

AMSTERDAM

Cregin appointed Chief Financial Officer for Liberty ARC

Liberty ARC, the Montgomery County Chapter of The Arc New York, recently announced the appointment of Brian Cregin as Chief Financial Officer (CFO).

Cregin has more than 30 years of financial and management experience in the non-profit sector, specializing in healthcare operations and direct care agencies that support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Cregin will be responsible for providing leadership, development, and administration of the financial operations that supports Liberty ARC and its subsidiaries. In this position, he also joins Liberty ARC's senior leadership team and will assist in the development of the organization's long-term goals, strategies, plans, and policies.

"I was interested in joining the team at Liberty ARC due to the organization's long-standing reputation in supporting people, and wanted to be a part of their mission to provide a quality of life that each person values," Cregin said in a news release.

Cregin joins the agency from the Center for Disability Services, where he began serving as Chief Operating Officer in 2018. In that role he oversaw operational, support, administrative, and financial systems for the Center.

Prior to that role he served as the Assistant CFO and the Chief Financial Officer for The Arc New York. The Arc New York serves over 60,000 people with developmental



PHOTO PROVIDED

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disabilities through its 55 chapters across New York State.

Schenectady ARC was the first chapter of The Arc New York Cregin

worked for as the Controller and Chief Financial Officer from 1999

to 2008. Liberty ARC is currently undergoing a unification with Schenectady ARC.

Cregin will oversee financial operations in both Montgomery and Schenectady counties.

"I look forward to using my many years of financial and operational experience in our field and within the ARC family to contribute to the unification of two long-running chapters and to support the people both organizations serve," Cregin said in the release. "I am grateful for the opportunity to work with both experienced and newer Business Office team members to act as a resource for both the staff and the people we support."

"Brian's strong record of financial and leadership experience serving people with developmental disabilities made him the right choice for Liberty ARC's next CFO," said Liberty ARC CEO Jennifer Saunders in the release. "I am very excited to have him join us, and welcome him back to the ARC family, especially during this time of growth for Liberty ARC. He will be an asset for the agency as we move forward."

In 1987, Cregin received his Bachelor's Degree in Accounting from Lemoyne College in Syracuse and became a Certified Public Accountant in New York in 1989. He is a member of the New York Society of Certified Public Accountants and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

County DSS department conducts annual Point-in-Time count to track homelessness

FONDA — Montgomery County's Department of Social Services recently mobilized a dedicated group of 12 volunteers for the annual Point-in-Time count that was conducted recently, along with volunteers from Catholic Charities and Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless.

This crucial initiative involves tracking both sheltered and unsheltered homeless individuals, providing valuable

insights for funding allocation, community planning, and identifying trends in service usage, as outlined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Montgomery County's Commissioner of Health & Human Services Matthew Beck said in a news release.

"As we navigate the complexities of homelessness, the Point-in-Time count stands as a testament to our unwavering

commitment to understanding the unique challenges faced by our community's vulnerable individuals," he said in the release.

Before conducting the PIT count the DSS volunteers held a briefing Monday afternoon. Volunteers formed teams and determined locations to visit throughout the county such as rest areas, big-box stores, emergency rooms and gas stations. The Amsterdam Elks Club donated go-bags con-

taining winter garments and other personal hygiene items to be distributed to individuals during the PIT Count. Bags will be placed at warming locations and Danielle's House as well.

"Our work doesn't end with the count; it's a starting point for informed action, ensuring that our services and resources align with the genuine needs of those experiencing homelessness in our community," Beck said in the release.

GLOVERSVILLE

Lexington Foundation awarded \$49,500 grant by the New York State Council on the Arts

The Lexington Foundation, which operates the Paul Nigra Center for Creative Arts, announced a grant award totaling \$49,500 from the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) to support the non-profit arts and culture sector. Through New York State's continued investment in arts and culture, NYSCA has awarded over \$80 million since spring 2023 to over 1,500 artists and organizations across the state.

