

LEXINGTON HAPPENINGS



Welcome to “Lexington Happenings,” a collection of things to do and see and experience at Lexington!

APRIL 2026

#RISINGTOGETHER AT LEXINGTON!



- In February, the Our Voice Self-Advocates visited the State Capitol to meet with state legislators and speak up for the workforce that makes the services we offer possible. They encouraged lawmakers to support increased funding to recruit and retain DSPs—because supporting people with disabilities starts with supporting the people who care for them. Thanks to the advocates for using their voices to create positive change!
- Congratulations to the Lexington Special Olympics Bowling Team for their accolades at the Regional Competition on March 1! Team 1, consisting of Zen Anderson, Greg Clicquenois, Karl Blanchard and Ralph Orapello, finished first in their division, while Team 2, consisting of Josh Brooks, Jen Morse, Monica VanEtten and Dustin Rapple, finished second. Congratulations to these amazing athletes on their victories, and thank you to coaches Harvey VanAllen and Maria McAllister for supporting their success!
- More than two dozen Lexington self-advocates, staff and family members added their voices to hundreds of others at the Invest in Us rally in Albany in March! This event was a chance to meet with legislators and explain why investment in inflationary increases in budgets for people with disabilities and those who care for them makes an impact. See page 5 to learn how to lend your voice to the issue!
- The L3 Adaptive Sports Club hosted a soup cook-off! So many volunteers showed up to put their soups to the test, and there was a great turnout of judges and tasters! Thank you to everyone who contributed a soup and showed up to make the event such a great success in support of L3.
- Flame rocked out at Burke for the annual Rock for Abilities concert on March 27, in honor of Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month! It was a fantastic turnout of the community and the Lexington family alike as Flame and the Gloversville High School Select Choir took the stage for a night of music and connection. We also welcomed Lucille Esler, Miss Finger Lakes Teen, who shared a beautiful speech about acceptance and advocacy for those with autism and other disabilities.
- Since beginning at Pre-Voc, Steven Miller has shared his passion for cooking and dream of owning his own sandwich shop. In support of this goal, employment specialist Harry Rode arranged for Steven to visit Locomotions Sports Bar & Grill in Cobleskill to create his own “ultimate burger” in their kitchen! Steven stepped into the role with confidence, excitement and pride. Thank you, Harry, for making this moment happen!

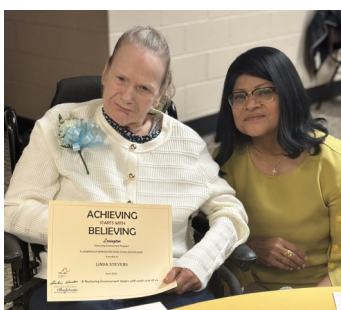
THANKS FOR ANOTHER MAGICAL NIGHT TO SHINE!

On February 13, Night to Shine came to communities across the country to offer an inclusive prom-like experience for people with developmental disabilities! Lexington family members gathered at Fulmont Community Church in Fulton County and Fusion Community Church in Schoharie to dress their best, walk the red carpet, dance the night away and celebrate with friends. Thank you to our partner churches, the Tim Tebow Foundation and all the volunteers who supported people to attend and made everyone feel like royalty on this special night!



CELEBRATING THE ABILITIES OF THE PEOPLE WE SUPPORT!

In March and April, we were thrilled to recognize the growth and achievements of the people we support at three Celebrating Abilities events in Albany, Johnstown and Schoharie! Hundreds of people we support and their families, friends and support teams came together to celebrate their accomplishments, big and small, over the past year—from overcoming health challenges to learning new skills to flourishing at their jobs and more! Congratulations to every nominee on their journeys to being their happiest, healthiest and most independent selves. We are proud of you all!



LEXINGTON ACTIVITY AND RESOURCE CENTER

AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH

April is Autism Acceptance Month! Lexington is proud to take this time to celebrate and honor the abilities and achievements of people we support on the autism spectrum. From taking the stage with Flame to thriving at college with Transitions to building strong careers with the help of Employment Supports and everything in between, people we support at Lexington with autism are driven, ambitious and accomplished! This month spotlights inclusion and support for the autism community, not just in April but year-round. It's not just about awareness—it's about moving beyond that toward meaningful acceptance and a supportive, welcoming society that celebrates all differences.

LEXINGTON COMMUNITY CLEAN UP DAY

Saturday, April 25 | 10:00 a.m. | 465 N. Perry Street, Johnstown | 127 E. State Street, Gloversville

Let's come together to make our community shine! In honor of Earth Day, join us as we clean up litter and debris around our neighborhoods. Please contact Amy Langley or Ashlei Bateholts to RSVP by **April 17**. If you can't make it, you can still contribute by cleaning up around your home or neighborhood and sharing your photos on Viva Engage!

