



*Photo courtesy of Andrea Piedigrossi, City of Cortland Youth Bureau*

# TODAY: Cortland County

TODAY: Cortland County is the Business Development Corporation's newsletter promoting industry and business growth in Cortland County.

July/August 2017  
Volume 3 Issue 4

Garry L. VanGorder  
Executive Director/CEO

Michael McMahon  
Chairman



The summer months are fleeting, but with the way the weather has been it's a sure bet that more than a few county residents are wishing for an end to the rainy season. Let's hold out hope for a beautiful fall.

This issue features an inside look at the Cortland City Youth Bureau, highly regarded as one of the best in the state in service to local young people and adults alike. Our park system is the envy of many, and the programs offered are excellent and varied—a perhaps underappreciated element to the high quality of life we enjoy in Cortland County.

We're also profiling TC3's new president, Orinthia T. Montague, who replaces retiring Carl Haynes after more than 40 years of service to the college and the community. The college is an important asset to Cortland

County's economic development efforts, and we look forward to continued good work with the institution under Dr. Montague's leadership.

Downtown Cortland is humming with activities these days, with construction underway at Bailey Place Insurance—the “Blue Roof” is no more—and also, finally, at 51-55 Main St., scene of a fire that devastated the building and the businesses inside of it more than 12 years ago.

And of course, we'll see another uptick of energy as SUNY students return to town. A silver lining to all these storm clouds!

*The BDC is Cortland County's principal economic development organization working for economic and community growth.*



**Garry L. VanGorder**  
Executive Director/CEO

A friend of mine visited home recently and mentioned how much Cortland has changed since the last time he visited, about five years ago.

The changes may not seem so apparent to those who live and work here, but it doesn't take long to fill the fingers of each hand when you begin to count some of the recent and significant changes in the landscape:

- The "Blue Roof" at Bailey Place Insurance, long a sore spot for those questioning its fit in a historic downtown district, is gone as part of a significant facelift at the site;
- The Marketplace Mall has been transformed from a quiet, "used to be a department store" look to a vibrant commercial and community gathering spot;
- Formerly vacant Main Street storefronts have been transformed into modern office spaces with fresh new façades as part of the McNeil & Company's multimillion dollar expansion project;
- The old Recreation Alleys downtown has been transformed into a winter home for the Repertory Theatre, with the project including a complete upgrade of nearby parking and lighting;
- The Byrne Dairy manufacturing and tourism site;
- The new Marshall's store, Pyrotek, Forkey Construction, Moe's and more in South Cortland;
- The reconstruction of Route 281;
- The restoration of the old Route 281 Friendly's restaurant to a corporate showpiece for Gutchess Lumber;
- The new Wickwire Pool;
- Cortland Beer Company;
- An old, empty market renovated for the new BOCES "New Tech" school on the East Side;
- The sports rec building at SUNY Cortland; and
- New medical buildings for Dr. Brian Sigorney and Dr. Chris Smith in South Cortland.

There is more, of course, and there is more coming: the former Crescent Corset building which is being remodeled into top-shelf apartments and commercial space; a new wood pellet manufacturer at the old Buckbee Mears site; a new Aldi's market; the renovation of 51-55 Main Street 12 years after it was gutted by fire; a new performance space at Courthouse Park; a new Family Health Network facility in Homer; and a new sports park in Cortlandville; to name but a few.

All good stuff. Sometimes, it's important to see things through fresh eyes.

*On the cover: Coach Mike Milligan holds a halftime huddle with the Barry School girls basketball team during a recent game.*

**\$19** Million

Total Debt Relief Grant  
to Cortland Regional  
Medical Center

**722**

Number of  
Hospital  
Employees

**15**

Years of MASH Camp  
at Cortland Regional  
Medical Center



37 Church St., Cortland, NY 13045  
P: 607/756-5005  
cortlandbusiness.com  
info@cortlandbusiness.com

## Video Helps Make Case for DRI

Accompanying the Cortland submission for the state's 2017 Downtown Revitalization Initiative competition was an eight-minute video which provided visual support for the narrative in the application.

The high-quality video was the product of a collaborative effort among Tompkins Cortland Community College faculty members Christine Shanks and Chris Xaver; along with community members, business owners, and TC3 students and alumni.