Governor Kathy Hochul said in a news release, "Research confirms what we've always known here in New York: arts and culture are a powerhouse, with a staggering return on investment for our economy and our communities. Non-profit arts and culture organizations and their audiences generated \$151.7 billion in economic activity nationwide in 2022 and New York's unparalleled arts and culture sector is leading the way to benefit our residents, our students and our visitors every day. I commend these grantees on their achievements and look forward to their contributions in the coming year."

NYSCA Chair Katherine Nicholls added in the release, "Thanks to the unwavering support of Governor Hochul and our Legislature, NYSCA is so proud to support the work of organizations and artists from all across New York. Spanning the entire breadth of the arts and culture sector — from world-renowned performers to after-school programs, from long established

museums to community arts collectives — these organizations and artists together are a powerful driver of health, tourism, economy and education for our residents and visitors. On behalf of Council and staff, congratulations to the Paul Nigra Center for Creative Arts and thank you for your perseverance, your creativity and your tireless service to New York State."

Wally Hart, Executive Director of the Lexington Foundation said in the release, "We are extremely grateful for this award and the support of NYSCA. We applied for grant funding to assist with the expansion of the operations and to broaden the offerings at the Nigra Arts Center. When the pandemic restricted the ability to offer in-person classes, the Nigra Arts Center quickly offered virtual classes and helped to connect to all who were interested in participating in art classes, workshops and performances. Our primary goal is to engage the community in the arts and to bring people together in-person to explore, learn and create. The grant funding will allow the Nigra Arts Center the opportunity to expand staffing, classes, resources and experiences for everyone with a goal to bring more people into the fully accessible facility. We want to reengage our broader community and expand programming that will allow more people of all abilities to enjoy our programs, classes and events."

MAYFIELD

Historical Society announces 2024 event schedule

The Mayfield Historical Society has announced its list of events for 2024.

◆ Monday, April 15, 6:30 p.m. — A "Welcome, Meet and Greet" for Mayfield's new Town Historian, Eric Close. This "Welcome, Meet, and Greet" evening will give attendees a chance to get to know Mr. Close and learn about his new and exciting initiatives in this position. Refreshments will be served. Mayfield Presbyterian Church, 22 N. Main St., Mayfield.

◆ Saturday, June 15, Noon -4 p.m. — 41st Annual Strawberry Festival and "Treasures in the Trunk". Strawberry shortcake with ice cream and lemonade is just \$5/\$3 for children 8 and under. Enjoy live music by Ryan Matter from 1-3 p.m. Free tours of the Rice Homestead will be given. New this year: "Treasures in the Trunk", featuring vintage and new items, in a flea-mar-

ket style setting. Admission is free. The Rice Homestead, 328 Riceville Road, Mayfield. In case of rain, the event will be at the Mayfield Presbyterian Church, 22 N. Main St., Mayfield.

◆ Thursday, July 18, 6-8 p.m. — Annual Ice Cream Social and Concert - Singer/guitarist Dan Lynaugh will perform live on the lawn. Bring a chair or use one of the picnic tables. Spinning demos and free tours are part of the fun. \$3 for homemade cake, ice cream, and a beverage. \$2 for children 8 and under. The Rice Homestead, 328 Riceville Road, Mayfield. In case of rain, the event will be at the Mayfield Presbyterian Church, 22 N. Main St., Mayfield.

◆ Monday, August 19, 6:30 p.m. — The Daughters of the American Revolution Presentation. Join the Mayfield Historical Society in welcoming the Amsterdam Daughters of

the American Revolution as they present the DAR's history, mission, commitment to equality, and relevance in today's world. Learn tips on researching your family's ancestry and how the DAR can assist you in discovering your family roots. Refreshments will be served. Free admission. Mayfield Presbyterian Church, 22 N. Main St., Mayfield.

◆ Saturday, October 5, Noon-4 p.m. — Fall Harvest Cruise-In. A great event for families and car enthusiasts to come together for fall fun and food, including desserts and hot dogs with Mayfield's own Lee's Snack Bar's famous meat sauce. Bring a chair or use one of our picnic tables. Enjoy live music by The Knox Gentlemen from 1-3 p.m. Free admission. The Rice Homestead, 328 Riceville Road, Mayfield.

