestownUU.

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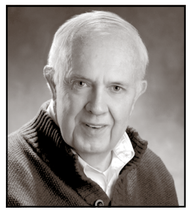
Words of Wisdom *with Walt Pickut*

Who is your enemy?



Contributing Editor

Walt Pickut

First of all, if you know who your enemy is, your friends are easier to find.

But that's just too easy, isn't it? The truest truths can be twisted 'round to say whatever you want them to say. Remember Frank Sinatra? He once said, "Alcohol may be man's worst enemy, but the Bible says love your enemy." Draw your own conclusion!

In fact, an enemy is simply anyone or anything that harms or weakens you. A friend does the opposite. Unfortunately, some mornings when I look in the mirror, I'm not entirely sure which one I'm looking at. Coffee usually helps, but once in a while a deeper look is a good idea.

So, who is that enemy? It's me when I think I'm just fine the way I am, nearly perfect. That notion is the end of growth, improvement, and learning of every kind. The name of that enemy is an ancient one everybody knows. It has two faces. One is evil and the other one good. It is called pride.

One side of pride is arrogance and vanity—it needs nobody. The other pride is satisfaction in achieving something bigger and better than you. It shows up as generosity.

That's why this week your Jamestown Gazette celebrates two groups of people whose achievements could easily excuse an inflated sense of self-importance for the good they do. But once in a while some folks really do well by doing good for somebody else.

Nursing homes, for example, try to do that, but can't always succeed. When they ask for help, they admit they're not perfect, and sometimes, not even good enough. It is important, even imperative, to see that as a strength. Nobody can improve without admitting the need.

The same is true for the military. History is filled with armies arrogantly strutting and goose-stepping over the helpless. So, when the military helps the weak and defends the helpless, they rise above their arrogance.

This week, our contributing cover story writer, Joni Blackman, reports on Heritage's welcoming elements of our National Guard into their mission of caring for the seniors of our community.

And the enemy in this case is Covid-19 and the chaos it has bred across our region in healthcare systems of every kind.

And who better than a president of the United States

to put the whole matter into its simplest perspective? Franklin D. Roosevelt once said it like this: "I ask you to judge me by the enemies I have made."

Heritage Ministries rehabilitation and skilled nursing communities in Chautauqua County and the National Guard have now declared their own kind of war with humility and cooperation as their weapons.

The enemy, it seems, has helped us find our friends. That's something to be proud of in the best possible way.

Enjoy the read.

Walt Pickut
Contributing Editor

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The People's Paper.

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February 6

Irene C. Anthony, 96, formerly of Warren
Peterson-Blick Funeral Home

Brian P. Earll, 62, of Jamestown
Powers, Present & Sixbey Funeral Home

Steven (Steve) Grobaski, Jr., 78, of Jamestown
Hubert Funeral Home

Sarah Lamantia, 96, of Jamestown
Hubert Funeral Home

Robert N. Larson, 80, formerly of Ashville
Lind Funeral Home

John C. Nordin, 94, of Jamestown
Peterson-Blick Funeral Home

February 7

Donald James Andersen Sr, 90, of Russell
Powers, Present & Sixbey Funeral Home

Harold Fiedler, 70, of Jamestown
Hubert Funeral Home

Kathleen L. Rumbaugh, 84, of Frewsburg
Peterson Funeral Home

February 8

Max D. Thorp, 88 of Stockton
Jordan Funeral Home

Wayne G. Coan, 68, of Jamestown
Lind Funeral Home

David M. Fanale, 48, of Silver Creek
Riles & Woolley Funeral Home

Paul R. "Tink", "Sonny", Genco, 84, of Jamestown
Lind Funeral Home

Elaine J. "Midget" Kennedy, 76, of Jamestown
Lind Funeral Home

Stewart "Stub" King Jr, 83, of Jamestown
Lind Funeral Home

John Paul Loranger, Sr, age 69, formerly of Warren
Donald E Lewis Funeral Home

February 9

Barbara Joan Cook (Puisis), 78, of Zelienople
Donald E Lewis Funeral Home

Althea M. Newton, 91, of Gowanda
Riles & Woolley Funeral Home

Richard C. Speadling, 68, of Falconer
Lind Funeral Home

"When someone you love becomes a memory, that memory becomes a treasure."

February 10

Claire Dion Belleau, "Mem", age 91, of Warren
Donald E Lewis Funeral Home

David T. Bishoff, 80, of Forestville
Riles & Woolley Funeral Home

Eugene (Gene) S. Johnson, 74, of Lakewood
Lind Funeral Home

Michael A. Johnson, 50, of Jamestown
Lind Funeral Home

February 11

Thomas "Tommy" Bonavita, 58, of Warren
Donald E Lewis Funeral Home

Lawrence M. "Larry" Hoard, Jr., 85, formerly of Frewsburg
Lind Funeral Home

Cynthia L. Philbrick, 66, of Jamestown
Hubert Funeral Home

February 12

Laura S Capizzi, 103, of Jamestown
Lind Funeral Home

Samuel Macaluso, 73, of Jamestown
Hubert Funeral Home

Kathleen M. Till Winans, 74, of Lander
Hubert Funeral Home

February 13

Marilyn A. Danielson, 93, of Jamestown
Donald E. Lewis Funeral Home

Allan D. Hendrickson, 90, of Jamestown
Lind Funeral Home

Beverly J. Lindstrom, 91, of Jamestown
Lind Funeral Home

Dan N. Raber, 71, of Randolph
VanRensselaer & Son Funeral Home

Kathleen S. Riley, 60, of Jamestown
Lind Funeral Home

February 14

Carlitos "Carlos" Marrero, 64, of Celoron
Lind Funeral Home

Charles F. Purdy, 64, of Jamestown
Falconer Funeral Home

February 15

Frank M. Leone, 80, of Jamestown
Falconer Funeral Home

Andrew Scott Whiteside, 51, of Corry
Falconer Funeral Home

Faith Matters

Shout for Joy to the Lord...

Contributing Writer
Rev. Dr. Scott D. Hannon
St. John Lutheran Church,
Amherst, NY

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music.
Psalm 98:4

I've always thought the church was kind of like an orchestra–only in lieu of strings, reed instruments, percussion and brass, we have teachers, singers, bakers and worship assistants. In an orchestra you need all of the instruments, from the piccolo to the tuba, for the song to reach it's full potential. The same thing is true for our church. But having all the instruments still isn't enough. Each instrument also needs to be reading the same music and playing to the same beat.

Concerning instruments… St. Paul writes in scripture, *"There are a varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given a Spiritual gift for the common good."* (I Corinthians 12:4-6) **God** has gifted **you** with your own talents. You have been given that gift so that you might play your part in our orchestra. In an orchestra it is the culmination of instruments and sounds which creates beautiful music. The same thing is true for our church.

Concerning music… In Revelation thousands and thousands of living creatures and elders sing to God, *"Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might!"* (5:11). That might sound familiar to you. It should - we sing it every Sunday. **Our** song is a hymn of praise to **God**. It is a song of love and thanksgiving. The notes sound off with each act of justice and grace. The melody rings for all the world to see with each of our acts of faith and love.

Concerning rhythm… St. Paul writes in scripture, *"Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus."* (Philippians 2:5) Our goal at St. John is not to have your heart beat in rhythm with mine nor to have mine beat in rhythm with yours, but to have **our** hearts beat in rhythm with **God's**.

Through worship, the reading of scripture, and sharing in the Lord's Supper our hearts are pulled into rhythm with God's. Like musicians following the conductor, we follow Christ as we seek to make a joyful noise to the Lord.

The song we are playing is a tune filled with grace, peace, love and joy. The parts needed to play are worshippers and ministers, singers and readers, teachers and painters, and so much more. Our leader is none other than Christ himself.

Praise him with trumpet sound;
praise him with lute and harp!
Praise him with tambourine and dance;
praise him with strings and pipe!
Praise him with clanging cymbals;
praise him with loud clashing cymbals!
Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord!
Psalm 150

Thank you for playing your part when you worship. If you feel like you have a gift that would add to the "song" at your church, then please, start a conversation about how to make that happen. If you feel out of sync, like you've lost your place, or can't hear the beat, talk about that too with your pastor or priest or the spiritual leader of your congregation. God has placed you there and you are a valuable part of the orchestra wherever you worship.

Let's make music,
Pastor Scott

For more inspiration and insights from Pastor Scott and Pastor Shawn's past columns, please visit www.jamestowngazette.com and click on the Faith Matters page. The Jamestown Gazette is proud to present our county's most creative and original writers for your enjoyment and enlightenment.

2022 Softball League & Kickball League Information

Article Contributed by
The City of Jamestown, Parks, Recreation & Conservation Department

JAMESTOWN City Parks

2022 Softball League Information

The City of Jamestown Parks, Recreation & Conservation Department announces that any individuals / prospective teams interested in participating in the Sunday Slo-Pitch League or in a Co-Ed League, please contact the Recreation Office at 716-483-7523, prior to March 9, 2022.

Informational meetings for the 2022 softball leagues will be scheduled after the March 9th deadline.

For additional information, please call 716-483-7523 or 716-483-7554.

