

WAYNE ECONOMIC Development Corporation

For Immediate Release

Media Contact: Deb Hall, dhall@co.wayne.ny.us, 315-946-5919

Historic Small Businesses in Wayne County *Nominations identify 3 companies over 100 years old.*

Lyons, NY – May 4, 2023 – Whether established decades ago or just a few years ago, every small business has a unique story. These stories start with an idea and evolve over time with each customer, each product, and each year the doors stay open. The first week of May was established by the U.S. Small Business Administration in 1953 to celebrate the accomplishments and contributions of small businesses in America. Last year, over 80 small businesses in Wayne County were nominated and recognized by Wayne Economic Development Corp. (WEDC) for their diligence and service to the community, especially through the COVID shut downs. This year to honor the 200th anniversary of the County, WEDC asked local owners, residents and customers to again, nominate businesses for recognition, especially those with historic significance. Of the 28 nominations received, three local business weighed in each at over 100 years in business.

The oldest nomination was Murphy Funeral & Cremation Chapels (now with three locations in Ontario, Palmyra and Macedon) which was established in 1882. Descendants of the original owners operated the business until 2017 when dedicated employees then took over after the owners passed away. The next oldest nomination was for The Original Candy Kitchen in Williamson, established in 1890 by the Boosalis family and currently operated by fourth generation family members Mary and Peter Anagnostopoulos. They are one of the oldest authentic candy kitchens still operating in New York State. Third on the list of centenarian businesses is Hallagan Furniture of Newark. They started in 1899 in Canastota, NY and moved to Newark in 1913 to the old Mora car plant. Their story states that during WWII, they switched operations for a short time from couches to sleeping bags for the Navy.



Family-Owned Candy Kitchen,
circa 1950
Photo taken from
originalcandykitchen.com

“Small business is the lifeblood of our national history,” states Wayne County Economic Development Specialist, Ariel Camp. “And it is very exciting when you hear the stories of some local

companies that have been around for over 100 years.” Other notable nominations with longevity in Wayne County were Youngman Orchards of Williamson, and now Sodus Point, established in 1922; Secor Lumber Company with multiple locations in the county, established in 1939; and Williamson Hardware Inc. which is listed as a NYS Historical Business, established in 1940.

The history of commerce in Wayne County is also being celebrated in a new exhibit at the Museum of Wayne County History on Butternut St. in Lyons. Office Manager Linda Stevenson recalls the day former Director Larry Ann Evans shared her vision for The Commerce Room. “She wanted to showcase all the unique industries and companies that grew here,” she quipped. “And I mean that literally, such as apples and peppermint and but also banking, pottery, and animal sciences.” Today, the Commerce Room features artifacts, photos and narratives of long-past, and some still operational, local businesses and the people behind them.



The Commerce Room, Museum of Wayne County History
Photo Credit: Linda Stevenson

For a complete list of 2023 Small Business Week nominations visit WEDCny.com. The Wayne Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) is a not-for-profit local development corporation whose mission is to foster economic development in the county and assist in developing a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship by attracting entrepreneurs to start, build, and grow local businesses. For more information, call Wayne Economic Development Corporation at 315-946-5919.

###