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE CDPHP WORKFORCE TEAM CHALLENGE!

Thursday, May 21 | Race Start: 6:25 p.m. | Empire State Plaza, Albany

Lexington is competing this year in the CDPHP Workforce Team Challenge, a 3.5-mile run/walk around Washington Park in Albany! All Lexington employees are welcome to join the team for this event, which brings dozens of workplaces in the Capital Region together to compete in support of local charities. Volunteer opportunities are also available for those who want to help run the event. If you are interested in participating, please visit www.cdphpwctc.com or call (518) 661-9932!

ENGAGED AND EMPOWERED ZOOM ACTIVITY CALENDAR

The Engaged and Empowered day hab program offers daily social groups, activities, wellness exercises, games, crafts and more to the people we support. All are welcome! Find the April calendar and participation information at <https://bit.ly/4ccsukf>.

LEXINGTON AND LEGACY OF LOVE GOLF TOURNAMENTS

Tournament Fees: \$125 per tournament | \$200 to participate in both (\$50 savings!)

Lexington's annual golf tournaments are scheduled for June 12! All golf lovers are invited for two days of fun competition in support of Lexington's programs in Fulton, Albany and Schoharie Counties.

LEGACY OF LOVE OPPORTUNI-TEE GOLF TOURNAMENT – Cobleskill Golf & Country Club, 2322 NY-7, Cobleskill

Friday, June 5 | Registration: 9 a.m. | Shotgun Start: 10 a.m.

Get ready to tee off and help a great cause at this fun-filled tournament! The tournament fee includes greens fees, cart, golf gift, lunch, snacks and appetizers.

LEXINGTON FOUNDATION GOLF TOURNAMENT – Hales Mills Country Club, 146 Steele Road, Johnstown

Friday, June 12 | Registration: 8 a.m. | Shotgun Start: 9 a.m.

The tournament fee includes greens fees, car, golf gift, breakfast and lunch, snacks and beverages on the course. There will also be raffle items, contests and games such as Skins, Closest to the Pin, Longest Drive (Men and Women), Hole in One and more! To register for this tournament, please call (518) 661-9932 or visit <https://bit.ly/LexGolf26>.

JOIN US AT OUR NEXT NURTURING ENVIRONMENT MEETINGS

The Nurturing Environment Program began in 2001 with the goal of continually striving toward creating a more nurturing, caring, supportive and safe environment for everyone—24 hours a day, seven days a week, in all Lexington locations—that, in addition to making Lexington an even better place for everyone, will eliminate the possibility of abuse.

One aspect of the program is having agency-wide meetings where we share ideas and suggestions on how to make Lexington an even better place for people we support and our staff members. Join us at one of the upcoming meetings to share best practices, stories, concerns and more!

- **FULTON: Friday, May 1** | 10:00 a.m. | Training Center, 465 N. Perry Street, Johnstown
- **SCHOHARIE: Friday, May 15** | 10:00 a.m. | TPI Event Space, 121 Opportunity Drive, Schoharie

Please note that Nurturing Environment Meetings are meant to be accessible to everyone and are considered “work time.” If you are unable to attend a meeting but would like to share input, you can:

1. Leave a message at the Nurturing Environment Hotline (1-800-831-5602)
2. Send an e-mail to nurture@thearclexington.org
3. Send a written note to Nurturing at Gloversville Day Hab

SPECIAL OLYMPICS BASKETBALL IS BACK!

Every Monday | 5:30 p.m. | Gym, 127 E. State Street, Gloversville

Calling all sports fans! Join Recreation for on Mondays for Special Olympics basketball practice sessions. Every athlete is welcome, whether you’re returning to the team or trying it for the first time. Come build skills, have fun and be part of an amazing team!

2026 SAFE ENVIRONMENT AND WELLNESS MEETINGS

Safety is a top priority at Lexington! People we support and staff alike are all invited to attend Safe Environment and Wellness Meetings in 2026. During these meetings, we share information related to wellness topics and safety best practices as well as discuss areas where we can improve our safety program. We also do safety recognitions at the end of each meeting.

SUMMER DATE	FALL DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Wednesday, August 26	Thursday, October 29	10 a.m.-12 p.m.	Training Center Classroom C, 465 N. Perry St., Johnstown
Thursday, August 27	Wednesday, October 28	10 a.m.-12 p.m.	TPI Event Space, 121 Opportunity Drive, Schoharie

The first 30 minutes of each meeting, 10:00-10:30 a.m., are for Safety Ambassadors only. Meetings are open to everyone from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. We hope to see you there!