2022 Adult Co-Ed Kickball League Informational Meeting Date Announced

The City of Jamestown, Parks, Recreation & Conservation Department announces the date for the 1st informational meeting regarding the formation of a 2022 kickball league! Below are the details for anyone interested in learning more about participating in this new adult recreational league.

The meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 6th at 6:00 p.m. at the Parks and Recreation Office, located at 115 Fairmount Avenue, Jamestown.

Any individuals who are interested in learning more or forming a team are asked to have a representative present at the meeting.

For additional information, please contact the Recreation Office at either (716) 483-7523 or (716) 483-7554.

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Love Your Eyes, CBA Vision Rehabilitation Services

Submitted Photo

Contributing Writer
Joni Blackman

#LoveYourEyes is all about being aware of your own eye health. The #LoveYourEyes campaign was started in 2021 for World Sight Day by the International Agency for Blindness Prevention. It proved so successful, they decided to continue its use this year. Please read and share the following information about taking care of your eyes.

The 4Ps of Loving Your Eyes are:
- Prevent
- Protect
- Preserve
- Prioritize

Prevent

Many eye diseases can be prevented by adopting a healthy lifestyle. A healthy lifestyle is all about eating healthy and adopting healthy habits such as cutting down on smoking and/or drinking, maintaining a healthy weight through a healthy diet and exercise, and maintaining normal blood sugar, blood pressure and cholesterol levels.

Eating a healthy balanced diet is often the crucial step in maintaining a healthy weight, controlling obesity, and preventing diseases such as diabetes, all of which can impact eye health.

Nutrients that can help maintain good eye health are vitamins A, C and E, Omega 6+ and Omega 3, lutein, zeaxanthin and zinc. For more detailed information visit https://www.iapb.org:8443/world-sight-day/how-to-love-your-eyes/how-to-love-your-eyes-prevent/

Protect

While leading a healthy lifestyle can help you prevent several eye diseases it is equally important to protect and take care of your eyes. The risk ranges from severe sunlight to workplace accidents to prolonged exposure to screens at homes. What can you do to protect your eyes?

Now that the use of technology has become an integral part of all our lives, it is important to cut down on screen time and take regular breaks to avoid symptoms such as eye strain, headache, dry eyes, and musculoskeletal issues, all of which come under what is referred to as computer vision syndrome or digital eye strain. When looking at a computer screen, maintain good posture and keep about an arm's length away from the screen.

Wear protective eye wear. It is important to protect our eyes from harmful radiations like the ultraviolet rays emitted by the sun. Using good quality sunglasses is the simplest step you can take towards protecting your eyes when you step out of the house.

A healthy workplace is important for your eyes too. If you are among those where work exposes you to hazardous chemicals, radiations, flying particles, and excessive heat, you must use protective eyewear as recommended by occupational standards and guidelines.

Clean out your cosmetics. It is essential to maintain good care and a cleaning regimen. Make-up and eye cosmetics can cause issues such as dryness of the ocular surface to allergic reactions.

Preserve

Plan for—and get—a regular comprehensive eye examination. A comprehensive eye examination will ensure that your eye care practitioner obtains a detailed medical history and family history to understand your risk factors,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

Remembering Brooklyn Square *with Joan V. Cusimano Lindquist*

R.R. Rogers School

Contributing Writer

Joan V. Cusimano Lindquist

R.R. Rogers School

Many of my classmates who attended R.R. Rogers School during our elementary school years in the 1940s were drawn from apartment buildings in Brooklyn Square, namely the Gifford and Rogers Buildings, as well as some of the neighborhoods immediately adjacent to the Square that included Harrison, Derby, Victoria, and S. Main Streets, as well as some portions of Allen Street, Camp, and Foote Avenue, to name a few. The school, built in 1906, was originally known as the Southside School; the name later was changed to the Sherman Street School when Jamestown schools were designated by the street on which they were located. By the time I began kindergarten in 1945, the name had changed once more to the Rovillus R. Rogers School in honor of one of Jamestown's superintendents of public schools. Mr. DeWitt Eddy was the principal at the time.

R.R. Rogers was a very large, substantial red brick building with an imposing pillared front entrance. The school and grounds took up a single block bounded by Sherman and Maple Streets to the north and south and Garfield and Arnold Streets to the east and west, which gave adequate parking space for faculty as well as a large, fenced-in play ground that accommodated a softball field, swings, tetter-totters or seesaws, and a couple of sliding boards. The first and second floors housed classrooms from kindergarten through sixth grade, and the basement floor contained classrooms devoted to the needs of special students, the only elementary school in the city that I know of at the time that included special education classes. Unlike some schools that had an All-Purpose Room that was used for a cafeteria, gym, and auditorium, Rogers School had a separate large auditorium that could hold the entire school population, a large gymnasium with tiered benches, a cafeteria where students could buy lunch or bring their own from home, and a well-stocked library on the second floor where students could borrow books. My late husband was amazed at this feature because not either of the elementary schools that he attended—Charles Street School and the Milton J. Fletcher School—had a library. It seems to me, looking back, that Rogers School was built with a vision that encompassed the myriad needs of its students.

The other group of students who were accommodated at Rogers School, and only at Rogers, were those children who lived in outlying districts of the city whose fathers had farms, among them men who raised dairy cattle on the verdant slopes of Chautauqua County, that were bussed to school. They either bought their hot lunch at the cafeteria or brought their own, and if the weather was clement, they had the advantage of playing outdoors until classes resumed. In bad weather—rain or snow—they were sent to the gymnasium where activities were provided for them. I knew some of this first hand when I would occasionally buy or bring my lunch to school instead of going home for my noon meal because the thought of spending time on that wonderful play ground was enticing. What I didn't realize, however, was the advantage I had as a "walker" because I would often stop at a Mom and Pop grocery on the corner of Allen and Foote to stock up on penny candy. My bussed classmates had no where close to home to satisfy a sweet tooth, so I found myself being entrusted with a few cents by these children to buy them Tootsie Rolls, Chum gum, bubble gum, Kits, licorice sticks, and the prized nickel caramel sweet of all, the Sugar Daddy!

But these accommodations to grammar school life were not the only benefits we Rogers School students enjoyed. Every other week we were treated to art classes by Miss Canton, who would visit elementary school classes throughout the city to teach us how to draw, finger paint, weave, make reed baskets, and carve Ivory soap figures. The other "in between weeks" were taken up by music classes given by Miss Gertrude Fuller, who made her way from school to school teaching us the fundamentals of notes and scales, leading us in songs from well-worn song books, and introducing us to rounds, the most popular being "Frere Jacques," that were always fun to sing! And I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge the wonderful home room teachers I had who were well trained in so many academic areas and skills. Almost without exception, in addition to teaching us required subjects, they could play the piano, sing, teach the Palmer Method of script, and read to a rapt audience of youngsters that widened our education in so many ways.

However, the other advantage I received at Rogers School that has lasted a life time was being taught to read music in fourth grade when some of us displayed an interest in music and were taught to play the Tonette, later known as a Flutophone, that we had to purchase. Classes were held on the stage in the auditorium, and after learning the fundamentals, we all gave a concert for the entire school—and I played a solo! In fact, one of my classmates and I were asked by our new principal, Stanley Anderson, to play for the members of the Lions Club during one of their luncheon meetings. We were among a group of other youngsters from city grade schools who were invited to present a musical program to entertain members, many of whom were veterans. After lunch, my classmate and I each had a solo but then played the U.S. Army Field Artillery song, "The Caissons Go Rolling Along" as a duet. I'll never forget the blind gentleman who came up to us after the program was over who expressed his pleasure at our rendition of that song which meant so much to him, being a former U.S. Army veteran who had seen action in WW II.

I think one of the lasting impressions that I have taken away with me from my years at Rogers School was being in Mrs. Selma Carlson's second grade class. The entire school was involved in giving an operetta, "In the Land of Dreams Come True," and I and others in second and third grade were chosen to be Daisies, while the upper grades with taller girls were costumed as Roses and Bluebells! Our costumes were white crepe paper petals-upon-petals for skirts with a yellow bib top and a daisy hat. We each had a yellow and green stick that we twirled as we danced in yellow anklet socks on what was to us the HUGH STAGE in Jefferson Junior High School's auditorium. It was a production! I don't know whose brain child it was, but the operetta was a great success and a wonderful opportunity for us youngsters. That, however, was the end of my elementary school "stage career" other than being in a few plays and chosen to be Mary to one of my classmates Joseph in a tableau while the women's PTA chorus sang Christmas carols.

My late brother John once said to me that he thought he had gotten the best education at Rogers School. I've begun to feel the same way when I realize how our education in those early years was not only grounded in the classic "Three Rs" but also in the arts. The benefits of that schooling in such formative years laid a ground work for the future and makes me grateful for that education.

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CCIDA Announces New Round of Low-Interest Cares Act Loans

Loans to be Made Available to Businesses and Non-Profits to Aid in Economic Recovery as a Result of COVID-19

Article Contributed by

CCIDA

The County of Chautauqua Industrial Development Agency (CCIDA) will once again continue to accept applications to provide low-interest loans to both businesses and non-profit organizations as a means to respond to economic injury resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. This new round of funding starts immediately.

