

## Heads up: flying discs at Castel Grisch Winery



Disc golf is one of the nation's fastest growing sports, with more than 5,000 courses across the country. One of those courses is at our very own Castel Grisch, where teams will face off in the Chamber's first-ever Alternatives Federal Credit Union Disc Golf Tournament on August 19, from 3:00pm to 8:00pm. Players will receive a trio of discs (a driver, mid-range, and putter), and will complete the 9-basket course. Prizes will be given for a variety of accomplishments, including lowest score. Participants will enjoy refreshments and a buffet-style dinner. Registration is open to Chamber members and the community with all skill levels, so plan to mix a little business with pleasure at this event! Sign up today at <https://tinyurl.com/WGC-DiscGolf21>.

## August Mixer: Meet at the Elks

Join us at the Elks Lodge in Watkins Glen for the August Mixer. Enjoy light refreshments provided by the Bucket and spend a couple hours of relaxing and networking. Cash bar available.

August 4, from 5pm to 7pm

Elks Lodge #1546

Register online. <https://tinyurl.com/WGC-AugustMixer>

## ROI<sup>2</sup>

Are you leveraging your Return on Investment *and* Return on Involvement with the Chamber? Chamber members leverage a list of benefits and also have opportunities to share recommendations for decisions the Chamber is considering. Executive Director Michael Hardy invites members to join a committee and reap even more benefits: networking, collaborations, and an opportunity to share your expertise. Scan the QR code if you are interested in joining any of the following committees: Business and Education Committee; Tourism Taskforce; Events Committee; Marketing Committee; or Membership and Ambassador Committee.



## REGISTER

Rally your teams for two more summer events:

❖ Corning Credit Union Cornhole Tourney:

9/2, 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Toast Winery

❖ Chemung Canal Trust Company Golf Tournament:

9/17, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

*Space for teams still available!*



[www.ExploreWatkinsGlen.com](http://www.ExploreWatkinsGlen.com)  
607-535-4300

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# Beer Garden blooms in the Village Square

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Schuyler County is known as an innovative agricultural community. Lucky Hare Brewing Company and Finger Lakes Distilling are taking it a step further.



Stop by the Village Square once a month throughout the summer for the first-ever pop-up Beer Garden, featuring Glen Ale.

Glen Ale takes us back to the 1930s. It is a recreation of a beer that was brewed in Watkins Glen last century and was just released last month. Although the exact recipe was not available, Lucky Hare brewmasters used a recipe on-file, swapping out two ingredients to make this ale in a style that would have been popular in that era. Beer made during that time period was most often made from a corn and barley base. Lucky Hare Brewing uses New York-sourced products.

“Finger Lakes Distilling reached out to us to collaborate with them to recreate a beer that has historical significance to Watkins Glen,” said Ian Conboy, Vice President. “It’s a simple recipe of malted corn and

2 row from our friends at Murmuration Malts in Bloomfield. Glen Ale is super drinkable and refreshing with a touch of sweetness from the malted corn. It finishes light and crisp with an abv of only 4.3%.”

The Beer Garden will be in the Village Square (at the intersection of Third St. and Franklin St.) on July 17, August 7, and September 10. In addition to Glen Ale (served on draft and in cans), an additional beer will be available on tap along with a variety of single cans.

ID will be required and seating may be limited. People are welcome to bring lawn chairs. Elf in the Oak will be on-site, serving paninis. Look forward to live music, too.

## Education Corner

This month, SUNY Corning Community College would like to introduce our newest staff member to the Schuyler County community. Dr. Barbara Canfield joins SUNY CCC as the College’s new Provost.

What is a Provost? The Provost at SUNY CCC is responsible for Academic Affairs, including current programs and courses, facilitating new program development, and transfer agreements with BOCES, high schools, and four-year colleges. This area also includes all supportive services for academics.

In addition to Academic Affairs, Dr. Canfield supervises most student support services, including Recruitment, Advising, Registrar’s Office, Athletics and Student Life.

Dr. Barbara “Barb” Canfield grew up in New Jersey, attending Rutgers University and beginning her career in education as a K-12 teacher and briefly working as an environmental technician. After moving to Pennsylvania, she shifted to higher education serving as an adjunct faculty member, while raising her son (Ryan) and daughter (Emily). She held several different positions during her 19 years at Northampton Community College, learning many facets of the college’s operation through such roles as adjunct faculty, contracted hazmat trainer, program manager for credit and non-credit programs, Tech Prep director, and Assistant Dean. Deciding that one must “walk-the-talk” when encouraging others to take risks, Barb decided to pursue her doctorate (Drexel University) and then

take a position as an Academic Dean at Northern Virginia Community College, where she has been for the last six years.

“I appreciate how welcoming everyone was during my interview and as I was named to the position,” said Dr. Canfield. “Community colleges should be places that promote a welcoming environment and Corning certainly is such a place.”

