

# GVCC monthly newsletter



*December 2024*

*Edition*

# WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH THE GVCC JUNIOR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Our 12 Junior Chamber of Commerce students have been busy making plans for our Annual Banquet which will be held on March 26<sup>th</sup>.

They have also been working their contributions to the 2025 Valley Guide.

Some students will be touring the Tioga Point Museum this month, and we have a tour of Leprino Foods scheduled in January!

## Athens

Advisor, Brady Liechty

Hayden Bartlow

Keaton Wiles

Kara Schultz

Addyson Wheeler

## Sayre

Advisor, Cambria Ely

Brooke Romig

Liam Barry

Rose Shikanga

Logan Richman

## Waverly

Advisor, Mary Cole

Maddy Olmsted

Cody Weaver

Grace Spaulding

Hayden Howe

# 2025 Valley Guide ~ a GVCC Member Directory

is in the works and will be our greatest publication YET!

All GVCC members who have paid their 2024 dues by 12/01/2024 will receive a **FREE** listing in the 2025 Valley Guide

This is also a **great** opportunity to have your business featured in a full color display ad!

This Guide is distributed throughout GUTHRIE, ALL area Chambers of Commerce, Bradford & Tioga County Tourism, Corning, Owego, along with the visitors center in Watkins Glen ~ just to name a few!

2023 was a huge hit with 48 pages of full color; 2024 featured 56 full color pages  
2025 will be bursting with creativity & will have even greater reach!

\* Did you feature your business in a full color ad in the 2023 or 2024 Valley Guide ??

Contact Jan for special repeat advertising pricing?

- **NEW to the Valley Guide?:** Pricing as low as .33 per copy (1/2 page ad)
- **THERE IS STILL A LITTLE TIME TO RESERVE YOUR AD SPACE**
  - **AD COPY WILL BE DUE BY CHRISTMAS**
  - **INVOICES WILL BE SENT AT THE END OF THE MONTH**





**UPCOMING EVENTS!**

**BROUGHT TO YOU BY  
GREATER VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

We're excited to continue our annual tradition with Tanner's !!

Let's Kick-Off CHRISTMAS is for KIDS!

Just bring a new unwrapped toy & we will supply a great time for all!

**Holiday Mingle**  
full of fun, food, and holiday cheer

GREATER VALLEY  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**Thursday, December 12th**  
**6 - 8pm**

**TANNER'S**  
BAR & GRILL

**Kick off Christmas Is For Kids**  
**and bring a new unwrapped toy(s)**

The poster features a festive design with red and green snowflake cutouts at the top and bottom. The text is centered and uses a mix of bold red and green fonts. The Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce logo is a stylized location pin, and the Tanner's Bar & Grill logo is a black silhouette of a longhorn head.

All GVCC members are welcome & encouraged to attend this fun Holiday Mingle!



Join us for.....

## **THE LUNCH BUNCH**

*"An opportunity to share information about your business!"*

WHEN: Tuesday, JANUARY 14TH at 12:30pm

WHERE: Location will be announced via email

RSVP & PREORDERS WILL BE REQUIRED.

Feature presenter FOR JANUARY  
JAMES HARDER ~ GANNON ASSOCIATES INSURANCE

## **COFFEE & CONVERSATION**

*"A time for sharing common issues and brainstorming possible solutions with fellow GVCC members"*

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22<sup>ND</sup> 8AM – 9AM

@ GVCC OFFICE: 109 Chemung Street, Waverly, NY

Please **SAVE THE DATE!!**

**Wednesday, March 26<sup>th</sup>**  
**GVCC ANNUAL Banquet**

Sponsorship  
&  
Reservation  
information  
will be  
mailed to all  
Members  
at the end  
of January!



Awards will be presented:  
BUSINESS Member of the Year  
Community Connected  
Small Business Hero  
Great Beginnings  
Caring for our Community  
&  
Business Person of the year:  
Athens Business Association  
Sayre Business Association  
Waverly Business Association

**The Best Western**  
**Grand Victorian Inn, Sayre**

## **MEMBERSHIP!!**

2025 membership Renewal invoices are being emailed & mailed throughout December.