The video was shared with local stakeholders as well as members of the Central New York Regional Economic Development Council, which is charged with selecting the winner of the annual \$10 million grant aiming to drive meaningful revitalization efforts in the state's downtown districts.

Here is a link to the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7W9Zv5uT-eQ>

## Homer MAP Grant Helps Businesses

A Microenterprise Assistance Program (MAP) state grant administered by the BDC in the Village of Homer is providing resources for 10 businesses with plans for growth and expansion.

More than \$167,000 was distributed to companies that submitted applications and were selected after a review process conducted by the Village. The awarded businesses were: Ash Décor, \$20,000; FL Touring Co., \$10,000; Olde Homer House, \$20,000; Sinfully Sweet Café, \$22,500; 3 Lil Birds Catering, \$22,500; Arnold's Florist, \$20,000; Bridal Barn, \$15,000; Eves Broadcasting, \$18,000; Prima Studio, \$10,500; and Edgewood Bakery, \$8,675.

The Village is applying for another round of MAP funding through the state's Consolidated Funding Application Process. Cortland County, in a collaborative effort with the BDC, is also applying for dollars in hopes of a broader program reach.

## CDP Takes Over Series

The Cortland Downtown Partnership (CDP) has assumed management of the Main Street Music Series, a staple in downtown Cortland for the past 12 years.

The Music Series, located in the Marketplace Mall parking lot and featuring acts over four weeks in July, has grown in popularity over the years and has contributed tremendously to the city's growing reputation for live music.

Downtown CDP Executive Director Adam Megivern said he welcomes the opportunity to head the project and looks forward to bringing even more popularity to the event. "It's an important part of summertime downtown," he said. "We look forward to preserving it and growing it."

BDC Executive Director Garry VanGorder said the transition to a professional downtown organization makes sense. "The Music Series has been volunteer-driven all these years, and there has been a lot of dedication to it. It's a labor of love, but people do get tired," he said. "I would still expect some volunteers to remain involved in one way or another."

VanGorder, a founding member of the series along with former mayor Mary Leonard, "Bobcat" Catalano, Charles Walton, Amy Bertini and others, said it was a heavy lift to get the event up and running.

"Live, outdoor music was something that other communities did, not Cortland," he said. "But we got buy-in from the city council, the city police, the business community, and eventually, the public. It's been a good thing and, with the transition, it's certain to continue."



The building at 51-55 Main St. in Downtown Cortland is now undergoing rehabilitation after 12 years of vacancy. The building, gutted by fire in 2005, will feature new apartments in the upper floors and a commercial enterprise at street level.

## The Cortland Youth Bureau

**Providing a fun-filled array of year-round recreational and educational activities for the Cortland Community**

**A**rea parents confronted by the classic kids' lament "There's nothing to do!" need look no further for a remedy than the Cortland Youth Bureau—an organization that has provided a wide range of recreational and educational opportunities for Cortland County youth and families for over half a century.

Established in 1946, the Cortland Youth Bureau was the first of its kind in New York State. Today there are more than 100 such groups statewide. "The Cortland Youth Bureau oversees three areas—recreation programs and events, city park land, and youth services," says Executive Director John McNerney. "This includes running more than 120 youth programs; sports and special events; and maintaining 80 acres of parkland."

While the Cortland Youth Bureau offers programs year-round, summer is by far its busiest season.

With the dawn of each sunny day, young people on summer break and adults with free time on their hands descend on any one of the city's seven parks—Suggett, Beaudry, Randall, Dexter, Yaman, Courthouse, Ted Testa and Citizens—to participate in organized or spur-of-the-moment games of softball, baseball, basketball, tennis, archery and lacrosse, or to enjoy a little pool or beach swimming, in-line skating, skateboarding, or biking. There are many non-sports activities happening throughout the season as well, including playground fun, arts and crafts, outdoor movies and concerts, and organized trips.

The Youth Bureau also maintains the Cortland Youth Center, located on Port Watson St., which provides young people with the opportunity to participate in such activities as field trips, game tournaments, tutoring, music lessons, arts projects, cooking classes and dinners, as well as hear from guest speakers, receive job search assistance, or explore volunteer opportunities. The facility is equipped with a full kitchen; music room with guitars, amps, and full drum-kit; sound stage and DJ booth; pool table, ping pong table and foosball table; and shelves brimming with board games and art supplies.