In early 2020, as part of EDA's CARES Act Recovery Assistance, the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) invited select current recipients of existing EDA-funded Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) awards, including the CCIDA, to apply for a supplemental RLF award to help respond to the unusual and compelling urgency of the coronavirus pandemic. EDA had determined that the CCIDA, by virtue of its longstanding and substantial investment in making credit available to small businesses, possessed unique abilities to support the CARES Act Recovery Assistance initiative and that it was therefore in the public's best interest to make this award available on a non-competitive basis.

In mid-2020, the CCIDA team immediately responded to this invitation with the required documentation to apply for the funding. As part of the application process, CCIDA staff created a detailed plan for prudently deploying the funds in a way that would provide maximum flexibility for recipients as well as timeliness in deploying the funding in order to accelerate economic recovery within the County.

The U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) originally announced on September 9, 2020, that the CCIDA had been selected as the recipient of a $10.5 million grant through the CARES Act, which enabled the agency to establish a new Revolving Loan Fund (RLF).

The RLF has been providing capital, in the form of low-interest loans, since its initial launch. The RLF Program was made available to a wide-range of industry sectors, including professional services, non-profits, and other sectors that had previously been excluded from receiving CCIDA loan funds. As currently established, the RLF will provide loans of no less than $25,000 and not to exceed $100,000, with an interest rate of 2.44% (the lowest allowed).

Since the establishment of the RLF, the CCIDA has been able to assist more than 50 businesses and non-profit organizations in Chautauqua County, allowing them to remain in operation, thereby saving thousands of jobs and helping the local economy rebound.

Mark Geise, Deputy County Executive for Economic Development and CEO of the CCIDA stated that "we still have funding remaining from the initial award, and the application and program details are currently available." He urges anyone interested in applying to contact the CCIDA office at 716-661-8900.

About the CCIDA

The CCIDA is an economic development organization authorized and empowered by the State of New York to make Chautauqua County a better place to work, live, visit, and conduct business. The organization facilitates development by attracting new businesses, while promoting the retention and expansion of existing businesses. Assistance in the form of incentives – tax abatements, low interest loans, and bond financing – enhances the opportunities for job creation and retention for our businesses. For more information, visit www.ccida.com.

SUDOKU

Edited by Margie E. Burke

Difficulty: Easy

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HOW TO SOLVE:
Each row must contain the numbers 1 to 9; each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9; and each set of 3 by 3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 to 9.

Solutions on Page 13

The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

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ACROSS

1 Word before "mark" or "row"
5 "Waterloo" singers
9 Come clean
14 Exceptional
15 Tankard filler
16 Rob Petrie's wife
17 Fizzy drink
18 Piano player's aid
20 Beanie
22 Truthful
23 Saloon seat
24 Smallest pup
25 Stroller rider
27 Kindle, as passions
29 Bird call
32 To-do list item
34 Sidewalk cafe sight
36 Picnic spoiler
37 Cleopatra biter
38 Throw, as dice
39 Refuses to budge
42 Underhanded sort
44 Electrifying swimmer
45 Cricket's cousin
47 USN rank
48 Give a new look to
49 Sign after Pisces
51 Laundromat fixture
54 Despicable
57 Commotion
59 Mauna Loa output
60 Airport arriver
61 Surface measure
62 Declare firmly
63 Andrea Bocelli, for one
64 Cry of pain
65 Cover at a KOA

DOWN

1 Get smart
2 Oddball
3 _____ Revolution
4 Passed out in Vegas?
5 Run away (with)
6 On ___ of (as a proxy for)
7 Timer sound
8 Mathis song "Chances ___"
9 Charity-giver
10 Intimidate
11 Ponder
12 Spring bloom
13 Diplomat's skill
19 Hitchhiker's need
21 Butcher's cut
24 Highway exit
25 Far from wordy
26 Speak pompously
28 Full of passion
29 Stubble-free cut
30 Type of wrench
31 Places for murals
33 In ___ case
35 MLB stat
37 One for the road
40 Bitty biter, slangily
41 California ball-player
42 Bug, in a way
43 "Tide" anagram
46 Weedy ryegrass
48 Safari sight
50 Elaborate display
51 Broke down, in a way
52 Wheel shaft
53 Car radio feature
54 Are in the past?
55 Divisible by two
56 Bullseye hitter
58 Mom's month

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Jamestown Public Safety Annual Report Released

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

The estimated number of total crimes in the City of Jamestown decreased 5 percent when compared with the previous year's statistics. In 2021, violent crime was down 4 percent from the 2020 number. Property crimes dropped 5.4 percent.

The 2021 statistics show total amount of violent crimes committed was 241 offenses, compared to 251 in 2020, and the total amount of property crimes committed was 1,060 offenses, compared to 1,120 in 2020. Total incidents responded to by the Jamestown Police Department increased from 31,550 in 2020 to 32,877 in 2021.

The Jamestown Metro Drug Task Force (JMTDF) continues to hold accountable those that deal narcotics. This year, the JMDTF had a record number of seizures in both narcotics and firearms. Compared to 2020 seizures, cocaine seized increased by 163%, fentanyl seized increased by 185%, methamphetamine seized increased by 123%, and heroin seized increased by 288% in 2021.

Jamestown Fire Department responded to 7,775 calls for service in 2021, is up from 7,059 in 2020, an increase of 10%. 2021 was a record year for EMS calls at JFD, who responded to a total of 6,239 calls for medical emergencies, an 8.5% increase from last year, including 1,130 Ambulance transports. The Fire Department also responded to 106 fires, investigated 74 fire incidents, of which 38 were building fires.

JFD was also awarded a FEMA grant in partnership with the Chautauqua Children's Safety Village to increase fire prevention education in the community. Two new fire engines arrived in April. These pumpers have been upfitted with tools and equipment by our in-house maintenance department. They were placed in service in the summer. Also, in 2021 members received 5,400 documented hours of fire training within 685 documented training opportunities.

Chief of Police and Director of Public Safety Tim Jackson said of the report, "I am proud of our police officers and staff working to ensure the safety of city residents. A decrease in crime is a credit to our officers and also bucked the trend of many other jurisdictions around the country. The Jamestown Police Department will continue to be open, transparent, and honest with the community and hold offenders accountable for their actions. I am pleased to see a record number of beat patrols and community engagement in 2021 and am looking forward to continuing the outreach that has created a newfound level of trust between the community and the Police Department."

Deputy Fire Chief Matthew Coon said, "I am extremely proud of our fire department members and all they have accomplished over the past year. In terms of call volume, 2021 was another record year for our organization, especially in the realm of emergency medical services. Despite this, our members have broadened community outreach and fire prevention programs, developed a well-structured in-house training curriculum, outfitted two new pumpers, and furthered their education through New York State fire schools, just to name a few. As we lean forward, we remain committed to respond to the needs of the community, no matter what the emergency may be. On behalf of all JFD members, I extend our sincere thanks to the Jamestown community for their continued support."

Mayor Eddie Sundquist stated: "I am extremely proud by the work and service our police officers, firefighters, and staff provided to the City and its residents. With a lower crime rate, more outreach to the community, and the work of our Drug Task Force taking a record number of drugs and weapons off the street, this was a successful year for our Police Department. Our firefighters responded to fires and EMS calls across Jamestown. I commend the bravery of our men and women who serve our residents every day."

Additional data and information on police department programs and initiatives are presented in the 2021 edition of the City of Jamestown Police Department annual report

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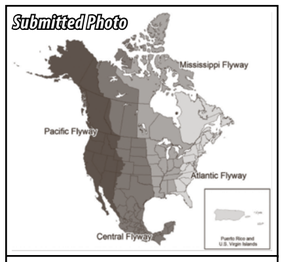
Poultry Producers: Be on the Lookout for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)

Cornell Cooperative Extension Shares Information About the Newly Increased Threat of an Easily Spreadable, Highly Deadly, Reportable Disease in Poultry

Article Contributed by

Cornell Cooperative Connection

Since the beginning of 2022, nearly 140 cases of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza have been identified in U.S. in the wild bird populations in New Hampshire, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Florida, but the virus can easily spread to domestic poultry. This recently occurred on February 8th when the virus was discovered in a commercial turkey flock in Indiana. We are asking our poultry producers to keep eye out for suddenly high mortality and to be prepared to report any suspicious whole flock illness.



Migratory flyways of U.S. bird species. Most birds will fly along their flyway, but there may be some overlap, which can move avian disease across the country. Photo from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

What is Avian Influenza (AI)?

Avian Influenza is a highly contagious poultry virus that has the potential to cause large financial losses to the U.S. poultry industry. A highly pathogenic strain (HPAI), H5N1, last hit the U.S. in 2014-2015, and was considered the nation's largest animal health emergency. Over 200 cases of the disease were found in commercial flocks, backyard flocks, and wild birds. More than 50 million birds were affected and subsequently died or were euthanized on more than 200 farms in 15 states.

Where does it come from?