Please watch for yours!

We truly appreciate all of your continued support. Without you, our Chamber of Commerce could not exist, nor thrive as we are.

We strive to add more & more value for you each & every year.

**THANK YOU!**



# ALL THE LATEST

- NEWS,
- UPDATES
- UPCOMING EVENTS

FROM OUR MEMBERS & COMMUNITY!



*WAVERLY'S ANNUAL*  
**Tinsel-n-Lights**  
**Friday, December 13th**

**5:30pm-8pm**

**Downtown Waverly**

**Horse & Wagon Rides, Ice Sculpting,  
Visits with Santa, Live Music at  
the LOOM, Food & more!**



★ **December 14, 2024** ★  
**National Wreaths Across America Day**

**Help Wreaths for Tioga Point Cemetery honor local heroes!**

Sponsor a wreath today to be placed on a veteran's grave this December at Tioga Point Cemetery.

Scan the QR code to make a donation online or visit [www.wreathscrossamerica.org/PA0919](http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/PA0919)




**#LiveWithPurpose**



**Wreath Sponsorship Order Form**

Sponsored wreaths are placed on grave markers at state and national veterans' cemeteries, as well as at local and community cemeteries each December for National Wreaths Across America Day.

Your donation will ensure the placement of a veteran's wreath for one or more veterans laid to rest at the participating location of your choice.

*All sponsored veteran wreaths are shipped directly to the location selected by the sponsor on this form. Wreaths are not shipped to individual wreath sponsors.*

**Please make checks payable to:**  
**Wreaths Across America**  
 PO Box 249  
 Columbia Falls, ME 04623

Call 877-385-9504 with any questions.  
 Thank you for your sponsorship and for joining us in our mission to Remember, Honor, and Teach!

SPONSORSHIP TYPE	PRICE	QUANTITY	TOTAL
Individual = 1 Wreath	\$17.00		
Family = 4 Wreaths	\$68.00		
Small Business = 10 Wreaths	\$170.00		
Corporate = 100 Wreaths	\$1,700.00		

For quicker processing and the convenience of paying with a credit card, debit card, Google Pay, or PayPal, veteran wreaths may be sponsored online by scanning the QR Code above or by visiting: [www.wreathscrossamerica.org/PA0919](http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/PA0919)

*You should be the only one to enter your credit card information at checkout on the Wreaths Across America website. For your security, do not share this information with anyone else who offers to place an order for you. To verify the validity of the QR Code, always check that wreathscrossamerica.org is part of the web address when sponsoring wreaths online.*

If you prefer to pay with a check, please complete this form and mail it along with your check to Wreaths Across America at the address listed in the box above.

CHECK #	CHECK DATE	SPONSOR NAME FOR DISPLAY <i>If different than name on check.</i>
GROUP ID(s)	PA0919	EMAIL ADDRESS
LOCATION ID(s)	PATPCE	PHONE #
DOLLAR AMOUNTS(s)		MAILING ADDRESS

*To split your donation between multiple groups and/or locations, please list the IDs and dollar amounts for each.*

**SPECIAL REQUESTS**

*Please note in memory/honor of requests do not place a wreath on a specific loved one's grave.*

<b>IN MEMORY OF REQUEST</b>	The "In Memory Of" Name will be listed on the Wreaths Across America online Remember Wall, along with your personal message.	<b>IN HONOR OF REQUEST</b>	An email will be sent to your chosen recipient from Wreaths Across America letting them know of your donation of sponsored veteran wreaths in their honor.
<b>NAME FOR MEMORY WALL POST</b>		<b>RECIPIENT NAME</b>	
<b>SPONSOR EMAIL ADDRESS</b>		<b>RECIPIENT EMAIL ADDRESS</b>	
<b>MESSAGE (optional)</b>		<b>MESSAGE (optional)</b>	

**Thank you for supporting our mission to REMEMBER, HONOR, and TEACH!**



# THE GRUMPY GRIZZLY

Corner of Broad & Fulton Streets

## Grumpy Gifts

located in former coffee shop with the awning on Broad Street

## An early Christmas present for everyone!

👩🏻‍🍳 NOW Offering a TEST RUN for **DELIVERY** 🙌🏻!!