Many members of the Cortland community (the Youth Bureau has more than 13,000 registered participants) find the Cortland Youth Program an indispensable part of their summer. Take for example Jeff and Krissy Gambitta and their four kids: Max, 13; Jaxson, 10; Nora, 8; and Trey, 6.

Jeff Gambitta is a stay-at-home dad and part-time facilitator with the Cornell University Outdoor Education Team & Leadership Center, which develops adventure-based teamwork and leadership programs. He is also active with the Cortland



*Wickwire Pool has grown even more popular since the facility was completely renovated in 2016.  
Photo courtesy of Andrea Piedigrossi, City of Cortland Youth Bureau*



*A group of local kids models sponsor-donated sunglasses before the start of an outdoor movie at Courthouse Park.*

*Photo courtesy of Andrea Piedigrossi, City of Cortland Youth Bureau*

Youth Bureau as a little league baseball coach, soccer coach and ski trip chaperone. Krissy Gambitta is on the Bureau's board. The Gambitta children participate in soccer, football, lacrosse, flag football, basketball, baseball, and swimming programs, as well as some of the seasonal non-sporting events.

"The Cortland Youth Bureau gives the entire family a way to have fun and be active, and gives the kids a chance to meet different people from different parts of the area and break down fears and misconceptions about social class or economic status," Gambitta says. "It gets people in our community working and playing together, which is important for everyone."

The Cortland Youth Bureau is a large undertaking, made easier with the help of 10 full-time and more than 200 part-time seasonal staffers. "There's actually an educational component for part-time staff," McNerney says. "SUNY Cortland has degree programs in physical education, recreation management and elementary education, so that's where we do a lot of our recruiting. It's a great opportunity for students to gather work experience in their fields and provide valuable community service."

McNerney grew up in Tully and is a graduate of SUNY Cortland with a BS degree in education/recreation management. He has been with the Cortland Youth Bureau for 29 years and has served as executive director since 2000. "Our focus is

youth, but we have a long tradition of providing services for Cortland community members of all ages," he says. "Our efforts play a vital role in the quality of life here in Cortland. Having beautiful parks and quality programs are a selling point for attracting new residents and new businesses. You can't underestimate the value of what we provide."

In recent years, the Youth Bureau's efforts have focused on key facility upgrades, such as the new Wickwire Park Pool, the new Beaudry Park building, upgrades to Greg's Field and a new playground at Dexter Park. Near future plans for playground upgrades, tennis court upgrades and a community stage are also in the works. "We are always seeking grant funds and donors to improve our park facilities," McNerney says. Funding comes from city taxes; the New York State Office of Children and Family Services; program fees; facility rentals; and individual, business and foundation donations and event sponsorships. Cortland Community Foundation, J.M. McDonald Foundation and Yaman Foundation have been key supporters of the Cortland Youth Bureau.

The Bureau is always looking to improve on its programs and services, and welcomes proposals from the community on new initiatives. "We receive suggestions pretty much each year," McNerney says. "For instance, last year we added a fall adult softball league, and we are currently looking into creating a dog park for dog owners. We also got a request to allow LARP (live action role-playing) games in one of the parks."

As summer winds down and autumn approaches, there's still plenty going on with the Cortland Youth Bureau. Fall and winter sports, after-school programs, skiing and

snowboarding trips, cross-country skiing and sledding in the parks, Youth Center activities and plenty more are already being planned.

Keep track of what's going on at the Cortland Youth Bureau by visiting [CortlandYB.recdesk.com](http://CortlandYB.recdesk.com).



*Parents and kids give high marks to the newly updated Dexter Park play area.*

*Photo courtesy of Andrea Piedigrossi, City of Cortland Youth Bureau*

## County Gets Airport Project Funding

A \$149,000 federal grant will underwrite the design of two infrastructure projects at the Cortland County Airport.

Announced last month by U.S. Sens. Chuck Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand, the FAA Airport Improvement Program (AIP) grant will cover the first phase of the proposed construction of 19,000 square yards of existing apron pavement and an upgrade of 1,100 feet of existing taxi line pavement.