Waterfowl, both wild and domestic, act as carriers. Since the outbreak of 2014-2015, scientists have been monitoring wild bird populations, and waterfowl hunters send their harvested birds in for testing. Wild waterfowl regularly carry low-pathogenic strains of the virus, but it can easily mutate to a highly pathogenic strain, as we've seen this year.

If it's been mainly identified in wild birds, and it's not yet in NYS, why should I be concerned?

Wild birds follow one of four migratory routes. NYS is located in the Atlantic Flyway, which includes the states with current HPAI findings. It is anticipated that as birds migrate North in the spring, we'll continue to see the cases in wild birds move with them. It also means that there is an increased potential for the virus to establish in poultry flocks along this route.

How does it spread?

HPAI lives in the respiratory and/or intestinal tract of birds. It can be picked up from contact with infected feces, surfaces, or through the air, though ariel transmission from farm to farm is unlikely. It can be transported on infected feed, clothing, or equipment. Once on the farm, the disease is readily passed from bird to bird, infecting an entire flock quickly.

Which flocks are affected?

Flocks of any size, from back yard to commercial, and any species can be affected.

Common symptoms:

Any birds can be affected, but birds other than waterfowl react most strongly to the virus. Poultry infected with HPAI may show one or more of the following symptoms:

- Sudden death without clinical signs
- Lack of energy and appetite
- Decreased egg production or soft-shelled or misshapen eggs
- Swelling of head, comb, eyelid, wattles, and hocks
- Purple discoloration of wattles, comb, and legs
- Nasal discharge, coughing, and sneezing
- Discoordination
- Diarrhea

A high level of mortality without any clinical signs is known to be a hallmark of the virus. In some cases, expect 100% of the flock to die within a few days. Regardless of how the disease presents, a large portion of the birds in a flock will be affected. Waterfowl may carry the virus but not show symptoms.

What do I do if I think I have HPAI in my flock?

Report it! If your birds are sick or dying, it's important to report it immediately so that we can stop the spread to any other flocks. You can call:

- Your local veterinarian or flock veterinarian

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

Renaissance Block Challenge: A Decade of Home Improvement with Jamestown Renaissance Corporation

20 Barker Street before (left) and after (right): Allen Park/UPMC Barker Neighborhood Cluster 2019-2021 Renaissance Block Challenge.

Article Contributed by

Jamestown Renaissance Corporation

Real and Lasting Impact

The Jamestown Renaissance Center (JRC) supports neighborhood revitalization with The Renaissance Block Challenge (RBC), a signature program started in 2011 providing resources and small grants to groups of property owners so they can collaborate on beautifying their street together through exterior improvements.

Local homeowner Debbie Basile participated two separate years in the Renaissance Block Challenge. Along with the matching grant, Basile was able to take advantage of multiple discounts provided by local hardware stores and businesses on items like paint and lumber. She described the application process as straightforward and was happy with the experience.

Improvement to curb appeal can have a positive, cascading effect on a city street. One homeowner fixes a porch, installs new gutters, or plants flowers and bolsters another's confidence to work on their own property.

"It encouraged us to engage with our neighbor on keeping up our property. It has definitely increased the value of my home which without the grant wouldn't have been possible." Basile had her front porch restored, driveway redone, and a new garage door installed. "It's a wonderful opportunity for middle class working neighborhoods to take advantage of" she said.

Tom Franco of The Forest Heights Historical District has lived in his house for 47 years. He's part of a neighborhood project group that utilizes the RBC program and has fixed his porch and concrete walkway. Franco says, "It's one of the better things to happen to the older neighborhoods." And "If you qualify, find a way to invest and take care of your property." He said the RBC has inspired camaraderie and commitment among those in Forest Heights.

Who We Are

JRC was founded in 2006 as a public-private partnership to support urban design. What soon became clear was that healthy neighborhoods were an important piece of the puzzle and that stabilizing and maintaining property values would benefit the entire city.

The RBC program supports exterior "curb appeal" improvements to highlight Jamestown's unique historical architecture with hopes that real and visible change will keep up property values for future generations. The Neighborhood Division of JRC is guided by czb LLC Healthy Neighborhood plans which were adopted by the City of Jamestown City Council in 2010 and incorporated into the City of Jamestown Comprehensive Plan.

From 2011-2018 the program was offered to all residents of Jamestown. By the end of that timeframe 45 neighborhoods had participated with nearly 450 property owners, including business owners and landlords, investing over $1.3 million in exterior repairs and improvements.

Projects funded in the program include painting, porch repair, soffit repair, sidewalk repair, mailboxes, exterior lighting, front-yard landscaping, front doors and windows, driveways, driveway aprons, and gutters.

2018 and Beyond

Starting in 2018 a more focused approach was adopted to fine tune the process; this included an extended time for accomplishing projects and the new strategy of targeted "clusters" of properties. At least six neighbors in one of the targeted areas were required to collaborate on a plan and apply on the JRC website.

Mary Maxwell, JRC's Neighborhood Project Director, says, "This update

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

Heroes Helping Heroes

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

all work together to provide for our beloved residents, as we have for over 135 years," she shared.

Haglund explained that National Guard service men and women will provide much-needed temporary assistance and relief to front-line teams at Heritage who have heroically and tirelessly led the way since March 2020 for the organization.

She continued, "I cannot begin to thank our valued employees enough for all they have done, and continue to do. Again, and again, they rise to the occasion, offering help whenever, and wherever, it is needed, despite constant challenges, including ever-changing regulations, vaccine mandates, and staffing obstacles, always placing the care of our residents as their top priority. They truly are the reason we continue to remain #HeritageStrong."

While at Heritage, the National Guard members are working alongside Heritage staff to support staff and residents in various roles, including housekeeping, dietary services, maintenance, and resident visits and companionship.

Soldiers Arrive at the Right Time

Jennifer Whitten, Heritage Chief Operating Officer, shared that the arrival of the National Guard troops came at just the right time for current Heritage staff in Chautauqua County, who have battled the pandemic, and all the challenges associated with it, including staffing obstacles. "The National Guard men and women are a tremendous help to our front-line staff in our communities. We work constantly to show our staff that we care - to alleviate as many stresses as we possibly can. They are exhausted from the constant and changing demands that have been put on them since the pandemic began. Our decision to request assistance from the National Guard has been another way we can show our support. The National Guard assistance allows our staff to serve our residents in a greater capacity- allowing for more hands-on care and in some cases, provide respite time for those staff who need it."

Whitten discussed that the National Guard assistance at Heritage also benefits additional institutions in Chautauqua County who have experienced the challenges the pandemic has presented.

"This is an unprecedented time in healthcare. Hospitals cannot discharge to skilled nursing and rehabilitation facilities because they are not fully staffed. Having the Guard soldiers here allows our staffing to support additional admissions. Heritage is then able to help the hospital system manage their higher numbers of patients, which was Governor Hochul's intent with the Executive Order authorizing the use of the National Guard," said Whitten.

Members of the National Guard came to visit residents of Heritage Ministries.

Military Support

Whitten shared that Heritage residents have also welcomed the National Guard as well. "Many of our residents are veterans themselves, or come from military families, and are so supportive of their new presence in our communities as they assist our staff. They have enjoyed spending time with the soldiers discussing their own experiences in the military, participating in activities, and watching them work with our staff as a team. We had one resident in a memory care unit who had served as an Army nurse. She was so excited to see some of the National Guard members and thanked them for their service, which was immediately returned by them thanking her for hers. She spent tearful and joyous time with them talking and reminiscing. It's heart-warming to see our generations connecting over such common bonds."

Haglund added, "Just like our current teams at Heritage, our National Guard men and women have dedicated themselves to a mission of serving and caring for others. It's an honor to have our Heritage heroes and the National Guard working together to serve our greatest generation, our seniors, many of whom are veterans themselves."

"We're blessed to able to help our healthcare system to continue to serve those in need during this historically challenging time." she continued. "We're all in this together to serve our community in any way that we can," she concluded.

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February is National Heart Month

UPMC's Chautauqua Cardiology Department is raising funds to purchase strength training equipment for cardiac rehab patients and to support a local children's heart camp during National Heart Month.

"And the Beat Goes On" T-Shirts
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or you may donate to the UPMC Chautauqua Cardiology department through the WCA Foundation at:
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UPMC CHAUTAUQUA | WCA Foundation

Herbs and Spices that can Promote Healthy Hearts

Article Contributed by
Metro Creative Connection

Photo by Metro Creative Connection

A nutritious diet is a key component of a healthy lifestyle. When paired with regular physical activity, a nutritious diet can help people dramatically reduce their risk for various diseases, including heart disease.

According to the World Health Organization, ischaemic heart disease and stroke claim more lives each year than any other disease, annually accounting for roughly 15 percent of all deaths across the globe. Many deaths caused by heart disease can be prevented, and eating a healthy diet is a great preventive measure that anyone can take.

Though some people may associate healthy diets with bland foods that lack flavor, people can incorporate various heart-healthy herbs and spices into their favorite dishes to make them more nutritious and flavorful.

