

1980 • Our 45<sup>th</sup> Year! • 2024

**Women in Business ▶ 15-20**  
**Thunder back in business; home opener ▶ 3**

The **Chronicle**

Northern New York's Leading Newspaper • Down to earth and growing • Year 45, Issue 2,071 • October 24-30, 2024

## Epic 3 hour Occ Tax meeting: Requests total \$1.4 million; \$700,000 offered

By Cathy DeDe

Chronicle Managing Editor

That was one heck of an epic Warren County Occupancy Tax meeting, Monday morning, Oct. 21. It clocked in at two minutes shy of three hours. **Fifty-two entities requested grants totalling well more than \$1.4-million** — with only \$700,000 budgeted to give out by the county.

It was a who's-who and showcase of the local scene. CEOs and board leaders of signature arts organizations, business owners and promoters filled to overflowing the Warren County Board Room. It all would have made for an excellent cocktail party, or a bagels and coffee meet-up.

Each applicant was required to attend and make their 5-minute plea. It was the elevator speech of Oc Tax asks.

On one side of the room: Committee chair Gene Merlino, six committee members, and County Tourism Director Heather Bagshaw.

On the other: Fund-seeking hopefuls and observers filled nearly every additional seat, including in the center of the room behind the grey desks typically reserved only for the Supervisors themselves. They overflowed into the hallway.

Presentations were in alphabetical order, and speakers could leave after their turns. So, Adirondack Wine and Food Festival had a shorter day of it than Zonta. Adirondack Axe arrived late because of an unavoidable hold-up, but its rep

then had to wait until the grueling end.

On the bright side, some cool stuff is planned for 2025, pending funding.

Here are some I found notable.

• **Lake George Winter Carnival**, seeks \$85,000, to **expand from four to five weekends**, Feb. 1-2 through March 1-2 — also adding Friday night welcome parties, mid-week pop-up activities during the President's Week vacation, a lumberjack festival for its March dates, and summer events such as the second annual youth softball tournament in July, to remind in-season visitors of their winter offerings.

• **Lake George Battlefield Park Alliance** seeks \$23,250. It plans to **commemorate General Henry Knox's winter 1775 "artillery train"** that transported cannons from Fort Ticonderoga through

Warren County to fight the British in Boston — "300 miles, six weeks, 60 tons of artillery" presenter John DiNuzzo recounted. Events in Warren County, Dec. 12-14, include reenactment bateau floating a cannon on Lake George, Glens Falls Symphony music, guest author talks.

• **'Drag Queen Story Hour the Musical.'** Composer Neal Herr seeks \$10,000 to produce the show June 6-8 at the Wood Theater. He said it's an upbeat affirmation combatting negative press after the Rockwell Falls Library in Lake Luzerne closed following disputes about such an event there. He ended his pitch by singing lines from the musical to the committee. Likely a first.

• **Adirondack Axe** in Aviation Mall

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## Fall Fest Craft & Vendor Fair

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26TH • 10:00AM - 4:00 PM**  
 THE BARN AT FRENCH MOUNTAIN - 5 MILL RD, LAKE GEORGE

**Trick or Treating, Food Trucks**  
**Over 80 Local Vendors/Artisans**  
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