Outside of work Dr. Canfield enjoys hiking, bicycling, kayaking, going to the theater and spending time with her husband Greg, and their dog JJ.

## Melody master shares musical passion and hope for the community

*On sweet Georgia Brown  
Two left feet and oh, so neat  
That's Sweet Georgia Brown*

*Sweet Georgia Brown* is one of Ed Clute's favorite tunes. The melody. The lyrics. The spirit. Music, in general, Ed says, is joyful. But, like the namesake in *Sweet Georgia Brown*, this tune "knocks them dead."

"Music transports me," said Ed, who recently turned 78 years old. "I forget about people and me. I get so wrapped up in the music that I can hear music in my head ... even if it's not playing."

### THE EARLY YEARS

Growing up on the "side hill" in Watkins Glen, Ed spent his childhood listening to Frankie Carle's rhythmic strides streaming from his family's Victrola and practicing at the piano. The grandson of Warren W. Clute Sr., former president and general manager of the Watkins Glen Salt Company (now Cargill Salt), Ed was inspired by his mother, Elizabeth Johnston Clute. He developed his own classical technique and studied various aspects of music – including theory and harmony – in high school. He learned to read regular Braille as well as Braille music at the Batavia School for the Blind, attended the Amherst Summer Music Center studying under Edwin Hymovitz, and performed the Schumann Piano Concerto as a guest artist with the Amherst Summer Music Center Youth Orchestra. After high school, Ed studied at the New England Conservatory of Music, where he earned a performance degree in piano. He also studied with Jean Casadesus and at the American Conservatory at Fontainebleau in France.

### HIS CAREER

The combination of his mother's influence, his natural talent, and education set the stage for a lifelong musical career. He has played with such jazz greats and band leaders as Benny Goodman, Dick

Naylor, and Turk Murphy, sat in with the Mississippi Mudders and Jack Maheu, and played in Preservation Hall in New Orleans. In fact, he has been to New Orleans four times, participating in the Louis Armstrong Festival in 2010. Ed has performed *Rhapsody in Blue* with three different symphonies and has played at regional restaurants, including Pierces 1894, in Elmira, and the Belhurst Castle, in Geneva. In addition, he performed for live re-creations of old-time-radio shows at conventions around the country, providing live background music and bridges between the scenes in radio plays. Ed also composed music for a western series and produced a CD with Rivermont Records. In addition to performing, Ed is sought for his tuning skills, having worked with Miles and Mike Kaufman for a period. Today, he leads a Dixieland band – always securing top-notch talent, he says – and plays regularly at the Colonial Creamery (a Chamber member).

### OUR COMMUNITY

"We need more culture in our community," said Ed, recalling a summer theatre at the high school in the 50s that drew famous artists. "We need more musical venues, and we need to bring all kinds of bands to Watkins Glen, rock, Dixieland, classical, really all genres. People need to be able to dance and really enjoy music. Music tells a story. It shares emotions. It can make us smile ... or cry."

Schuyler County leadership agrees. Watkins Glen Chamber Executive Director Michael Hardy is currently working with County Administrator Tim O'Hearn and the County Legislators to debut the Performing Arts Center, located at the Middle School Apartments, this fall.

Although Ed is too modest to admit his success, he knows what it took to achieve it.

"Hard work," said Ed. "Success can't come easily. The only way to be successful is with hard work."

From all perspectives, Ed, you've worked hard. Thank you for sharing your success with the world.

*Editor's Note: Ed's face lights when he recalls Sweet Georgia Brown. Those lyrics are a reminder that despite challenges – like two left feet – each of us has something special to share.*



Ed Clute at the piano



## Mixers & ribbon-cuttings: an easy way to mix business & pleasure!



July Mixer at Idlwiide Inn



Ribbon-cutting with Statements Accounting & Consulting Services/Alternatives Federal Credit Union



Ribbon-cutting for Farm Friends mural/Cheese Bus



Summer Rendezvous (here & above)

## Pristine = Prosperous & Peaceful

Chamber member Bob Kurz (of Watkins Glen Wine and Spirits) is “a local guy trying to make a difference,” and he wants to give others the chance to help him. He is spearheading a Fall Community Clean-Up Day on September 18. Restaurants, like the Village Marina, will offer specials on that day. Community members are invited to join the effort: find a project listed on the Chamber’s web site that needs doing (and claim it!) or identify a project you’d like to see done (for those looking for projects!). Visit <https://tinyurl.com/WGC-CleanUp9-21> to review posted projects and related specials at area restaurants. If you have ideas for areas to clean up, please email [stephanie@watkinsglenchamber.com](mailto:stephanie@watkinsglenchamber.com).