Project designs should be completed this year, with the \$1.1 million taxi line to be built in 2018 and the \$875,000 apron pavement piece in 2019. If the construction phases of the projects are funded, the county will be responsible for just five percent of the total cost. Funds will likely be drawn from the airport's new reserve fund, which will designate facility profits to fund maintenance and other projects there rather than draw the dollars from the general fund.

The AIP provides grants to public agencies for the planning and development of public-use airports that are included in the National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems. Funds designated for the AIP are drawn from the airport and airway trust fund, which user fees, fuel taxes and other similar revenue sources support.

## Medical Center Awarded \$19 Million Debt Relief Grant

The New York State Department of Health has awarded Cortland Regional Medical Center (CRMC) a debt relief grant of more than \$19 million. The grant helps to ensure the financial sustainability of safety net healthcare providers like CRMC.

"We are deeply grateful to the State of New York for awarding us these funds through the Statewide Health Care Facility Transformation Program," said CRMC Board of Trustees Chair Johanna Ames. "These funds are critical to relieving our debt burden and to providing the very best in healthcare to our local community for generations to come."

Denise Wrinn, CRMC's vice president of finance, said the award enables the hospital to continue offering excellent care with improved financial stability as the institution moves toward an affiliation with another health care organization. "While CRMC has attracted many potential partners, the elimination of debt via the grant better positions the organization to select and finalize a strategic partnership with a larger healthcare system that will continue to enhance local access to high quality services," she said.

Cortland Regional Medical Center is an independent, nonprofit, 144-bed acute care facility with attached 80-bed residential care center that has been providing quality healthcare to the Cortland area for over 125 years. Together with its team of Cortland Regional Medical Practice providers, the medical center employs more than 700 people and offers patients convenient access to board-certified practitioners in the areas of anesthesiology, cardiology, critical care, emergency medicine, endocrinology, family medicine, gastroenterology, general surgery, hematology/oncology, hospitalist medicine, infectious disease, internal medicine, nephrology, obstetrics/gynecology, ophthalmology, oral surgery, orthopedics, otolaryngology (ENT), pathology, psychiatry, physical medicine and rehabilitation, podiatry, pulmonology, radiation oncology, interventional radiology, and urology.

Businesses have access to numerous resources at the local, state, regional and federal level to help them succeed. In addition to Cortland County's Business Assistance Programs, here are other resources to help your business:

### Cortland County Government

60 Central Avenue  
Cortland, NY 13045  
[cortland-co.org](http://cortland-co.org)

### County Planning Department

37 Church Street  
Cortland, NY 13045  
[cortland-co.org/Planning/index.html](http://cortland-co.org/Planning/index.html)

### Cortland County Health Department

60 Central Avenue  
Cortland, NY 13045  
[cchd.cortland-co.org/](http://cchd.cortland-co.org/)

### City of Cortland

25 Court Street  
Cortland, NY 13045  
[cortland.org](http://cortland.org)

### Town of Cortlandville

3577 Terrace Road  
Cortland, NY 13045  
[cortlandville.org](http://cortlandville.org)

### Town of Homer

31 N. Main Street  
Homer, NY 13077  
[townofhomer.org](http://townofhomer.org)

### Village of Homer

Homer, NY 13077  
[homerny.org](http://homerny.org)

For more resources visit us online at  
[cortlandbusiness.com/resources/](http://cortlandbusiness.com/resources/)

## Orinthia T. Montague Named Fourth President of Tompkins Cortland Community College

While most of us celebrated the Fourth of July by relaxing, picnicking and spending time with family and friends, Orinthia T. Montague of Bloomington, Minnesota spent Independence Day 2017 a little differently—by preparing for her first day on the job as the new president of Tompkins Cortland Community College in Dryden.

Montague is replacing TC3 president Carl Haynes, who retires August 31 after 48 years at the college, with 23 of those years at the helm. She is the fourth president of the college, following Hushang Bahar (1968-1986), Eduardo Marti (1986-1994) and Haynes (1994–2017).