Here's are the details... please read before you call...

- **DELIVERY**
    - will be available from 9-1 Monday-Friday only
    - may be limited due to the volume of business
      - \$4 delivery fee on every delivery
      - \$30 minimum for delivery
      - Delivery will be in town only
  - **PAYMENT:**
    - Exact change on delivery OR card taken when order is placed.  
We cannot make change unfortunately!
- &
- Gratuity is expected in order to keep this service available.

**#(607)-249-6083**



Our series on  
**Cybersecurity & Your  
 Business**  
 continues....

Thank you  
**Erik Erickson with  
 M&T Bank, Sayre**



**What can I do?**

Cyber Security – 2-Factor Verification, Anti-virus Software

Bank Fraud Protection Solutions – Payee Positive Pay, ACH Monitor

**Cutting-edge payment solutions that provide efficiency and safety.**

Planning ahead is important to help mitigate different kinds of risk and protect your business from losses. M&T Bank offers a range of fraud services and risk management tools to help protect your business from payment fraud and reduce your risk of exposure to attacks.



**Positive Pay**  
 With Positive Pay, Payee Positive Pay or Reverse Positive Pay services, you can review all payment details – including images of suspect check items – and make pay or return decisions.



**Check Block**  
 A service that will automatically return all checks and drafts presented against your account, while still allowing you to send and receive electronic payments or deposits.



**ACH Monitor**  
 Keep control over ACH credit and debit payments presented to your accounts in order to help safeguard your accounts from unauthorized payments.



**Account Validation Service**  
 Want to confirm the account where you are sending a payment before you hit send? This new service validates that an account is open, and can verify the name of the consumer.

Internal Controls				
Write fewer checks – use electronic payments or Bill Payments	Online banking – alerts, review check images	Segregate excess balances out of operating account	Verbally confirm money transfer instructions changes with employees, customers or vendors	Unique passwords

I hope you have enjoyed & found value in this series: **“Cybersecurity and Your Business”** presented by M&T Bank.  
**Erik Erickson, Sayre Branch Manager**  
 570-888-2284 | [eerickson@mtb.com](mailto:eerickson@mtb.com)

**IMPORTANT  
 INFORMATION  
 EACH MONTH!!**

Thank You  
**M&T Bank**

## A SPECIAL OFFER FOR ALL GVCC MEMBERS FROM **IMPACT-X Performance**

Dear Fellow GVCC Members,

At **IMPACT-X Performance**, we're excited to present a unique opportunity to deliver more value to the Great Valley Chamber of Commerce membership while boosting connections, creating a happier workplace, and inspiring healthier habits in the new year.

We're thrilled to introduce the **New Year, New You Challenge**, a fun and engaging program designed to motivate and unite participants. Here are the highlights:

- Exclusive Chamber Member Rate:** At just \$25 per week (over a third off our normal rate), members get exceptional value for this holistic wellness challenge.

- Comprehensive Approach to Health:** Participants will engage in four categories—**Plan, Train, Recover, and Shine**—covering meal prep, training activities, recovery sessions, and mindset exercises.

- Partner-Based Accountability:** The program fosters connections as participants work with a partner to complete activities and support each other's progress.

- Transformational Rewards:** Bonus points are awarded for the greatest transformations, adding a motivational twist.

- Convenient and Flexible Participation:** Sessions are held at our Sayre location, ensuring accessibility for Chamber members.

This challenge is not only a great way to improve health but also an excellent opportunity to strengthen connections within the Chamber and encourage collaboration among businesses.

The challenge runs from early January to mid-February, and registrations are due by **Friday, January 3rd**. I've attached additional details to this email, including registration instructions.