## Seat belts save lives & “melons”



New York State was the first state in the nation to require adult front seat motor vehicle passengers to wear seat belts. In subsequent years, the law was amended to include child passenger safety requirements. On November 1, 2020, a provision was included to require all adult occupants to buckle up, regardless of where they sit in a passenger vehicle, taxi, livery, or a vehicle being used as a transportation network company, i.e. Lyft or Uber.

Although the NYS seat belt compliance rate is 94 percent, nearly one-third of all front seat occupants killed in a motor vehicle crash are unbuckled. The Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee has partnered with eighth-generation watermelon farmer and NASCAR driver Ross Chastain to encourage all passengers to buckle up, every trip, every time through the Protect Your Melon campaign. Look for Ross in the Protect Your Melon race truck at Watkins Glen International NASCAR Camping World Truck Series on Saturday August 7. If you would like a chance to win a one-on-one virtual meeting with Ross, scan the QR code.



# CHAMBER EVENTS

*Some events are still be offered via Zoom as noted below. Email [abby@watkinsglenchamber.com](mailto:abby@watkinsglenchamber.com) for login info.*

## JULY

- July 20      Member Simpleview Training  
10:00 am  
Via Zoom
- July 27      Coffee Connections  
8:30 to 9:30 am  
Chamber offices
- July 27      Talking Tuesdays  
12:00 to 1:00 pm  
Via Zoom

**Remember!! Every Monday, the Chamber sends the "NHC" (News, Happenings & Collaborations) to more than 1,400 contacts. Review, share, and spread the news. Also, send us your news and consider advertising to your business partners.**

## AUGUST

- August 4      After Hours Mixer  
5:00 to 7:00 pm  
Elks Lodge #1546
- August 10      Talking Tuesdays  
10:00 to 11:00 am  
Via Zoom
- August 17      Member Simpleview Training  
10:00 am  
Via Zoom
- August 19      Disc Golf Tournament  
3:00 to 8:00 pm  
Castel Grisch Winery
- August 24      Talking Tuesdays  
12:00 to 1:00 pm  
Via Zoom

**Sponsorships  
Still Available**



Scan this QR Code for registration details. Contact Abby Lane with questions or ideas. 607-535-4300/ [abby@WatkinsGlen-Chamber.com](mailto:abby@WatkinsGlen-Chamber.com).

## Snowflakes for Inspiration



We are excited to gift you a snowflake each month in our print newsletter. We hope they will inspire holiday-themed ideas throughout the year. Please save each of the snowflakes: post them to your refrigerator or on a bulletin board in your office! Even better, consider incorporating them into your decorating scheme in your business to remind guests, tourists, and clients that Watkins is open for the holidays, too.

Next holiday season, your Chamber will launch a fun, creative, and competitive art/ decoration contest. We're already planning the prizes, including cash, bragging rights, and the joy of beautiful creations made locally to be shared with each other and the world.

**Remember !  
Save your Snowflakes!**

## Deputy County Administrator: “Foundation in place”



Please join the Chamber in welcoming Fonda Chronis to the region as the Deputy Schuyler County Administrator. Fonda assumed this role on June 7, and says that the building blocks that have already been forged, put the region on solid footing to continue making great strides.

Fonda’s history with the region goes back to childhood. He was born in Ithaca and raised in Auburn, so he knows “how special this region is.”

Fonda comes to the community from his role as Assistant to the County Administrator in Schoharie County. That position, he says, prepared him well for

his current role with Schuyler County as he “had a hand in all aspects of the operation.” Currently, he is working alongside County Administrator Tim O’Hearn, learning the ins and outs that make our region shine.

“I continue to be impressed with the level of collaboration and spirit of working together that I see across the board here,” said Fonda. “I can say it’s not the norm, and I am excited to be a part of it.”

Fonda started his career in the private sector, working in food, beverage, and hospitality. He owned a restaurant with banquet facilities and provided catering.

“My family and I found that you can’t be married to a business and your family,” said Fonda, noting that he chose his family. “I worked for mid-sized corporations for a period, but always circled back to my penchant for public service and my desire to make a difference at the local level. I considered my skill sets and interests and decided to go back to school.”

Fonda earned his master’s degree in Public Administration from the Maxwell School at Syracuse University in 2015. He lives in the Village of Watkins Glen with his wife, Jerri-Lynn, and enjoys walking and hiking.

“I anticipate that we’ll get into kayaking,” said Fonda. “We’re eager to take advantage of all that nature has to offer here.”



We’re thinking about the holidays! Are you???? Help us plan/organize the 2021 Holiday Happenings & Winter Traditions events (Nov. 26, 2021 through Feb. 28, 2022). Meet with Chamber Executive Director Michael Hardy on 7/28, from 1pm to 3pm, **OR** 7/29, from 10am to noon. Email [info@watkinsglenchamber.com](mailto:info@watkinsglenchamber.com) to confirm which day you’ll join the conversation.