Montague brings with her an impressive resumé, most recently working as vice president of student affairs and chief diversity officer at Normandale Community College in Bloomington, Minnesota. In that role, she led Normandale’s notable efforts with public and private secondary schools, as well as community and business collaborations. This included teaming with the Bloomington Public School District and Hennepin County to provide direct higher educational opportunities to close the gap for under-represented populations, with a focus on homeless students, foster children and teen parents.

She also served as co-chair of Normandale’s Academic and Student Affairs Advisory Council, participated in the Executive Development Program, and served as a system representative for the Economic Development Diversity Taskforce. Prior to being named vice president of student affairs and chief diversity officer, Montague served as Dean of Students at Normandale.

Montague holds a bachelor of arts degree in interpersonal communication from Truman State University in Kirksville, Missouri, a master of arts in counseling from Lindenwood University in Saint Charles, Missouri, and a doctoral degree in higher education administration from the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

Montague is an active member of the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA), serving four times on its national career services committee and participating on regional advisory boards. She was selected from a field of more than 100 applicants to participate in the Alice Manicur Symposium, established and coordinated by NASPA’s Center for Women and designed for

women in mid-level managerial positions who plan to move to senior student affairs positions.

At the University of Missouri-St. Louis, she was recognized for her dedication in advancing women’s issues as a recipient of the Trailblazers Award: Generation of Women Moving History Forward. In St. Louis, she was a board member of the United Way Multicultural Leadership Society and a general member of the African American Leadership Society and the Women’s Leadership Society.

“I’m a first generation student, from the country of Jamaica,” Montague says. “I’m an immigrant. I’ve had so many people concerned about my student success and the little things and the big things that it takes for me to achieve and move forward with my goals. I’m passionate about doing that for others.

“I want people to experience what I experienced with this support, within my community, external to my community, intentional and unintentional support, structured, unstructured,” she says. “Anything I can do to have students reach their goals, whatever the goals may be, that’s what really drives me.”

Addressing Montague during a campus forum to introduce her to the community, outgoing TC3 president Carl Haynes said: “I think what’s most impressive about your credentials and what you bring to our college and to our campus is your long history of experience with student success, student life, and the commitment you have made to that in many different parts of your career. I am downright excited about turning this office over to you as our next president.”

### And Then There Were Three

In being named president of Tompkins Cortland Community College, Orinthia Montague becomes the third female head of an institution of higher learning in the area within the past two years. In November 2016, Martha Pollack took the helm as president of Cornell University. In February 2017, Shirley Collado was chosen to lead Ithaca College.



*Orinthia T. Montague*

*Photo: Laura Kozlowski*



Phone: (607) 756-5005  
Fax: (607) 756-7901  
cortlandbusiness.com

Cortland County offers the best in small town living with easy access to some of the nation's top metro centers.

♻️ Printed on recycled paper

## Conference Gives 10th Graders Tools for Success

The eighth annual Jump Start 10 Youth Conference scheduled for Tuesday, October 17 at SUNY Cortland will welcome roughly 500 10th graders from eight area schools. The event will run from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and will include an Opportunities Fair, multiple tracks of workshops, a noon talk, and lunch.

Organized by community partners comprising Cortland Area Communities that Care, the event is sponsored in part by the Cortland County Business Development Corporation.

The event focuses on 10th graders in realization that this period is crucial in the lives of young adults; a time when they will begin making decisions on everything from colleges and careers to drinking and smoking. This is the year that will challenge students to grow, while building important leadership skills and a powerful resumé.

Students at Jump Start 10 will select four of 10 workshops presented by community leaders and visit the Opportunities Fair to learn about community resources and opportunities available to them. The event will feature a noon presentation by Brad Totman from Tompkins Trust Company, who will speak about personal finance to help students start planning for their futures.

The event is also open to homeschooled students. To learn more about the event, provide information so that students may learn more about your business or organization, or to support via sponsorship, visit <http://www.cortlandareactc.org/jumpstart10> or call Matt Whitman at 607-299-4910 ext. 2, or Sara Watrous at 607-299-4910 ext. 1.

# Jump Start 10



*Left: Cortland Regional Medical Center CEO Mark Webster addresses students at the 2016 Jump Start 10 Youth Conference.*



*More than 500 students from eight area schools will attend the 2017 conference in Cortland.*