- **Garlic:** Garlic has long since earned its place on the kitchen spice rack. However, botanically, garlic is neither an herb or a spice but a vegetable. Regardless of how it's classified, garlic is loaded with flavor and can be used to improve just about any recipe, all the while benefitting heart health. The United States-based health services provider Mercy Health notes that garlic can help lower blood pressure and reduce bad cholesterol levels.

- **Cayenne pepper:** Few ingredients may change a recipe as quickly as cayenne pepper. The addition of cayenne pepper can instantly make dishes more spicy. But cayenne pepper brings more than a little extra kick to the dinner table. Healthline notes that various studies have shown that capsaicin, the active ingredient in cayenne pepper, can provide a host of health benefits. One such study published in the British Journal of Nutrition found that adding capsaicin to a high-carbohydrate breakfast significantly reduced hunger and the desire to eat before lunch. Eating less can help people more effectively control their body weight, which in turn reduces their risk for heart disease.

- **Turmeric:** Garlic and even cayenne pepper may already be staples in many people's kitchens, but that's not necessarily so with turmeric. A yellow spice often used when preparing Indian foods, turmeric has anti-inflammatory properties thanks to curcumin, the part of turmeric responsible for giving it its yellow color. Experts acknowledge that turmeric needs to be studied more to definitively conclude its effects on heart health, but WebMD notes that one small study indicated that turmeric can help ward off heart attacks in people who have had bypass surgery.

- **Coriander:** A popular herb used across the globe, coriander is sometimes mistaken for cilantro. Though the two come from the same plant, cilantro refers to the leaves and stems of the coriander plant, while the coriander in recipes typically refers to the seeds of that plant. Mercy Health notes that coriander seeds may help reduce bad cholesterol and high blood pressure, both of which are significant risk factors for heart disease.

Heart-healthy herbs and spices can be added to various recipes, proving that nutritious meals need not be void of flavor.

4 Common Heart Conditions

Photo by Metro Creative Connection

Article Contributed by
Metro Creative Connection

Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death across the globe. According to the World Health Organization, an estimated 17.9 million people die each year from cardiovascular diseases, which are a group of disorders of the heart and blood vessels.

The sheer volume of deaths caused by heart disease each year suggest there's little people can do to avoid it. However, the Canadian organization Heart & Stroke notes that healthy behaviors like eating a heart-healthy diet and exercising regularly can help individuals delay the onset of heart disease by as much as 14 years.

Education is another valuable asset in the fight against heart disease. Individuals who are aware of common heart illnesses can discuss them with their physicians and take measures to reduce their risk.

1. Angina: Heart & Stroke notes that angina is another word for chest pain. The discomfort associated with angina, which can feel like squeezing, suffocating or burning, is caused by a temporary disruption in the flow of blood and oxygen to the heart. Though angina symptoms typically do not last long, they are considered warning signs for heart attack and should be discussed with a physician immediately after they appear.

2.Atherosclerosis: Atherosclerosis is characterized by the buildup of plaque on the interior wall of an artery. That buildup makes the walls of the artery thick and hard, thus restricting the flow of blood, and can potentially contribute to a blockage. The experts at Johns Hopkins Medicine note that risk factors for atherosclerosis include high cholesterol, high blood pressure, obesity, and a poor diet that includes lots of saturated fats. Atherosclerosis can cause angina, though many individuals with the condition experience no symptoms until it has reached an advanced stage. Blockages in the leg may cause cramping when exercising or walking, while those in the arteries of the heart can cause heart attack. Blockages that develop in the brain can cause stroke.

3. Cardiomyopathy: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention notes that cardiomyopathy often goes undiagnosed, making it hard to determine just how common the condition is. But the CDC estimates that as many as one in 500 adults have cardiomyopathy. Cardiomyopathy is a disease of the heart muscle that makes it harder for the heart to pump oxygen-rich blood to the body at optimal capacity. Heart & Stroke notes that cardiomyopathy can lead to heart failure. Early stages of cardiomyopathy may not produce any symptoms, but as the disease gets worse individuals may experience fainting, irregular or rapid heartbeats, light-headedness, and swelling of the hands and feet, among other things.

4. Coronary artery disease: Heart & Stroke notes that coronary artery disease (CAD) is the most common form of heart disease. CAD occurs when one or more of the coronary arteries narrows or becomes blocked. CAD causes damage or disease to major blood vessels that supply blood, oxygen and nutrients to the heart. Certain risk factors for CAD, such as age, are beyond individuals' control. However, many risk factors are within a person's control. Individuals can speak to their physicians about how to maintain a healthy blood pressure and a healthy weight, limit stress, and reduce their cholesterol, all of which can lower risk for CAD.

Heart disease claims the lives of millions of people each year. Recognizing common heart conditions and how to prevent them can help individuals lower their risk for this deadly, yet often preventable disease.

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HEALTHY HEART TRIVIA

1. How often should you have your blood pressure checked?
2. Try to keep your blood pressure at ___/___ or less.
3. How much should you exercise to promote good heart health?
4. How many chambers does the heart have?
5. The movement of blood through the heart and body is called?
6. The beating sound your heart makes comes from?
7. What wall separates the left side and right side of the heart?
8. What organ removes waste from blood?
9. What are tubes that carry blood back to the heart?
10. With circulation, the heart provides your body with what 2 gases?

1. Twice a year 2. 139/89 3. 30 minutes 4. Four 5. Circulation 6. Valves closing 7. Septum 8. Kidneys 9. Veins 10. Oxygen & Nitrogen

Senator Borrello Announces Scholarship Opportunity

Article Contributed by

News from Senator George M. Borrello 57th Senate District

New York State Senator George Borrello announced that the New York Conference of Italian-American State Legislators is accepting applications for four $4,000 scholarships, two academic and two athletic.

Scholarships are available to residents of the 57th Senate District who are current college students or high school seniors entering college. Students can access and complete the application by visiting: https://www.nyiacsl.org/ and clicking on the scholarships link.

The application deadline is Friday, March 18.

"This is an excellent scholarship opportunity for high school seniors and college students in the 57th Senate District who have worked hard, distinguished themselves from their peers and intend to pursue higher education," Senator Borrello said. "With college costs continually rising, this is a chance to lessen the financial burden that is a concern for so many young people and their families. I encourage eligible students in my district to apply."

Applicants should have a grade point average of 85 or higher; be active in community service and extracurricular activities and demonstrate financial need. In addition to these qualifications, students applying for an athletic scholarship must also be involved in an organized sport(s). Applicants need not be of Italian-American heritage to apply.

Scholarship recipients will be announced in May and the winners will be honored. For more information, please contact John Eberth in Senator Borrello's Olean office at 716-372-4901 or email eberth@nysenate.gov.

The New York Conference of Italian-American State Legislators is a bipartisan organization of state Assembly and Senate members who actively promote and celebrate the state's Italian-American community.

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Join Me in the Kitchen *with Vicki McGraw*

My Favorite Cake Mix Cookies

Contributing Writer

Vicki McGraw

Elegant Edibles Catering

Well friends, we have almost made it to the end of February! By now, I do believe many of us are really, REALLY sick of this crazy weather. I mean good grief, one day it's in the single digits, the next day the 50's…I know for a fact my patience has run out on old man winter! I am anxiously awaiting gentle spring breezes wafting in my open kitchen windows. That being said however, I have been enjoying having my oven on. Let's face it; when the temperature is in the 80's, the last thing we want to do is heat up the house by baking anything, but when it's in the 20's? Let's crank that bad boy up!!

This time of year my schedule tends to be much calmer than other seasons, so I like to spend my spare time filling my freezers with cookies of every variety, freshly baked muffins and quick breads. I love to stock up when I have the time and having it cold outside is a terrific time to bake. The cool thing with most of these yummy treats is that I can make them using a very simple "base" recipe and "kick it up" however I'd like. Most basic cookies and quick breads or muffins start with the same simple ingredients…flour and sugar, butter or shortening, eggs, baking powder or soda. The fun part is coming up with all of the different stuff you can add in!

One of my very favorite (and easiest) cookie recipes came to me from the mother of a long ago student, way back in my teaching days. It starts with an ordinary box of cake mix. You can use any brand or flavor you would like, and add anything to it that sounds tasty…my personal favorite is a cherry cake mix with slivered almonds and a dash of almond extract. The varieties are limitless when you look at the different cake mix flavors out there. Similarly, a basic muffin recipe-or mix- can be tweaked to a multitude of different kinds of muffins or breads. Bananas and chocolate chips make chunky monkey bread, pineapple, coconut and a dash of rum extract make a terrific Pina colada muffin, cocoa powder and red food coloring create everyone's favorite red velvet muffin, and don't get me started on the advantages of adding crushed candy bars to anything…mmm mmm good!

Most baked goods like cookies, muffins and quick breads freeze really well when they are packaged in air tight containers or zipper bags. As soon as they have cooled after baking, I wrap muffins and quick breads in plastic wrap, and then store in air tight containers in the freezer. The same goes for cookies; once they have cooled, I place them in zipper bags and freeze. I have found that the trick to all of this is, however, that you must do your baking when your kids (and husband) aren't around, because if yours are anything like mine were, there won't be anything left to freeze if they see what you are making!,

Stay warm and bake away, my friends!!