We'd love to collaborate with you to share this opportunity with the Chamber membership. Let us know if we can assist with any promotions or presentations to highlight the challenge further.

Thank you for considering this initiative to kick off 2025 with health, connection, and energy!

**Warm regards,**

**The Impact-X Performance Team**



All GVCC Members  
are  
Invited to this  
*Small Business Soiree*

Hosted by  
**The Legacy Lounge**  
And owner,  
Jamison Reeves

Thurs. January 2<sup>nd</sup>  
5pm – 7pm

RSVP appreciated:  
[admin@theloom.com](mailto:admin@theloom.com)  
or  
[Jan.gvcc@gmail.com](mailto:Jan.gvcc@gmail.com)



Event by **The Legacy Lounge** and Jamison Reeves

**439 Waverly Street , Waverly, NY, United States, New York 14892**

Event: Cocktails & Connections: A Small Business Soirée

Date: Thursday, January 2nd

Time: 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Location: Legacy Lounge, 439 Waverly Street, Waverly, NY

Join us for an evening of networking, conversation, and celebration at Cocktails & Connections: A Small Business Soirée. Hosted at the elegant Legacy Lounge, this event is designed for small business owners, entrepreneurs, and community leaders to come together in a relaxed and sophisticated setting.

Enjoy complimentary hors d'oeuvres prepared by The Loom's Ladle Catering Co., featuring their signature creative and delicious bites. Sip on \$5 Old Fashioneds and Cosmopolitans during our exclusive cocktail hour and toast to the power of collaboration and local success.

This is more than just a networking event - it's a chance to share and learn from one another. Attendees will have the opportunity to briefly speak about their journey as small business owners, sharing insights, lessons learned, and ideas for thriving in our community.

RSVP: Not required but appreciated if you'd like to speak during the event. Please email Brittany Fuller at [admin@theloomny.com](mailto:admin@theloomny.com) to confirm.

Let's raise a glass to small businesses and the people who make our community thrive

From our Friends  
with the  
Farm Service Agency  
of the  
USDA  
located at  
109 Chemung St.  
Waverly

Contact  
Colleen & Faith  
# 607-565-2106

**Did you know:**

- **The use of a Christmas tree, in our homes, comes from Germany.**
- **For every real Christmas tree harvested, farms plant 2-3 seedlings in its place.**
- **It can take as many as 15 years to grow a tree of average height.**
- **Franklin Pierce, our 14<sup>th</sup> President, brought the Christmas tree tradition to the White House.**
- **TREES FOR TROOPS provided 16,651 Christmas trees to military families last year.**
- **After the season, you can recycle Christmas trees as kindling, mulch or placed in ponds for fish habitat.**
- **Christmas tree farms act as a gigantic air purifier, with young trees providing the most oxygen benefits.**
- **You can get a locally grown tree in every region of the United States.**
- **The Christmas tree industry is a 15 million dollar a year industry in New York State alone.**



# Tioga County Work-Based Learning Experiences



## Help Prepare Tomorrow's Workforce

By filling out our survey, you can help Tioga County compile a list of work-based learning and workforce opportunities that will be shared with the following high schools and BOCES partners:

- Candor CSD
- Newark Valley CSD
- Owego Apalachin CSD
- Tioga CSD
- Spencer-Van Etten CSD
- Waverly CSD
- Broome-Tioga BOCES (Binghamton)
- Greater Southern Tier BOCES (Elmira)
- Tompkins-Seneca-Tioga BOCES (Ithaca)

Details from this survey will be used to build an interactive GIS map of work-based learning opportunities. This map will be made available to school staff, students, and the public.