◆ Monday, October 21, 6:30 p.m. — Appalachian Historic

Songs. Join the Mayfield Historical Society in welcoming Cosby Gibson & Tom Staudle, award-winning songwriters and singers. Hear songs and narratives from the Appalachians on instruments such as guitar, fiddle, banjo, and harmonica. For adults and teenagers. Refreshments will be served. Free admission. Mayfield Presbyterian Church, 22 N. Main St., Mayfield.

◆ Saturday, December 7, Noon-4 p.m. — Christmas Open House at The Rice Homestead. Always a festive and beautiful time to visit, with roaring fireplaces and natural seasonal decor. Enjoy homemade cookies, hot mulled cider, and music by Dana Carroll, who will play the hammered dulcimer from 12 - 2 pm. Home-made pies will be for sale. Free admission. The Rice Homestead, 328 Riceville Road, Mayfield.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Business Development Center announces awardees of Microenterprise Grant Program

Sixteen local small businesses awarded with grant funding from county

FONDA —The Montgomery County Business Development Center is thrilled to announce the recipients of this year's Montgomery County Microenterprise Grant Program (MCMGP). After a competitive review of 48 applications, 16 deserving small businesses have been selected to receive funding, each awarded anywhere from \$5,000-\$35,000, to foster growth and development within our vibrant community.

The MCMGP is designed to support the backbone of our local economy — small businesses with five or fewer employees, including the owner.

This initiative, not only aims to provide financial assistance, but also to stimulate economic growth,

create jobs, and encourage business innovation in Montgomery County. This year's selection process underscored the program's commitment to supporting a wide array of businesses, from agricultural and retail to hospitality and more, ensuring a comprehensive countywide impact.

"We are incredibly proud to support our small business community through the MCMGP. These grants are a testament to the strength and resilience of our small businesses and their contributions to the economic vitality of Montgomery County," said Montgomery County Executive Matthew Ossenfort in a news release. "Investing in these businesses is an investment in our future, and we look forward to seeing how each awardee utilizes this

opportunity to grow and thrive."

Economic Development Director Ken Rose added in the release, "The selection process was highly competitive this year, reflecting the exceptional quality of businesses we have in our county. We're excited to announce that the awardees represent a diverse cross-section of Montgomery County's business landscape, including agriculture, retail, hospitality, and more. This diversity is not just a testament to the vibrant entrepreneurial spirit across our county, but also our commitment to supporting a broad spectrum of industries. These grants are a key part of our strategy to nurture small businesses, which are the cornerstone of our local economy." "Seeing such a wide range of busi-

nesses, from every corner of Montgomery County, receive this crucial funding is incredibly rewarding. It's a clear indication that our local economy is not only diverse but also dynamic and growing. These grants will empower our small business owners to innovate, expand, and contribute even more significantly to our communities," said Legislator Robert A. Purtell, Economic Development & Planning Committee Chairman, in the release.

The 2024 MCMGP Awardees are:

- ◆ Industrial Acropolis
- ◆ Lovin Mama Farm
- ◆ Lyons Farm Homestead
- ◆ Bowterra Farm
- ◆ Fieldridge Farm
- ◆ Thermal Pups
- ◆ Scotland Farms Country Store
- ◆ Rich's Auto
- ◆ Dellavale Farm

- ◆ Mingos Moving
- ◆ Warrior Performance Group
- ◆ Rosito's Bakery
- ◆ Lyon Street Bar & Grill
- ◆ Sunny Hunny Farm
- ◆ Bittersweet Crop Farm
- ◆ Sleep Forest Bakery

The Montgomery County Business Development Center extends its heartfelt congratulations to all the awardees and expresses its gratitude to all applicants for their interest and efforts.

This year's MCMGP has once again highlighted the innovative spirit and determination of our small business sector.

For more information on the MCMGP, future grant opportunities, and resources for businesses, please visit MontgomeryCountyWorks.com or contact the office at 518-853-8334.