My Favorite Cake Mix Cookies

(this recipe has been requested by several loyal readers... I hope you all enjoy it!)

- 1 box cake mix (any flavor)
- ½ C flour
- ½ C water
- ½ C vegetable oil
- 2 eggs

Mix together dry ingredients.

Add wet ingredients to dry and mix together until combined (do not over mix!) Gently fold in desired mix-ins**

Drop by tablespoon (or try using a small ice cream scoop…it works great!) onto a parchment lined cookie sheet.

Bake at 375* for 13 minutes. Do not over bake or cookies will be dry!

Frost or glaze if desired

****Try mixing in:**

- 1 ½ T poppy seeds and 1 T grated lemon zest (white cake mix)
- 2 C mini chocolate chips (yellow cake mix)
- ½ C seasonal sprinkles (white cake mix)
- 1 t cinnamon and ½ C chopped pecans (yellow cake mix)
- ½ t each cinnamon, ginger and cloves (chocolate cake mix)
- 1 C dried cranberries, 1 T orange zest (yellow cake mix)
- ½ C chopped pecans, ½ C raisins ½ C coconut (carrot cake mix)

OR... *get creative and add your own favorite flavors to your cake mixes!*

To read more of Vicki McGraw's commentaries on good cooking, fine recipes and perfect party treats, visit www.jamestowngazette.com and click on Join Me in the Kitchen's own page. The Jamestown Gazette is proud to present our county's most creative and original writers for your enjoyment and enlightenment.

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

Solution to Crossword:

S	K	I	D		A	B	B	A		A	D	M	I	T
A	O	N	E		B	E	E	R		L	A	U	R	A
S	O	D	A		S	H	E	E	T	M	U	S	I	C
S	K	U	L	L	C	A	P		H	O	N	E	S	T
		S	T	O	O	L		R	U	N	T			
T	O	T		I	N	F	L	A	M	E		C	A	W
E	R	R	A	N	D		U	M	B	R	E	L	L	A
R	A	I	N			A	S	P			R	O	L	L
S	T	A	Y	S	P	U	T		W	E	A	S	E	L
E	E	L		K	A	T	Y	D	I	D	E	N	S	
			R	E	D	O		A	R	I	E	S		
W	A	S	H	E	R		W	R	E	T	C	H	E	D
E	X	C	I	T	E	M	E	N	T		L	A	V	A
P	L	A	N	E		A	R	E	A		A	V	E	R
T	E	N	O	R		Y	E	L	P		T	E	N	T

Solution to Sudoku:

7	3	8	9	1	4	6	2	5
1	2	4	6	5	8	9	7	3
9	6	5	3	7	2	8	4	1
6	4	3	1	9	5	7	8	2
8	1	2	4	6	7	5	3	9
5	7	9	2	8	3	4	1	6
4	8	1	5	2	6	3	9	7
3	9	6	7	4	1	2	5	8
2	5	7	8	3	9	1	6	4

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Sealed bids will be received as set forth in instructions to bidders until 10:30 A.M. on Thursday, March 24, 2022 at the NYSDOT, Office of Contract Management, 50 Wolf Rd, 1st Floor, Suite 1CM, Albany, NY 12232 and will be publicly opened and read. Bids may also be submitted via the internet using www.bidx.com. A certified cashier's check payable to the NYSDOT for the sum specified in the proposal or a bid bond, form CONR 391, representing 5% of the bid total, must accompany each bid. NYSDOT reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Electronic documents and Amendments are posted to www.dot.ny.gov/doing-business/opportunities/const-notices. The Contractor is responsible for ensuring that all Amendments are incorporated into its bid. To receive notification of Amendments via e-mail you must submit a request to be placed on the Planholders List at www.dot.ny.gov/doing-business/opportunities/const-planholder. Amendments may have been issued prior to your placement on the Planholders list.

NYS Finance Law restricts communication with NYSDOT on procurements and contact can only be made with designated persons. Contact with non-designated persons or other involved Agencies will be considered a serious matter and may result in disqualification. Contact Robert Kitchen (518)457-2124.

Contracts with 0% Goals are generally single operation contracts, where subcontracting is not expected, and may present direct bidding opportunities for Small Business Firms, including, but not limited to D/W/MBEs.

The New York State Department of Transportation, in accordance with the Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 78 Stat. 252, 42 U.S.C. 2000d to 2000d-4 and Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, Department of Transportation, Subtitle A, Office the Secretary, Part 21, Nondiscrimination in Federally-assisted programs of the Department of Transportation and Title 23 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 200, Title IV Program and Related Statutes, as amended, issued pursuant to such Act, hereby notifies all who respond to a written Department solicitation, request for proposal or invitation for bid that it will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability/handicap and income status in consideration for an award.

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Renaissance Block Challenge: A Decade of Home Improvement with Jamestown Renaissance Corp.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

reinforced the principles of success, being patient in the results, visible improvements, being assertive in making things happen and lastly, coordinating multiple neighbors."

Those applying are encouraged to have a strong sense of communication between neighbors and highlight what skills they could contribute to making their exterior projects successful.

Maxwell emphasized that while the RBC financially assists homeowners with curb appeal, the real benefit is an increase in pride of ownership and most importantly an increase in communication among the neighbors.

For the most recent round of the program ending in 2023, The focus or "map" encompasses UPMC/Allen Park neighborhood of 259 properties. Over 50% of the properties have signed up with two years remaining in this target area.

Property owner Ronda Whitford used the grant to work on a rental property from 1900. After working on city code items, she said "Our next undertaking was restoration of the two-story front porch, steps, and landscaping- a big budget item that would not have been possible without the extra funds coming from the Block grant. There's very little "red tape" and it's so satisfying to see so many improvements around the neighborhood."

Learn More

Funding is provided by the John Alfred and Oscar Johnson Memorial Trust, with support from the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation, The Ralph C. Sheldon Foundation, and the Lenna Foundation.

Interested in applying? Applications will soon be available for the new target area, the Northside of Jamestown, with a project timeline from 2022-2025. Visit Jamestown Healthy Neighborhoods Facebook Page or contact Mary Maxwell at 716-708-6964.

Poultry Producers: Be on the Lookout for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

- The State veterinarian serving your county
- The State Animal Health Diagnostic Center, at (607) 253-3900 or poultryhealth@cornell.edu
- The USDA toll-free at 1-866-536-7593

What can I do to manage for it?

Because there is not a vaccine currently available in the U.S. for this disease, keeping it out through biosecurity is going to be the best course of action. The easy-to-follow biosecurity principles below can go a long way to keeping your birds safe from disease:

- Establishing an "all-in, all-out" flock-management policy
- Protecting against exposure to wild birds or water or ground contaminated by wild birds
- Closing bird areas to nonessential personnel or vehicles
- Providing employees with clean clothing and disinfection facilities and directions for their use
- Thoroughly cleaning and disinfecting equipment and vehicles (including tires and undercarriage) when entering or leaving the farm
- Banning the borrowing or lending of equipment or vehicles
- Banning visits to other poultry farms, exhibitions, fairs, and sales or swap meets (if visits must occur, direct workers to change footwear and clothing on their return)
- Banning bringing birds in slaughter channels back to the farm

If you have any questions about this disease, please contact Amy Barkley at (716) 640-0844 or amb544@cornell.edu. The information used to create this article is shared by the United States Department of Agriculture – Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS).

SWNYDLFC is a partnership between Cornell University and the CCE Associations of Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, and Steuben counties. Their team includes Katelyn Walley-Stoll, Farm Business Management (716-640-0522); Camila Lage, Dairy Management (607-422-6788); and Amy Barkley, Livestock Management (716-640-0844). CCE is an employer and educator recognized for valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities and provides equal program and employment opportunities.

Don't Agree with the Amount or Service of any Government Assistance you Receive? Request a "Fair Hearing"

Article Contributed by

Chautauqua County Health and Human Services

Many people as they get older receive programs and services from different government agencies. Maybe you have Medicaid in addition to Medicare to help with medical bills. Long-term Medicaid that pays for services in your home or nursing home expenses. You may receive SNAP to help pay for groceries or HEAP to help with your heating bills or to replace/repair your furnace. Often we hear complaints from older adults that services were cut at their annual review or do not meet their needs. So this month, I wanted to explain the process to have your services reviewed. It is called a "fair hearing". If you receive any government assistance and you do not agree with the amount of the payment or service, you can request a "fair hearing."

So what is a fair hearing? A fair hearing means that your benefits will be reviewed by a judge. The judge will review all the information and make a determination as to what amount of benefits you are entitled to. These administrative law judges are usually with the NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance at the state or if it is a federal program like Social Security, it would be a federal administrative law judge. One of the reasons I came to Chautauqua County years ago was my aunt, Judge Marge, who was a federal Administrative law judge for Social Security. She held hearings in Jamestown when people were denied SSI or SSD and wanted that reviewed. At the hearing, you can tell the judge why you think the evaluation was wrong or present additional information about your circumstances. Most fair hearings for state programs like SNAP, HEAP, and Medicaid are fairly simple and do not require legal representation but I certainly recommend you bring a family member or an advocate like a social worker.