To Participate, Fill Out This  
Google Forms Survey:



**For more information:**

Sean Lanning, Community Development Specialist  
*Tioga County Economic Development and  
Planning*  
lannings@tiogacountyny.gov  
607-687-8267





***FREEDOM***  
*FINANCIAL INSURANCE*

# Freedom Financial & Freedom Tax

119 West Packer Ave.  
Ste. 3, Sayre

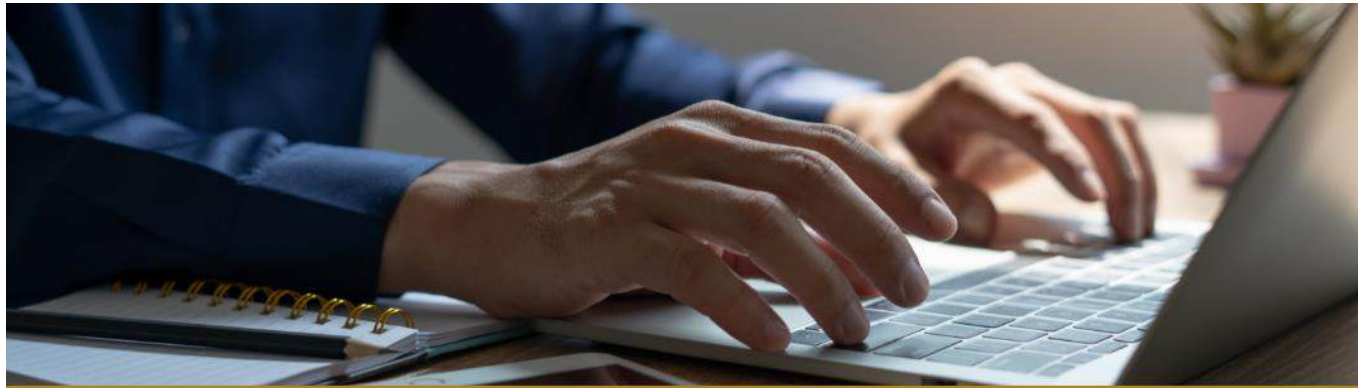


Freedom Financial  
Tax, LLC

Invite all GVCC members  
to a MIXER  
on Tuesday, February 4<sup>th</sup>!

Watch for more details!





# Open Enrollment Is Here

**The Chamber recommends My Benefit Advisor (MBA) for plan renewal or new coverage for Member groups, individuals and Medicare.**

As a PENNIE certified broker, MBA can help individuals through the PA exchange process.

**MYBENEFIT  
ADVISOR**

To learn more, call 724-698-1359 or email [chamberchoice@mybenefitadvisor.com](mailto:chamberchoice@mybenefitadvisor.com) to speak with an MBA representative.



A FEW IMPORTANT REMINDERS FROM THE



GREATER VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE





## VALLEY GIFT CERTIFICATES: *“Keeping Money Local “*

- Valley Gift Certificates (VGC) are redeemable at over 100 businesses (List is updated monthly)
  - VGC can be purchased in denominations of \$10, \$25 & \$50
    - They can be purchased at:  
GVCC office, USDA/Farm Svc. office next to the GVCC office,  
Birdsall’s Auto Works, Athens, Urban Floral, Sayre and  
Jayne’s Flowers & Gifts, Waverly
- Each establishment decides how they will accept/process VGC in their own POS system. Many tender as gift certificate.
  - Once VGC are redeemed at the store, just simply send the actual VGC to the GVCC office
    - (or drop them in office mailbox) &  
you will receive a check as reimbursement for the total amount.  
**DO NOT SEND TO C&N BANK!**
  - NO FEES for ANYONE - not the consumer, not the place of business! WIN ~ WIN for ALL!  
Contact Jan with any questions.

**IF YOU HAVE A LARGE ORDER, especially for the HOLIDAYS,  
please give 10 days notice.**

**DID YOU KNOW..**  
**THERE IS A**  
**\*\* JOB BOARD \*\* ON OUR WEBSITE**

Simply send an email to Jan with your complete job posting.  
Please include how & where to apply.  
Please also provide a start & end date for the posting.

Additionally, we are happy to share your  
job postings on our fb page!

**You asked for it – we LISTENED!!**



WE

wish

YOU A  
MERRY

Christmas