BOCCE BALL TOURNAMENT

Every Friday | 4-6 p.m. | Gym, 127 E. State Street, Gloversville

Creative Expressions challenges you to a bocce ball showdown! All people we support are invited to join them every Friday from 4-6 p.m. for some friendly competition with this fun and accessible game. Concessions will be available for purchase. See you there!

LEXINGTON HAPPENINGS DIGITAL ARCHIVE

The online digital archive of Lexington Happenings, which includes active links to all the resources and documents highlighted, can be found on the Lexington website at thearclexington.org/lexington-happenings.

If you have any questions or would like to submit information for a future newsletter, please contact Megan Balsler at balserm@thearclexington.org or (518) 661-9932.

Tell State Leaders
TO INVEST IN YOU
in the NYS Budget!

SCAN HERE
to quickly
send a letter
to ALL your
representatives

LET THEM
KNOW
We
MATTER!

The Arc
New York
Learn more about our budget priorities at
thearcny.org @thearcny #investinMe

THE PAUL NIGRA CENTER FOR CREATIVE ARTS

Lexington employees get a 10% discount at the Nigra Arts Center! Just enter the code **LEXEMPLOYEE** at checkout to redeem. If your house, program or someone you know wants to take a class, please call (518) 661-9932 or contact Megan Balser at balserm@thearclexington.org to sign them up. The arts center is located at 2736 State Highway 30 in Gloversville. For full listings of the classes and events offered, visit www.pncreativeartscenter.org.



SEEKING SUBMISSIONS FOR OUR 2026 NEW YORK STATE SUMMER ART SHOW!

Entry Deadline: April 26 | Show Dates: May 22 – July 16 | Opening Reception: May 28, 4-7 p.m.

[Enter via Online Submission Form](#) | [Download Submission Form](#) | [Submit Through Online Juried Shows](#)

The Nigra Arts Center is pleased to announce its 11th annual New York State Summer Art Show, celebrating the work of artists from across New York State. All are welcome to submit work in any medium or subject matter! If you or someone you know would like to enter artwork, please call (518) 661-9932, stop by the arts center or follow one of the links above for more information.

SIGN UP NOW FOR SUMMER KIDS' ART PROGRAMS!

July 6 to August 28 | Ages 5-12 | 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. | \$300/week or \$60/day

Discounts for employees, members and multiple kids from same family

Do you know what your kids are doing during the summer breaks? Send them to the Nigra Arts Center for programs that celebrate the arts through music, theater, dance, crafts, cooking and more! Our curriculum of activities incorporates STEAM (science, technology, engineering, the arts and math) concepts into everything the kids do, for a fun, educational and well-rounded experience. All are welcome!

For more information and to register, please call (518) 661-9932 or visit pncreativeartscenter.org/kidsartprograms.

Week 1: Culinary	July 6-10
Week 2: STEAM	July 13-17
Week 3: Celebration	July 20-24
Week 4: Go Green	July 27-31
Week 5: Animals	August 3-7
Week 6: All About the Arts	August 10-14
Week 7: Performance	August 17-21
Week 8: Get Active	August 24-28

CLASSES AT THE NIGRA ARTS CENTER

See our monthly class calendars at pncreativeartscenter.org/adaptivearts! If you or the people you support would like to take a class, you can register online at <https://bit.ly/PNCCAEvents>, call (518) 661-9932 or email balserm@thearclexington.org.

UPCOMING SOCIAL EVENTS

Paul Nigra Center for Creative Arts, 2736 State Highway 30, Gloversville | 4:00-5:00 p.m. | Free!

All people we support are invited to attend free social events at the Nigra Arts Center! We host several a month that appeal to a variety of interests. Please RSVP by contacting Megan Balser at balserm@thearclexington.org or (518) 661-9932.

RC CAR RACING: Mondays, April 20 & June 22 – Bring your own RC car to race or watch and learn about the hobby!

BINGO: Mondays, April 27, May 18 and June 29 – Meet new friends and win great prizes!

KARAOKE NIGHT: Wednesdays, May 6 and June 3 – Sing your heart out with friends at this fun club night!

CRAFT CORNER: Wednesdays, May 13 (Memorial Day Wreath) and June 10 (Paint and Sip) – Work on an art project with friends!

GAME NIGHT: Wednesdays, May 27 and June 17 – Play board and card games while enjoying some boneless wings!

CONTACT INFORMATION

Megan Balser | balserm@thearclexington.org

(518) 661-9932, ext. 34564 | 2736 NY-30, Gloversville

Tammy Ruise | ruiset@thearclexington.org

(518) 295-8130, ext. 256 | 121 Opportunity Dr., Schoharie



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www.facebook.com/TransitionsUSA

www.facebook.com/PaulNigraCenter