How do you request a fair hearing? After you enroll in a program, like Medicaid, SNAP, or HEAP, you will usually receive an award letter. It will tell you the amount of service and/or award and include information about a fair hearing. It will say something like, "If you do not agree with this, you can file for a fair hearing." It should include a phone number, fax, e-mail, and address so you can call, e-mail or write to request a fair hearing. Make sure you include the case number, your full name and address, and any other information that is requested. If you notice your benefits were changed and you did not receive a letter telling you this, you can also request a fair hearing. Simply contact the NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance through their website at https://otda.ny.gov/hearings or call 800-342-3334 or fax 518-473-6735 or write to PO Box 1930, Albany N.Y. 12201.

If you have a Managed Medicaid Long-term Care Plan (MLTC for short) like Fidelis, Nascentia, Kalos Health, I-Circle, or Total Senior Care the same process applies. When you enter these programs, a nurse case manager will evaluate you and determine what services you need. These nurse case manager are employed by the MLTC company. They do not work for the local county Medicaid office. Even so, they are subject to review by NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance if you do not agree with the amount of services they are providing or if the services are reduced after a review. It is important to note that there are time limits to request a fair hearing. Many MLTCs only allow 60 days to request a fair hearing so it is best to make the request as soon as possible.

In addition to the fair hearing process, if you are not happy with the services you are getting through an MLTC plan, you can contact the long-term Medicaid ombudsman at ICAN (Independent Consumer Advocacy Network.) Just like ombudsman for people in Nursing Homes, ICAN was set up to help people understand their benefits and advocate for people getting long-term care services or behavioral health services at home or in the community. If you have questions about your Medicaid long-term care services and need help advocating for care, you can call ICAN at 1-844-614-8800 or visit their website https://icannys.org to send a message or electronically chat with an Ombudsman.

For more information on the fair hearing process visit Chautauqua County Health and Human Services website at https://chqgov.com/humansocial-services/fair-hearing-division or Legal Assistance of WNY at https://www.lawny.org/node/40/fair-hearings or contact or NY Connects Helpline at 716-753-4582.

JHS Announces All-WNY Scholar Athletes & Teams

Submitted Photo

Article Contributed by

Jamestown Public Schools

JHS is proud to announce that all of their fall athletic teams were recently designated All-WNY Scholar-Athlete Teams. This is the first time that every JHS team in a season has received this award. In addition, 18 seniors were named fall All-WNY Scholar-Athletes.

To qualify as a scholar-athlete team, 75% of a team's roster must have a GPA over 90% during the first quarter of the school year. The fall JHS athletic teams who received the team awards were: Football, Boys Cross Country, Girls Cross Country, Boys Soccer, Girls Soccer, Girls tennis and Girls Volleyball. To be an All-WNY Scholar-athlete, seniors must have a cumulative GPA of 90% or higher. The individual athletes who received this honor were:

- Cecelia Eklum (girls tennis) – winner
- Rylie Loomis (girls volleyball) – winner
- Nick Miraglia (football) – winner
- Jaymin Morano (boys XC) – winner
- Ben Anderson (football) – honorable mention
- Madison Arthurs (girls tennis) – honorable mention
- Skyela Banse-Fay (girls soccer) – honorable mention
- Mia Brown (girls tennis) – honorable mention
- Colton Cappalino (boys XC) – honorable mention
- Nicole Carlson (girls volleyball) – honorable mention
- Regan Coombs (girls volleyball) – honorable mention
- Hannah Grey (girls volleyball) – honorable mention
- Rena Huntington (girls tennis) – honorable mention
- Cadance Main (girls volleyball) – honorable mention
- Nicole McGrath (girls tennis) – honorable mention
- Natalie Reinhardt (girls swimming) – honorable mention
- Haileigh Rhodes (girls soccer) – honorable mention
- Annika Spitzer (girls tennis) – honorable mention

"We are so proud of these student-athletes, especially as this is the first time at JHS that every athletic team in a season has received the Scholar-Athlete team award," said JPS Athletic Director, Ben Drake. "We know how much hard work and dedication it takes for these students to not only excel in athletics, but also in academics."

NEWSPAPER ADS WORK.
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"Jazz and Friends" Supports LGBTQ

Article Contributed by

SUNY Jamestown Community College

In a show of support after a national anti-LGBTQ hate group bullied a young transgender girl in Mount Horeb, Wisconsin, her community hosted a reading of "I Am Jazz" by transgender advocate Jazz Jennings. Since then, "Jazz and Friends National Day of Community Readings in Support of Transgender and Non-Binary Youth" has become an annual national reading of affirming and inclusive books about the trans youth experience. From 12:45 p.m. - 1:15 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 24, SUNY Jamestown Community College will host a reading in the Jamestown Campus Student Union.

"We don't want to miss the chance to show our support for transgender and non-binary youth," shares Kayla Crosby, director of campus life for SUNY JCC. "Our ultimate goal is truly making this an inclusive campus for all students."

JCC began participating in this event in 2019, with intent to affirm, support, and create positive outcomes for LGBTQ individuals.

According to Dr. Greg Rabb, professor of political science at JCC, "Many of our students are excited to see JCC doing a trans-positive event on campus." Rabb is an openly gay professor and longtime activist for the LGBTQ community. Though he is retiring this summer, Rabb credits Crosby's efforts on campus as being a fantastic vehicle for inspiring acceptance.

Crosby notes that anyone who is interested can attend the event virtually by registering on the JCC website. For more information, visit: sunyjcc.edu/event/jazz-and-friends-national-day-school-and-community-readings

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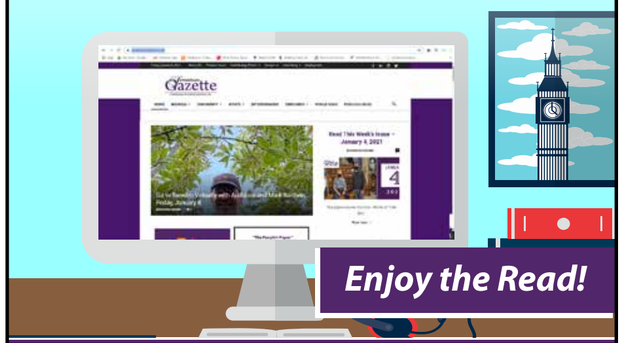

visit **www.jamestowngazette.com** and enter your email address in the sign up form. You will receive your own issue each week in your email.

Audubon Community Nature Center Opens 2022 Photography Contest

Now is the time to take your best winter shots to submit to Audubon Community Nature Center's 2022 Nature Photography Contest. This snowy scene photographed by Cheryl Gayser of Milford, Pennsylvania, is a previous finalist.

Article Contributed by

Audubon Community Nature Center

Audubon Community Nature Center (ACNC) is awarding a total of $1,200 in prize money to the winners of its 2022 Nature Photography Contest. Submissions are now being accepted at GoGoPhotoContest.com/ACNCPhotoContest.

A mixed panel of professional and amateur photographers will choose a Youth (ages 8 to 18) and an Adult (age 19 and older) winner in the categories of Fauna and Landscapes / Waterscapes. Each of those four winners will receive a $200 cash prize. The panel will also name three Youth and three Adult finalists.

Fauna includes any wild animal; no photos of animals in captivity, such as pets, zoos, or rehab animals. Landscapes / Waterscapes can be mountains, forests, fields, deserts, etc.; or oceans, lakes, ponds, rivers, creeks, etc.

Additional $200 cash prizes will be awarded to the Adult and Youth photos receiving the most Community Choice votes online, and three each will receive finalist recognition. A photo could receive both the Community Choice and a judged award.

Winning and finalist photographs will be displayed on the contest website along with the photographers' names and cities of residence. ACNC will print the winning photographs to exhibit in the Nature Center, and winners and finalists will be announced in a news release that is widely distributed, including to their local media when known.

Deadline for submission of photographs is Sunday, August 28, 2022. The sooner photographs are submitted, the longer the public can vote on them for the Community Choice award.

Full details of the competition can be found at GoGoPhotoContest.com/ACNCPhotoContest.

Audubon Community Nature Center builds and nurtures connections between people and nature by providing positive outdoor experiences, opportunities to learn about and understand the natural world, and knowledge to act in environmentally responsible ways. To learn more, visit AudubonCNC.org.

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SUNY Fredonia Piano Festival to Explore Musicians' Care for Oneself

Presenters at the Robert Jordan Piano Festival include (from left) Terrence Wilson, Dr. Logan Skelton, Dr. Stijn De Cock, Dr. Elaine N. Aaron, Fredonia alumna Maxine Davis, Dr. Noa Kageyama and Dr. Christian Bernhard.

Article Contributed by

SUNY Fredonia

Self-care for musicians will be the theme of the third Robert Jordan Piano Festival at the State University of New York at Fredonia School of Music.

The festival, consisting of in-person sessions as well as online workshops and presentations, will be held Monday, Feb. 28, through Sunday, March 6.

"We have an incredible lineup of artists and thinkers joining us this year," said School of Music Assistant Professor Eliran Avni, who serves as festival director.

There is no fee to attend any session of the festival, which is open to musicians at any level. The deadline to register for online events is Friday, March 4, at 9 a.m. There is no registration process for in-person events.

"We are focusing on a theme of self-care for musicians this year, as this is often an overlooked topic in the studio and practice room. Our guests will be sharing some new tools and cutting-edge techniques to help us better navigate the increasing demands of our profession, regardless of your instrument," Dr. Avni said.

Three leading pianists – Terrence Wilson, recitalist; Dr. Logan Skelton of the University of Michigan; and Dr. Stijn De Cock of Florida State University – will spend several days on campus to conduct in-person recitals and master classes with students in Rosch Recital Hall.

Special session guest speakers and clinicians will include Feldenkrais Method instructor and SUNY Fredonia alumna Maxine Davis; Dr. Noa Kageyama, a performance psychologist at Bulletproof Musician and The Juilliard School; Fredonia School of Music Professor of Music Education Christian Bernhard, author of "Managing Stress in Music Education;" and Dr. Elaine N. Aron, a clinical research psychologist and author of "The Highly Sensitive Person."

Dr. Aron has published numerous books and scholarly articles about inherited temperament and interpersonal relationships, especially on the subject of sensory processing sensitivity, beginning with "The Highly Sensitive Person," which has sold over one million copies.

Events will be held afternoons and evenings and are free and open to the public, thanks to generous support from The Robert Jordan Piano Scholarship and Distinguished Lectureship Endowment, established with the Fredonia College Foundation. In-person events will be held in Mason Hall, home of the School of Music.

More information, schedules and Zoom links are available online at https://www.fredonia.edu/academics/colleges-schools/school-music/music/community/robert-jordan-piano-festival

City Seeks Summer Help for 2022 Playground Program

Article Contributed by

The City of Jamestown, Parks, Recreation & Conservation Department

The Department of Parks, Recreation & Conservation is seeking temporary summer seasonal employees for Playground Program recreation attendants. The positions are open to college students who are 18 years of age or older and residents of the City of Jamestown.

The 2022 Summer Playground Program work hours would be from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. This six-week program for kids ages 5 to 13 takes place at 4 playground sites in the city of Jamestown. It features scheduled activities, including a talent show, a carnival, and Playground Olympics. At the individual parks, there are games such as mancala, kickball, football, box hockey, and wiffle ball.

A Civil Service Application can be completed and returned to the Parks & Rec Administration Office located at 145 Steele Street, Jamestown. Those hired must pass a drug test as a requirement of employment. There is no written exam required for employment.

For more information on any of these employment opportunities, contact the Parks Department at 483-7523 or by email at parks@jamestownny.gov. Also, interested applicants can view more information on the city website at www.jamestownny.gov.

Love Your Eyes, CBA Vision Rehabilitation Services

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

followed by checking your vision, eye power, and eye health by instilling dilating eye drops.

Prioritize

Ensure that eye examinations are a part of your routine medical examination. Prioritize your eye health and consider "Love your eyes" as a life's mission and educate your family, loved ones and community regarding the importance of eyes and vision.

When should you get an eye test? All of us should get our eyes examined once every two years.

If you have an existing eye condition and have been advised of regular eye examinations by your eye care practitioner, it is important to keep up with the schedule.

Do plan for an annual eye check-up if:

- You are aged-40 or above
- Have a family history of Glaucoma (increased eye pressure or any sight-threatening complications)
- If you have Diabetes or Hypertension
- History of chronic smoking
- If you are already wearing glasses and your eye power is high (High myopia)

Emergency!

Some red flags for an emergency eye examination would include (but not limited to) seeing flashes of lights, sudden blurring or loss of vision, redness, eye pain, seeing colored rings around light.

The Jamestown Gazette is available in Chautauqua, Cattaragus, and Warren County.

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Chautauqua County Humane Society Pets of the Week

Honey is one sweet little girl. She is young and will need your help in learning manners. She loves just about everyone she meets and always has fun! Head on over to chqhumane.org [1] to fill out an adoption form soon! Shelter No. RR179.

Lemmy is on a mission to find his fur-ever home. If you would like to adopt this wonderful one year old, please fill out an adoption application at chqhumane.org [1]. Shelter No. RR179.

Chautauqua County Humane Society • 2825 Strunk Rd., Jamestown, NY • (716) 665-2209 • www.chqhumane.org • cchs@chqhumane.org

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Chautauqua Blind Association Celebrates 10th Dining in the Dark Event

Contributing Writer
Joni Blackman

After a two-year break, the Chautauqua Blind Association will celebrate the agency's 10th Dining in the Dark event on Thursday, April 21 at the Chautauqua Harbor Hotel in Celoron, NY. Dining in the Dark is a unique experience of eating without seeing. Starting at 6:00 p.m., guests are invited to socialize, enjoy a cash bar and bid on silent auction items. Dinner seating begins at 6:30 p.m. where each guest will be blindfolded prior to being led by a sighted guide to their table to enjoy a 3-course meal.

The event is a fundraiser for the youth vision screening program. "The Chautauqua Blind Association has been providing free vision screenings throughout Chautauqua County for over 40 years," says Joni Blackman, executive director. Pediatric vision screening is intended to identify children with vision disorders including amblyopia, strabismus, significant refractive error, or other eye abnormalities. "Historically we have found that 14%-16% of the children we screen are identified with a vision abnormality, however because of increased electronic device screen time over the past couple of years, the referral rate is around 18%," added Ms. Blackman, "that means of the 4,450 children screened in 2021, 795 needed to see an eye doctor." After a child is identified as needing further follow-up, the school nurse or teacher notifies the parents recommending a visit to an eye care professional for a comprehensive exam. To help assure that follow-up treatment is received CBA created the Sight for Success Program in 2019. Following the untimely death of Dr. Timothy Grace, many individuals made donations and memorials in Dr. Grace's name, asking that their donations reflect his passion for improving the eye health of our community. The perfect partnership was formed by combining Dr. Grace's vision of eye health and the Chautauqua Blind Association's Sight for Success Program to be named the Dr. Timothy Grace Sight for Success Program.

"Please join us for a one-of-a-kind sensory adventure," said Ms. Blackman, "you will have a dining experience without the use of your sight. Sighted guides will teach you how to navigate the meal.

This event has been well received and supported by the community. It has supported our Youth Vision Screening Program for the past ten years and provided funds to screen over 27,000 children."

Reservations are $65 per person and include a 3 course meal. Reservations are appreciated by Thursday, April 11 and can be made online at chautauquablind.org, or by calling 716-664-6660.

Dining in the Dark offers community partners and businesses a great way to support the Chautauqua Blind Association while receiving exceptional visibility and recognition. Sponsorships are available to fit any budget and include dinner reservations. Program listings are available for $100. For sponsorship information, call Joni Blackman at 716-664-6660. Sponsorship deadline is April 1.

Donations for the silent auction are appreciated and can be dropped off up until the day of the event at The Chautauqua Blind Association, located at 510 W. 5th Street, Jamestown, NY.

If you are unable to attend but would like to support the mission of the Chautauqua Blind Association, a tax-deductible donation can be made online at chautauquablind.org or by sending a check to the Chautauqua Blind Association located at 510 W. 5th Street, Jamestown, NY.

For more information about the Chautauqua Blind Association or to learn more about upcoming events, visit Chautauquablind.org or call 716-664-6660. The Chautauqua Blind Association is a 501 (c) 3 not-for-profit charitable organization. The Chautauqua Blind Association is a United Way Community Partner.

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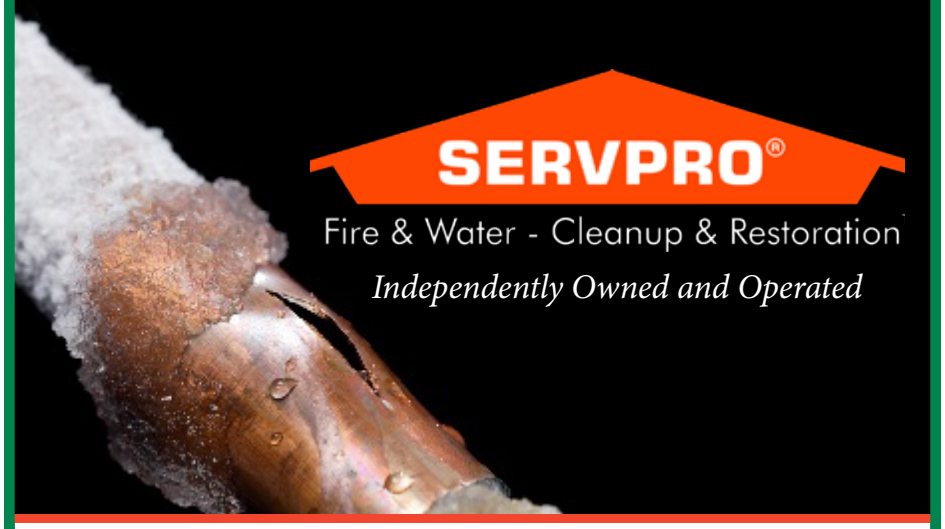

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